

FULL POLICY BOARD AGENDA

POLICY BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022 – 1:30 PM

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)

*Pursuant to Chapter 551, Title 5 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meeting Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the RGVMPO POLICY BOARD will be held **In Person** at the LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B, Ken Jones Executive Board Room in Weslaco, TX.*

I. Call To Order

II. Roll Call

III. Public Comments – May be submitted online or may be submitted in paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minute(s) for:

May 25, 2022

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr., **Chairman**

Item Summary: Approval of the May 25, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes contained in Electronic Item "A" will be requested.

Background: N/A

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Support the Submittal of a Texas Federal Lands Access Program (TX FLAP) Proposal for the Design and Partial Construction of the Bahia Grande Trail and Approval of Resolution 2022-12.

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Eva Garcia, Planner III**

Item Summary: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has offered to provide ~\$1.5 million to use as match for the full design (all ~20 miles) and partial construction (~3-5 miles) of the Bahia Grande Trail. RGVMPO Staff politely requests the support of the RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee to submit a TX FLAP Application.

Background: The Bahia Grande Trail is approximately 20-miles long and will connect the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (National Park Service) and the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) to the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center and communities of Brownsville, Los Fresnos, Laguna Vista, and Port Isabel. By improving access to two federal land management agencies, the Bahia Grande Trail is eligible to receive funding from the Texas Federal Lands Access Program (TX FLAP). The TX FLAP recently opened their 2022 Call for Projects. Completed submissions are due August 1, 2022.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on IIJA Infrastructure BIL, Specifically on Safe Streets for All Grant Program and Vision Zero and Approval of Resolution 2022-13

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Javier Dominguez Jr., Transportation Planner I**

Item Summary: Presentation on the release of the schedule of notice of funding opportunities for the Infrastructure BIL and the upcoming application opportunity for Safe Streets for All Grant that is due on September 15th, 2022. The RGVMPPO needs to commit to a Vision Zero goal.

Background: The US Department of Transportation has released a schedule of when the Notice of Funding Opportunities can be expected to be opened for the various program grants under the IIJA Infrastructure BIL. The RGVMPPO Staff will go over the schedule as well as dive deeper into the Bridge Investment Program and the Safe Street for All Grant opportunity which has an application deadline of September 15th, 2022. With further guidance from FHWA the RGVMPPO is presenting RESOLUTION 2022-13 to the Transportation Policy Board to commit to a Vision Zero Goal by 2050.

4. Discussion and Possible Action of Section 5310 Applications

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Javier Dominguez Jr., Transportation Planner I**

Item Summary: Presentation of FTA Section 5310 program and recommended applications scored and ranked by RGVMPPO Staff.

Background: The FTA Section 5310 Program aims to assist operators of public transportation, local government authorities, and private nonprofit organizations support transportation services and expand transportation mobility options for seniors and individuals with disabilities in all areas. The RGVMPPO is asking the Transportation Policy Board for their approval for the distribution of funds from this funding round of the Federal Transit Agency's grant opportunity.

5. Discussion and Possible Action for Staff to Attend the Access Management Fundamental Principles, Application and Computation Conference in Columbus, Ohio

Action **Possible Action** **Information**

Presenter: **Fernando Cantu, GIS II**

Item Summary: Staff is seeking approval to attend the Access Management Fundamental Principles, Application and Computation Conference in Columbus, Ohio – September 19-23, 2022. This course (***\$2,000.00 to include flights, hotel registration and per-diem***) is designed to provide those who plan, operate, design, construct, or administer surface transportation or land use systems with a basic understanding of the concepts and tools available to them, the benefits of successful access management, and the costs of unsuccessful access management.

Background: This is a three-day course that's provides more in-depth content targeted for technical professionals. This course is intended to attract participants beyond traditional state and local agency technical staff, including planners, engineers, permit specialists, legal counsel, and project managers associated with transportation planning, operations, design, maintenance, and development review. The third day of this three-day class is designed to provide additional and more advanced instruction to participants than the FHWA-NHI133078 (two-day) course and is for those who desire to deepen their understanding of access management through more computationally driven applications of the course materials.

6. Discussion and Possible Action for Staff to Attend the Annual AMPO Conference in Minneapolis, MN

Action **Possible Action** **Information**

Presenter: **Andrew Canon, Executive Director**

Item Summary: In compliance to the requirements of TxDOT and the TPB I am seeking approval of staff to attend the annual AMPO Conference. The TPB has approved this trip as part of the 2022-2023 UPWP and is funded under Task 1.0. This annual meeting allows staff an opportunity to coordinate with other Planners and GIS Specialist across the nation on best practices, and innovative initiatives on the horizon.

Background: The AMPO Annual Conference is the premier event for MPOs to learn and network. It provides the opportunity to meet with over 350 MPO directors, transportation planners, and elected officials from across the country. The conference is structured into two and one-half days of sessions, with networking events every evening. During the conference, attendees can choose from general sessions, workshops, and mobile tours. A concurrent exhibition is held onsite during the conference, allowing opportunities to visit with industry partners and learn about new products and services.

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Rudy Zamora, Transportation Planner II

Item Summary: A list of Category 7 funding requests from various local governments has been included within the meeting packet. Results and feedback from meetings held will also be shared. Any pending meetings will be conducted as soon as possible. A plan for moving forward will be shared during upcoming TAC & TPB meetings. This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

Background: RGVMPPO staff received numerous requests for new and additional Category 7 funding for highway projects. Category 7 is federal funding for MPOs with populations of 200,000 or greater — known as transportation management areas (TMAs). This funding can be used on any roadway with a functional classification greater than a local road or rural minor collector. Common project types include roadway widening (both freeway and non-freeway), new-location roadways, and interchange improvements. The requests included additional funding for Construction, Construction Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Preliminary engineering. A table displaying totals of these requests was presented during the Project Update workshop, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, and Transportation Policy Board meeting. RGVMPPO staff will continue meeting with our region's entities to prioritize projects and requests for additional funding.

8. Discussion on and Possible Action on the RGVMPPO Regional Complete Streets Policy Update

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: Chris Nelson, Transportation Planner

Item Summary: RGVMPPO Staff has continued to engage regional stakeholders to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of existing and potential Complete Streets Policies. Staff has begun planning outreach events to engage Stakeholders and discuss the potential benefits of implementing Complete Streets Policies, to ascertain the necessary buy-in to ensure the efficacy of the policy. RGVMPPO Staff intends to complete an inventory of existing Complete Streets Policies adopted by Municipalities in the Region.

Background: Since the authorization to begin work on a Regional Complete Streets Policy by the Transportation Policy Board on February 23, 2022, RGVMPPO Staff has continued to research the Complete Streets Policies of agencies both inside and outside of the region. UPWP Amendment #2, which included an added Complete Streets subtask, allotted a total of \$120,000 in PL funds over the remainder of the two-year period towards Complete Streets planning activities, as mandated by the BIL. UPWP Amendment #2 was adopted by the Transportation Policy Board during the May 25, 2022, Regular Meeting, and is pending approval by TxDOT and FHWA.

9. Discussion on and Possible Action on the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Luis Diaz, Assistant Director**

Summary: The RGVMPPO is presenting amendments to the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP 25 Year Plan) Off System Project Evaluation Form with a recommendation for replacement by the Unified Transportation Program (UTP 10 Year Plan) CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form.

Background: Through an iterative discussion, the RGVMPPO staff and TAC refined a scoring for Category 7 projects to both leverage the technical expertise embodied in the TAC and reference performance criteria and regional goals to provide a robust scoring process for vetting and promoting projects geared to contribute towards targets. This scoring process likewise provides a platform to communicate with project sponsors and decision makers about project implications. The process also investigates what conditions a proposed project is improving and asks the sponsor to reflect on why they are submitting the project being reviewed. The continuity of this process invariably will refine and improve the process by which projects are submitted for consideration as well as the projects themselves. The latest version of the RGVMPPO Off System Project Evaluation Form is reflective of 3 TAC workshops and TPB approval May 27, 2020.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Action Possible Action Information

Presenter: **Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPPO**

Item Summary: Financial Update

Item Summary: **RGVMPPO Policy Board Retreat – Friday, June 3, 2022, Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center - 53550 Dolphin Cove – SPI -Update**

The RGVMPPO Policy Board Retreat was held on Friday, June 3rd at the Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center. A big "Thank You" to Cameron County for providing this facility to RGVMPPO.

Item Summary: Postpone Policy Meeting for July 27, 2022

VI. STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter: **TxDOT**

B. Cameron County RMA

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter: **Pete Sepulveda**

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter:

D. Regional Transit Metro

Action Possible Action Information
Presenter: **Antonio Zubieta**

VII. Other Business (Old or New):

This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

VIII. Next Meeting: The next RGVMPPO Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 27, 2022, at 1:30 pm.