

# MINUTES

## Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGV MPO) Policy Committee

Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 1:30 pm  
LRGVDC Main Campus  
301 W. Railroad Street  
Building B, Ken Jones Executive Board Room  
Weslaco, TX 78596

Presiding: Chairman Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez

### I. Call to Order

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:26PM. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Committee Meeting was held at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board Room, 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas.

### II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and present were representatives from each respective entity and a quorum was declared.

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez (Chairman)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman)
Hidalgo County	Com. Eddie Cantu
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez
City of McAllen	Mayor Jim Darling
City of Edinburg	Com. David Torrez (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell
City of San Benito	Mayor Ben Gomez
Cameron County RMA	Arturo Nelson
Hidalgo County RMA	Pilar Rodriguez (Proxy)
Valley Metro	Tom Logan
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez
Others Present:	
LRGVDC	Ron Garza
Brownsville MPO	Mark Lund
Harlingen/San Benito MPO	J. Joel Garza
Hidalgo County MPO	Andrew Canon

### III. Public Comment

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez congratulated Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr. (Cameron County) for being recognized and appointed as the new Chairman for Texas Border Coalition.

### IV. Presentation, Discussion and Action Items:

#### A. Adoption of Minutes From: September 25, 2019

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of September 25, 2019. **No corrections were noted to the minutes of September 25, 2019; Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019; as presented by staff. Mayor Trey Mendez (City of Brownsville) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**



**B. Consideration and Action to Add RGV Partnership as Ex-Officio to the TPB Membership List.**

Mr. Ron Garza informed RGVTPB present that the RGV Partnership has submitted a request to be part of the RGVMPPO Policy Committee. The RGV Partnership Member would be Mr. Sergio Contreras, CEO and the position would be as an "Ex-Officio" member.

***No discussion took place on this item, Mr. Tom Logan (Valley Metro) made a motion to add the RGV Partnership as an Ex-Officio to the TPB Membership List as presented by Mr. Ron Garza. Mr. Pilar Rodriguez (HCRMA) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

**C. Consideration and Action approve the Highway TIP**

Andrew Canon provided to the RGVTPB Members present the updated four (4) year Highway TIP (all three MPOs' information was incorporated) for approval and noted that it was made part of the 45-day Public Involvement Process. Public Meetings were held in each respective region (Hidalgo, Harlingen and Brownsville) and information regarding the Highway TIP was made available for public review and comment. There were three (3) Public Meetings held at the following locations: 1) Harlingen City Hall – 118 East Tyler Ave, Harlingen - Tuesday, October 8, 2019 5pm – 7pm; 2) Brownsville Public Library - Main Branch, 2600 Central Blvd, Brownsville, Wednesday – October 9, 2019 from 5:15PM – 8:45PM and 3) Ken Jones Boardroom 301 West Railroad, Weslaco, Thursday – October 10, 2019 from 3:30PM – 6:00 PM. Staff concluded by noting that no Public Comments were received from the other two meetings there were held, and any comments In-house have been incorporated. RGVTPB is recommending the approval of the Highway TIP.

***After some discussion on this item, Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the Highway TIP as presented by staff. Vice Chairman Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Carmen County) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

**D. Consideration and Action to Approve the Transit TIP**

Mr. Andrew Canon provided to the RGVTPB Members present the final Transit TIP for approval and noted that the Transit TIP has also gone through the 45-day Public Involvement Process. Public Meetings were held in each respective region (Hidalgo, Harlingen and Brownsville). RGVTPB is recommending the approval of the Transit TIP.

***No discussion took place on this item, Vice Chairman Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Carmen County) made a motion to approve the Transit TIP as presented by staff. Mr. Tom Logan (Valley Metro) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

**E. Consideration and Action to approve the 2045 MTP**

Andrew Canon provided to the RGVTPB Members present an update on the 2045 MTP and noted this document is inclusive with the TIP Tables. Public Meeting were held accordingly in each respective region (Hidalgo, Harlingen and Brownsville). Alliance Group Representative gave a brief presentation to members present. Staff noted that the 2045 MTP document was prepared by Alliance Transportation Group, which they also prepared Harlingen and San Benito. Staff concluded by letting RGVTPB Members know that staff feels comfortable presenting the 2045 MTP for approval.

***After some discussion on this item, Mr. Tom Logan (TxDOT) made a motion to approve the 2045 MTP as presented by staff. Mr. Frank Parker (CCRMA) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

**F. Consideration and Action to Approve and Execute Contract with CoPlan for a Region Congestion Study**

Andrew Canon gave a brief update regarding the status for a Region Congestion Study. Andrew Canon noted that only one bid received was from (CoPlan) after LRGVDC issued advertisements soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Region Wide Congestion Management Process (CMP). CoPlan did performed the CMP Studies for all three (3) of the RGV, Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito and Hidalgo County. RGVMPPO Staff has performed a Cost Analysis of the proposal as approved by the TAC at their September 10, 2019 meeting. Staff concluded by noting that the contract with CoPlan will not exceed \$347,897.50 and is under budget.

***No discussion took place on this item, Vice Chairman Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Carmen County) made a motion to recommend Executing Contract with CoPlan for a Region Congestion Study not to exceed \$347,897.50 as presented by staff. Mr. Tom Logan (Valley Metro) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***



**G. Consideration and Action to Approve and Execute Contract with Alliance Transportation Group for the Long-Range Plan, Bike-Ped Plan and Long-Range Transit Plan**

Andrew Canon gave a brief update to RGVTPB Members present for the three-part (Region Wide Long-Range Plan (MTP), Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and Long-Range Regional Transit Plan) contract with Alliance Transportation Group. Andrew noted that only one submittal was received, (Alliance Transportation Group) after LRGVDC issued advertisements soliciting Request for Proposals (RFP). Alliance Transportation Group has performed One (1) or more of the requested studies for all 3 regions of the RGV, Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito and Hidalgo County previously. Staff has performed a Cost Analysis of the proposal as approved by RGV TAC at the September 10, 2019 meeting. The bid was **\$176,361.00** less than budgeted in the approved FY 2020-2021 UPWP. RGV TAC recommends execution of the contract not to exceed **\$997,843.94** with **Alliance Transportation Group**.

For the record Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizana noted that she would like to request the following items be included to the Minutes as part of the records:

1. The On-Board Origin and Destination Survey should include a survey sample size statistically significant to meet FTA standards of all public transit providers in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.
2. The data collection method should accurately reflect transit riders' travel patterns to obtain trip data by time of day, starting and ending locations. Identify connections at the different transportation multimodal hubs utilized by the public transit providers in the region.
3. Data collection that will allow Lower Rio Grande Valley public transit providers to determine walkshed and mode of travel to bus stops.

***After some discussion on this item, Mayor Trey Mendez (City of Brownsville); made motion to approve contract with Alliance Transportation Group in the amount of \$997,843.94. Mr. Juan Guerra (City of Edinburg) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

**H. Consideration and Final Approval of McAllen Short Transit Plan**

JD Allen with Alliance Transportation Group gave a brief update on the McAllen Short Transit Plan. Mr. Allen noted that this is a Five (5) Year Short Range Transit Plan. The City of McAllen's transit provider, Metro McAllen, in partnership with Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Lower Rio Grande Development Council understand that transit connect their community. Mr. Allen concluded by indicating that McAllen Metro and its partners are committed to improving transit for McAllen, Move McAllen is a Five-Year Short-Range Transit Plan to improve the transit through a sustainably phased implementation plan.

***No further discussion took place on this item, Mayor Armando O'Caña (City of Mission) made to approve the final McAllen Short Transit Plan as presented by Alliance Transportation Group. Mr. Tom Logan (Valley Metro) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

**I. Consideration and Action for Staff to Travel to Washington, DC for the 2020 Annual TRB Conference**

Andrew Canon noted that in compliance with the requirements of TxDOT and RGVTPB, staff is seeking approval for (up to 3) staffers to attend the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual TRB Conference scheduled for January 12 thur16, 2020, in Washington, DC. The TPB has approved this trip as part of the 2020-2021 UPWP under Task 1.0. This annual meeting allows staff an opportunity to coordinate with other MPO's across the country on forthcoming Infrastructure Bills as well as attend many of the 750 workshops and 5,000 presentations. Estimated total per staffer is \$2,889.00.

***No discussion took place on this item, Commissioner Eddie Cantu (Hidalgo County) made a motion to approve Staff to attend the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual TRB Conference in Washington, DC as presented by staff. Mayor Ben Gomez (City of San Benito) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

**J. Discussion and Update of Title VI Documents**

Andrew Canon presented to RGVTPB Members the Title VI Compliance Documents that were developed in both English and Spanish by staff. These Title VI Documents will be uploaded to our website for public viewing. Documents are as follows:  
***Report only, no action taken at this time.***

1. Complaint Procedures
2. Discrimination Complaint Consent
3. Discrimination Complaint Form
4. Nondiscrimination Statement
5. Title VI Assurances
6. Title VI DBE Assurances



## V. **RGVMPO Staff Report and Updates**

### A. **TX A&M Transportation Institute – Urban Analysis Program**

Mr. Ron Garza gave a brief update on Tx A&M Transportation Institute – TTI has already spent a couple of days with staff, this program is call Urban Analysis Program. TTI will be measuring the scope of activities based on the size of staff and functions. Now that all three MPO's have merged, without the total full time equivalent of the three MPO's they will be providing an analysis to determine in terms what capacity RGVMPO should be staff now and in the future. A full report should be provided by TTI in the next 30 to 40 days and TTI is contracted through TxDOT, with no expense to the RGVMPO for providing this analysis.

**TxDOT – RGV Freight & Trade Transportation Steering Committee** – Andrew Canon has been appointed as Chairman to the local Freight & Trade Transportation Steering Committee.

### B. **Expansion of RGVMPO Metropolitan Area Boundary**

**MAB Expansion** – Andrew Canon gave a brief update to TPB present, as requested at the last TPB meeting, staff reviewed and analyzed data to explore the possibilities of expanding the RGVMPO Planning Boundary, the MAB (Map Provided). Staff analyzed population growth, economic growth, future transportation plans and higher education expansion. Staff examined Brooks and Willacy County, but they are having negative population growths at 2% and 3% respectively. Starr County however has a steady 6% growth rate. Federal regs require that the expansion of the MAB should incorporate the area believed to be urbanized within the next 25 years. Staff recommends that with the growth in population factors and current and future transportation plans, that the TPB consider incorporating all of Cameron County into the RGVMPO MAB area and begin discussions with elected official in Starr County to expand the boundary as shown in the maps.

Chairman Hernandez did note for the record this is just for informational purposes and any future action, all parties would be notified. This again is just for information purposes and RGVTPB is not ready to incorporate Starr County.

Vice Chairman Trevino asked staff to beginning looking into the specifics to incorporate Laguna Madre / South Padre Island (Starr County). Andrew Canon noted if the TPB wishes, this item can be placed on the next TPB agenda for consideration and action, and then submitted to TxDOT. Vice Chairman Trevino ask staff that prior information on the Laguna Madre/ South Padre Island be provided to all TPB, prior to the next TPB Meeting.

## VI. **Status Report**

### A. **TxDOT Project Status Report**

Mr. Ricardo Bravo and Mr. Ceballos. (TxDOT) were recognized and updated the Board on TxDOT Project's current activities. **(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet).**

### B. **Cameron County RMA**

Pete Sepulveda was recognized and updated the Board on Cameron County RMA's current activities. **(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet).**

### C. **Hidalgo County RMA**

Ramon Navarro IV was recognized and updated the Board on Hidalgo County RMA current activities. **(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet).**

### D. **Regional Transit (Metro)**

Frank Jaramillo was recognized and updated the Board on the Regional Transit (Metro) current activities. **(Reports filed with RGVTPB Packet).**

Norma Zamora, Brownsville Metro Director was recognized and updated the Board on the Brownsville (Metro) current activities **(Reports filed with RGVTPB Packet).**

## VII. **Executive Session**

### A. **Personnel Matters Pursuant to Section 551-074 (1) to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee**

#### **RE: Executive Director**

Chairman Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez called the Executive Session into order at 2:29 PM to discuss the Executive Director's position.

**Vice Chairman Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Carmen County) made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's position. Mayor Chris Boswell (City of Harlingen) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**



B. Reconvene into Open Session to Consider ACTION, if any, on Items Related to Executive Session as Described above.

Chairman Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez asked for a vote regarding the discussion that took place for the "Executive Director Position". Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to appoint Andrew A. Canon as Executive Director to the RGVMPD as discussed in Executive Session. Mayor Chris Boswell (City of Harlingen) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. **New or Unfinished Business Adjournment**

**RMA – Regional Mobility Authority** - Chairman Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez requested that staff investigate the risk management of having the RMA's coming together. To be placed at the next TPB agenda for discussion only.

**RGVMPO - TPB November Meeting** – Staff noted that there will be no RGVMPD TPB Meeting in November 2019.

IX. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn. **Mayor Armando O'Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Trey Mendez (City of Brownsville) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

ATTEST:

  
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**RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN**