

# MINUTES

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

Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 1:30 pm  
Web Ex Meeting

Presiding: Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Mayor City of Pharr)

### I. Call to Order

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM, a quorum was established. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Committee Meeting was held as a WebEx with members present.

### II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and present were representatives from each respective entity:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez (Chairman)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman)
Hidalgo County	Com. Eddie Cantu (ABSENT)
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez
City of McAllen	Mayor Jim Darling
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ricard Molina
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell
City of San Benito	Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr.
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda, Jr.
Valley Metro	Tom Logan
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez
EX-OFFICIO	
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon

### III. Public Comment

NONE

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

#### A. Adoption of Minutes From:

February 26, 2020 (No Meeting held for the Month of March 2020)

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 26, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of February 26, 2020; Mayor Armando O’Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020; as presented by staff. Frank Parker (Cameron County RMA) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

#### B. Consideration and Action to Approve the Final Draft of the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) Application, Scoring Criteria, and Project Call Timeline

Rudy Zamora noted that Staff have prepared the application and scoring criteria for the upcoming 2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Program TAP (TASA) Call for Projects. The timeline consisting of a workshop Via WebEx will be held May 7, 2020, beginning of project call, deadline for submittals, and review/approval process will soon be comprised and shared accordingly. The TASA application, scoring criteria, has been reviewed and is being recommended for approval by both the BPAC and TAC Committees to the Policy Board Members.

No further discussion took place on the TASA Application process as presented by staff; *Mayor Armando O'Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the Final Draft of the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) Application, Scoring Criteria, and Project Call Timeline as presented. Frank Parker (Cameron County RMA) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

**C. Consideration and Action on RGV Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Form**

Luis Diaz noted that the RGVMPPO has applied the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations to the Rio Grande Valley Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Form. All updates are reflected on the DRAFT form in red text. This form is being recommended for adoption to the amended form for use in recording future Thoroughfare Plan Amendments. Staff noted that the RGVMPPO is currently accepting amendments to the Rio Grande Valley Thoroughfare Plan through the December 18, 2020 submittal deadline.

*After some discussion on the Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Form, Pete Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to approve the RGV Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Form as recommended by the TAC Committee. Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) seconded the motion; and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously*

**D. Consideration and Action on Functionally Classifying Projects**

Luis Diaz noted that staff received two projects from Cameron County RMA to be Functionally Classified as follows:

**West Boulevard Project (Hike and Bike Trail)**  
**Project Limits: from Palm Blvd to I-69E**  
**West Boulevard Project (Roadway)**  
**Project Limits: from FM 802 (Ruben M. Torres Blvd.) to FM 3248 (Alton Blvd)**  
  
**Re: US281 Connector Project**  
**Project Limits: from US281 (Military Highway) to 169E@SHIOO**

*After some discussion on this item, Mayor Armando O'Caña (City of Mission) made motion to approve the two Functionally Classifying Projects as submitted by Cameron County RMA. Mayor Trey Mendez (City of Brownsville) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

**E. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2020-06 Functional Classification Projects**

Luis Diaz presented Resolution 2020-06 for the Functional Classification Projects as discussed in "Item D" for approval.

*No discussion took place on this item, Mayor Armando O'Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-06 Functional Classification Projects as submitted by staff. Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) seconded the motion; and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously*

**F. Consideration and Discussion Regarding 2021-2024 TIP Timeline**

Andrew Canon provided a Draft of the 2021-2025 TIP Timeline to Policy Board Members for their review and noted in preparation of the 2021-2024 TIP and revisions to the current 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), TAC Members revisited the projects on the list through several meetings and workshops in hopes to finalize their recommended ranking and funding allocations. CAT 7 has no further additional funding and total 2021-2024 MTP funding is approximately \$25 million from all revenue sources. The list will be further evaluated with consideration of project scope and readiness, funding policy and TAC members' technical and professional judgement related to the projects. Staff concluded by letting Policy Members know that another WebEx Workshop will be scheduled with the TAC Committee to revisit the projects on the list to finalize their recommended ranking and funding allocation.

No further discussion took place on the 2021-2024 TIP Timeline, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

**G. Discussion on Holding a Workshop for the Performance Measures Status and Off System Project Scoring Process**

Luis Diaz noted that a second Workshop was held on April 15, 2020 via WebEx to further discuss and revise form as recommended by TAC Members in attendance. The RGVMPPO has recorded all recommendations from the Technical advisory Committee and is currently amending the Off-System Project Scoring Form. The Revised form will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee and Alliance for final tool preparation. Staff will be seeking final approval to adopt the revised form for future Off System Project Scoring by the Policy Committee.

Andrew Canon noted that if members have any updates on current projects, send those to staff as soon as able; so that staff can have those updates included.

No further discussion took place on the Performance Measures and Off System Project Scoring Process Workshop, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

V. **RGVMPO Executive Directors Reports and Updates**

A. **Financial Update**

Fernando Cantu gave an update on the RGVMPO Budget and noted “still below budget” Year-To-Date. *Report filed with Policy Packet.*

B. **Consultant Update (As Needed)**

**2020 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Signal Optimization Intersections-Update**

Andrew Canon noted that CoPlan Representative will be conducting studies throughout the Region in the next coming weeks, its being slow due to the COVID19 situation. Staff noted that the contract will probably be extended due to the COVID 19, but no additional money will be requested, only to extend time frame. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

VI. **Status Report**

A. **TxDOT Project Status Report (Action Taken as Required)**

Mr. Frank Cantu and Mr. Hector Silva with (TxDOT) were recognized Via WebEx and both gentlemen provided an update on TxDOT’s current projects and activities in the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

B. **Cameron County RMA**

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via WebEx on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled. Cameron County RMA monthly report is filed with the April 29, 2020 Policy Packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

C. **Hidalgo County RMA**

Ramon Navarro provided an updated presentation Via WebEx on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. All projects are continuing to move forward. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the April 29, 2020 Policy Packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

D. **Regional Transit (Metro)**

Norma Zamora provided a brief updated report Via WebEx and noted for the month of February 2020, Combined Ridership (Brownsville Metro and Island Metro) was at 123,990. The Regional Transit Metro Reports are filed with April 29, 2020 Policy Packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

VII. **New or Unfinished Business**

**RGVMPO Staff** – Andrew Canon informed Policy Board Members, that due to COVID-19, both the LRGVDC and RGVMPO Staff have been working from home, until May 2020. Staff are available by email, cell phone and through Microsoft Team. Further updates will be provided as it develops to both the TAC and Policy Committees.

VIII. **Adjournment**

*There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn at 2:45 PM. WebEx Meeting. Pedro Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:



RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN