

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

Wednesday, July 14, 2021, At 1:30 pm

MINUTES

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM, a quorum was established. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Board Meeting was held at the Ken Boardroom located at 301 West Railroad, Weslaco, Texas 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) Comm. David A. Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. Eddie Cantu
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos
City of Edinburg	Mayor Richard Molina
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña
City of Harlingen	Dan Serna (Alternate)
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr.
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy)
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

NONE

**1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes From:
May 26, 2021**

Chairman Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of May 26, 2021. No corrections were noted to the minutes of May 26, 2021. Vice Chairman Trevino (Cameron County) made a motion to approve the minutes of May 26, 2021; as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Discussion and Possible Action of Re-Designation Amendment to Include Resolution 2021-08

Andrew informed Policy Board members that a Re-designation Agreement is required by law to effectuate the

consolidation of MPOs. The amended Re-Designation is needed to define the Composition of the Policy Board: There is an initial thirty-one (31) VOTE Policy Board and is seeking to amend to a 32VOTE Policy Board. The signatories to the Re-designation Agreement will be required to make any changes to the Re- designation agreement (i.e., changes cannot be made by simply amending the bylaws). The Policy Board approved the MAB expansion and By-Law amendment at the previous April 28th meeting. This item was Tabled at the May's TAC Meeting. Asking Policy Board for their recommendation and approval.

After some discussion on this item, Mayor O'Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the Re-Designation Amendment to Include Resolution 2021-08 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Logan (Valley Metro); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.2. Discussion and Possible Action of Amendment to Targets for Roadway System Performance Targets to include Resolution 2021-09

Miguel Arispe, GIS Specialist II, provided a brief update on how an Amendment to Resolution 2021-04, on February 24, 2021, was presented to the Policy Board for approval, agreeing to support the Statewide Targets set forth by the Texas Department of Transportation for PM2 and PM3 Performance Targets.

The Amended "Resolution 2021-09" reflects 3 Revised Targets which were initially displayed incorrectly on Resolution 2021-04 and are updated as such:

- Interstate Reliability: was presented 65.5% and corrected to **70.0%**
- Non-interstate National Highway System Reliability: was presented 45% and corrected to **70.0%**
- Truck Travel Time Reliability: was presented as 2.20 and corrected to **1.76.**

After some discussion on this time, Mayor Villalobos (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the amendment to Targets for Roadway System Performance Targets to include Resolution 2021-09 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Deanda (Hidalgo County RMA); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.3. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY2020-2021 UPWP Amendment #5 to include Resolution 2021-10

Chris provided additional information on the FY2020-2021 UPWP Amendment #5 to include Resolution 2021-10. Staff informed Policy Members present that to consolidate all applicable documents for the 2020-2021 UPWP Amendment #5, the following relevant attachments are provided in the Policy Packet as follows:

- FY 2020-2021 UPWP Amendment #5
- UPWP Amendment #5 Revised FY 2021 Budget, showing the \$100,000 being moved from Task 2.0 to Task 4.0
- Resolution for UPWP Amendment #5

Amendment #5 involves the moving of \$100,000 from Task 2.0 to Task 4.0 to more accurately reflect how staff has spent and will continue to spend the funds throughout the duration of the 2021 fiscal year.

After some discussion on this time, Mayor Villalobos (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the amendment to Targets for Roadway System Performance Targets to include Resolution 2021-09 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Deanda (Hidalgo County RMA); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.4. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY2022-2023 UPWP to Include Resolution 2021-11

Christopher Nelson, Planner I, provided a brief update on the FY2020-2021 UPWP Amendment #5 to include Resolution 2021-11. Attachments presented for FY 2022-2023 UPWP were:

- FY 2022-2023 UPWP

- FY 2022-2023 UPWP Budget Table
- Resolution for FY 2022-2023 UPWP

Staff informed Policy Members present that an UPWP had previously been adopted by the Policy Board. However, several revisions were subsequently made at the request of TxDOT, necessitating that another resolution be passed by Policy Board. The changes made to the document following TxDOT's review include the following:

- Page numbers were added, for improved navigation through the document
- The language regarding the acquisition of drones was removed, as this found to be a duplication of TxDOT's resources
- Administrative modifications were made to numbers in the budget tables, in order to correct an administrative error that was made when inputting these numbers

No discussion took place on this item, Mayor Villalobos (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the FY 2022-2023 UPWP to include Resolution 2021-11 as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor O'Caña (City of Mission); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.5. Discussion and Possible Action on 2021-2024 Highway/Transit TIP & 2045 MTP – Revisions and Administrative Modifications / Resolutions: 2021-12-13 and 14.

Rudy Zamora, Planner I, informed Policy Board member present that staff is seeking approval of the 2021-2024 Highway/Transit TIP & 2045 MTP to include Resolutions 2021-12 – 13 and 14. A final draft copy of the Highway & Transit TIP, MTP, and Summary (Revisions / Administrative Modifications) sheets have been included for the Policy Boards' review.

Staff reminded Policy Board members present that the RGVMPPO TIP & MTP is updated quarterly, but due to issues with fiscal constraint, the original deadline (May of 2020) for approval of these documents was set back significantly. A fiscal constraint reset was approved by our TPB in January of 2021. The State TIP (STIP) is pending official approval but a proposed deadline for revisions to the Highway and Transit TIP tables was set for August of 2021. A deadline of July 27th has been assigned for all revisions and modifications to be uploaded via the E-STIP Portal. A 30-day Public Involvement period began on June 11th and will end on July 11th, 2021. Please take in consideration all updates received from our local governments, the diligent communication between RGVMPPO staff, TXDOT staff, our TAC & TPB, and all items reviewed during the workshop held on July 7th, before approving these documents. RGVMPPO staff concluded by opening the floor to address any questions, comments, or concerns.

Question by the Policy Board members was regarding the Donna Bridge local dollars, what is the current status.

TxDOT – still pending on the city's local funds.

Chairman Hernandez requested that both TxDOT and Staff assist the City of Donna whenever possible to get this funding issue resolved.

After some discussion on this item, Commissioner Cantu (Hidalgo County) made a motion to approve the 2021-2024 Highway/Transit TIP & 2045 MTP – Revisions and Administrative Modifications / Resolutions: 2021-12-13 and 14 as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Logan (Valley Metro); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.6 Discussion of Category 7 Funds for Direct State Cost

Andrew gave a summary on Category 7 Funds for Direct State Cost, Historically, Category 7 has been used at times to cover the Direct State Cost associated with projects. Commissioner Fuentes has asked the RGVMPPO to add this item to the agenda for discussion and clarification with our partners at TxDOT on the eligibility of using Cat. 7 funding to cover the Direct State Cost associated with project development. It is believed that TxDOT is revising the way that Direct State Costs are charged to off-system roadways beginning with the Mile 6 Project and clarification is being sought.

After much discussion regarding Category 7 Funding for Direct State Cost, Commissioner Cantu recommended to have several LG's meet with TxDOT Division and have Mr. Alvarez schedule that meeting as soon as possible.

2.7 Discussion of Category 9 – TASA Funding Update

Eva Garcia provided a brief update on the Category 9 - TASA Funding. This Update is intended to inform the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation professionals about program activities to ensure transparency and improve the understanding of investments made to facilitate data-driven decision-making. RGVMPPO Staff continues to review and monitor how Category 9 funds have been apportioned, obligated, and reimbursed. This report documents the region's historical funding of projects and insight to project development.

Preparing for Next Year

\$2,154,958.32 in projects must be obligated by **September 30, 2022**

Staff conclude Members know Website has 2021-2022 you may access (via Microsoft resources. out to staff experience any regarding the application. As a reminder – Application Deadline is Friday, July 30th at 5:00 p.m., which the application form will automatically close.

Sponsor	Project Name
Brownsville	Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect
Pharr	PSJA Tri-City Pedestrian Improvements (phase II)
LRGVDC	RGV BikeShare
LRGVDC	Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan
McAllen	Jackson Hike & Bike Project

by letting Policy Board that the RGVMPPO been updated with a FY TASA webpage. Here the application form Form) and relevant Please feel free to reach directly if you issues or have questions

IV. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

New Offices Location – Follow-up – Staff will have two Locations, one Edinburg and the other in Brownsville, expected time of transition for both offices are the first week of August.

Financial Update - Staff provided the Financial Summary to members present; staff noted budget continues to be (98%) under budget (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet).

CAT 7 – Comprehensive Sheet – Update – Included in Policy Packet for informational purpose only.

V. STATUS REPORT

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

Representative from Hidalgo / Cameron Counties with (TxDOT) provided an updated presentation 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 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

Eric Davila provided an updated presentation 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)

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

VI. OTHER BUSINESS (OLD OR NEW)

- **City of McAllen New Elected Mayor** – Mayor Javier Villalobos was welcome to the Policy Board.
- **AMPO Conference October 4-8, 2021, in Scottsdale, Arizona** - Staff is seeking approval to attend the AMPO Conference scheduled in October 2021. Number of Staff attending to include Mr. Canon are (3) three. **Total expense for the conference is \$2,100.**

No discussion took place on this item, Mr. Parker (Cameron County) made a motion to approve the AMPO Conference Travel Request as submitted by staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Villalobos (City of McAllen); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2021, at 1:30 pm at the Ken Jones Boardroom.

No further discussion took place Vice Chairman Trevino ask for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to adjourn the Policy Meeting at 2:49 PM. The motion was seconded by Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN