

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

At
1:30 pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

MINUTES

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM, a quorum was established. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Committee Meeting was held as a Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting 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	Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman)
Hidalgo County	Comm. Eddie Cantu
City of Brownsville	Comm. Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Jim Darling
City of Edinburg	Mayor Richard Molina
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (ABSENT)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr.
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro, V
Valley Metro	Tom Logan
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez
GUEST	
EX-OFFICIO	
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

III. Public Comment

Road Hand Award – Vice Chairman Trevino Congratulated Chairman Dr. Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez for being announced as one of 3, Road Hand Award recipients at the Texas Transportation e-Forum. The Road Hand Award is a joint effort between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Good Roads/Transportation Association and has recognize Chairman Hernandez as that special individuals who has freely given his time, energy, support, and vision toward accomplishing important transportation programs or projects in our communities and region.

Chairman Hernandez acknowledged recognition and reminded Policy members; all is due to a “United Front” with all the Partnerships in the RGVMPO Valley.

IV. Presentation, Discussion and Action Items:

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes From: January 27, 2021

Chairman Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 27, 2021. No corrections were noted to the minutes of January 27, 2021. Mayor Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the minutes of January 27, 2021; as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration and Concurrence to Finalize CMP Contract

Mr. Canon noted that the Executive Summary of the Congestion Study (CMP) from CoPlan, was made available to Policy Members for review. The CMP Summary was presented in full by the Consultant at the Policy Meeting held in December 2020. Staff is seeking Policy Members' approval to finalize the study and close-out the contract with CMP and provide the approved minutes to the Finance Department as required.

No discussion took place on this item, Mayor Boswell (City of Harlingen) made a motion to approve the Final CMP Contract as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Darling (City of McAllen); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Consideration and Action on Federal Functional Classification Amendment – Resolution 2021-01

Luis noted that staff continues to work with local governments to assure Federal Functional Classification of Roadway needed with MPOs' plans are moving forward. After coordination with TxDOT, FM 509 is being re-submitted as Major Collectors for Federal Functional Classification since last approved in Resolution 2020-13 as a Minor Arterial. As per AADT requirements, this roadway would have not been met as a requested roadway and will be re-classified as Major Collector as recommended.

Also included for Federal Functional Classification from TxDOT is FM1509 as a Major Collector to provide system continuity to FM 507 and FM 509 Extension (See Below Table).

APPROVAL OF FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SUBMITTALS #5							
Entity	Road Name	CSJ	Current Classification	From	To	Length	New Classification
CCRMA	FM 509	0921-06-254	Not Classified	FM 508	FM 1599	2.4	Major Collector
TxDOT	FM 1599	N/A	Not Classified	FM 509	FM 507	2.2	Major Collector

Chairman Hernandez for clarification asked staff, who would make the final decisions on the changes once the Policy Board approves these Functional Classification submittal.

Staff response was, once Policy approves these submittals, they are forwarded to TxDOT Pharr District and TxDOT than forwards the submittals to FHWA.

Chairman Hernandez wanted to make clear to Cameron County Officials, on what the process on submitting Functional Classification is, but is confident that TxDOT will follow through on these submittals as required.

Mr. Alvarez, noted that these submittals will be taking care of, once approved by the Policy Board, they will go to PPP and then FHWA respectfully.

No further discussion took place on this item, Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to approve the Functional Classification Amendment – Resolution 2021-01 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Navarro (HCRMA); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Consideration and Action on the 2020 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Resolution 2021-02

Luis noted that the Thoroughfare Plan Amendments are done on a yearly basis, and staff continues working with local governments to assure Right of Way information are recorded accurately on the RGVMPPO Thoroughfare Plan and displayed on the Interactive Map "UMAP". The only Amendments received for this revision cycle were from Hidalgo County Pct. 1 (See Below Table).

2020 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments				
Entity	Road Name	From	To	Requested Thoroughfare Classification
Hidalgo County PCT1	Mile 1 ½ West	Mile 12 North	Levee Road	Expansion Collector 80'
Hidalgo County PCT1	Mile 21 ½ North	FM 88	FM 491	Expansion Collector 80'
Hidalgo County PCT1	Uncle Peters Road	First Street in La Villa / Mile 17 North	Jaritas Road / CR 3301	Expansion Collector 80'

No discussion took place on this item, Mayor O'Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the 2020 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Resolution 2021-02 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Consideration and Action on the Performance Measures Targets Setting Resolutions 2021 – 03/04

Miguel noted that this item is to acknowledge the support of the Statewide Performance Targets in the areas of Safety, Bridge and Pavement Conditions. Also, included are the System Performance referred to as PM1, PM2, and PM3 Targets. The Targets included in the Resolutions attached herewith are basically updates to the Targets adopted in late FY2019, which are already part of the RGVMPPO. Staff included some examples in the Packet showing similar trends when compared to the Statewide Targets to the Region for each of the Performance focus areas.

Staff informed Policy members present that these Safety Targets are updated every two years by TxDOT and reported to FHWA. The System Performance are reported every year and will be reflected on the MTP as it is updated.

Staff concluded, by noting that the recommendations would be to keep supporting the State Targets as stated in the Resolutions 2021 – 03 and 04 (Resolutions Part of Packet).

No discussion took place on this item, Mr. Navarro (HCRMA) made a motion to approve the Performance Measures and Target Setting – Resolutions 2021-03 and 04 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Darling (City of McAllen); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

F. Follow-Up Discussion Regarding City Limit and ETJ Boundary GIS Data

Luis noted that at the January's (2021) Policy Board Meeting, discussion was held regarding providing a "Deadline" for Cities to submit their ETJ GIS Data to the RGVMPPO staff. Staff acknowledged request to providing a deadline and Cities were sent a date of no later than February 10, 2021, as reflected on the email that was sent out on January 28, 2021. Cities were asked to take a moment to review their Entity's Limits and ETJ Boundaries on the Online Interactive map "UMAP" and provide data in the following available GIS Format (GIS, PDF, KML or CAD). Staff concluded by reminding Policy members that the purpose of the Jurisdictions DATA on UMAP is to provide any updates or discrepancies from the cities.

Mr. Alvarez asked staff if the smaller cities (La Joya City Limits to Sullivan City) were also contacted and how they were informed on submitting their information as requested by the RGVMPPO staff.

Andrew did note that Fernando Cantu (GIS Specialist II) has been spending considerable time contacting the smaller cities by phone, since they are not part of the TAC or Policy Boards, just to make sure all the Data is collected, and those smaller cities are not excluded. Andrew also recommended that entities submit or let the RGVMPPO Staff on whether the cities have changes and if no changes were made, please still notify staff. All changes requested should reflect FY2020.

Time: 2:13 PM - Chairman Hernandez note that he will be skipping (Item V - Executive Session) and cover the other Non-Action Items and return to this (Item V-Executive Session) once those have been covered and discussed.

V. Executive Session

- A. Chairman Hernandez noted that the Policy Board has call an Executive Session at 2:13 PM and requires a motion from the Policy Board, for the purpose of discussing “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

Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to go into Executive Session at (2:13 PM) to discuss “Executive Director’s Evaluation”. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- B. Chairman Hernandez asked for a motion to Reconvene into Open Session to Consider ACTION, if any, on Items Related to Executive Session as Described above: Mayor Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to reconvene into Open Session at 2:58 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (City of Brownsville); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Darling (City of McAllen) made the following recommendation and motion as follows:

- 1) Executive Director continue to be an “Employee at Will”.**
- 2) Based on Policy Board Members Evaluation, the Executive Director to get a 3% Pay Raise; and**
- 3) That the Chairman and Vice Chairman meet with the Executive Director to go forth with the Standards set by the Policy Board for next year and to otherwise inform the Executive Director of his Evaluation of both the negative and positive.**

The motion was seconded by Mayor Boswell (City of Harlingen); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. RGVMPPO Executive Directors Reports and Updates

A. Directors Update

- **Dr. Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez – TxDOT Road Hand Award Slide Presentation** was provided to Policy Members present.
- **Cameron County Office Space – Andrew** notified Policy members of possibly having an office in the Cameron County area for staff to serve that area. More information will be provided as it develops. Still working on the details with TxDOT and FHWA. All meetings will continue to be held at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Boardroom. Eleven (11) Job Posting have been posted for both GIS and Planners positions.
- **Chairman Hernandez** asked whether both, Cameron / Hidalgo County office locations will be staff. If that is the case, the Executive Director needs to reach out to representatives in that those counties. Staff noted that they will be contacting those entities for both counties before finalizing the new office locations in Edinburg and Brownsville.

B. Financial Update

Staff provided the Financial Summary to members present; staff noted budget continues to be (96%) under budget. (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)

VII. Status Report

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

Both Nayely Parra and Gabriel Villarreal with (TxDOT) provided an updated presentation Via Teams on current projects and activities within the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. All projects are continuing to move forward as scheduled. (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)

B. Cameron County RMA

Mr. Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via Teams on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects continue to move forward as expected. (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Mr. Navarro provided an updated presentation Via Teams on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. All projects are continuing to move forward. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

D. Regional Transit (Metro)

Mr. Bocanegra provided an updated report for all (3) Three Transit Providers Via Teams that are currently within the Hidalgo/Cameron Regions. Details values on ridership could be found within the RGVTPB Packet. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

VIII. New or Unfinished Business

Star County Merger –Both Star County and Rio Grande City both have passed Resolution for merging Star County. Sullivan City is set to discuss Merger at their next City Commission Meeting. *Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) continues to meet with Starr County Representative.*

Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) noted that he is please and cannot wait until this merger takes place with Starr County. Discussion will continue to be held regarding the merger with Starr County and RGVMPPO; and as information develops, Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) will continue providing updates to the Policy Board.

Time – 2:58 PM - Chairman Hernandez noted that he would now be going back to (Item V- Executive Session) for Consideration and Action if any.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

No further items were discussed, Chairman Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn at 3:00 PM. Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to adjourn. Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:  4/26/2021
RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN