

Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
 Minutes
 July 25, 2019

I) CALL TO ORDER

Ron Garza, Executive Director, Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) noted that since this is the first RGVTAC Meeting and no Chairman or Vice Chairman has been appointed/nominated, Mr. Garza will be facilitating the RGVTAC meeting, until those two (2) positions have been appointed by RGVTAC members and have been approved by the RGV Transportation Policy Board. Mr. Garza called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. The RGVTAC Meeting was held at the Ken Jones Boardroom located at 301 West Railroad, Weslaco, Texas

II) ROLL CALL

Attendance of all RGVTAC Members was provided by Debby Morales, Executive Secretary (LRGVDC): Present were representatives from the Cities of:

| MEMBERS PRESENT: | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ENTITY | VOTING MEMBERS |
| City of Brownsville | Mark Lund |
| City of Edinburg | Tom Reyna |
| City of Harlingen | Gabriel Gonzalez |
| City of McAllen | Patrizia Longoria |
| City of Mission | JP Terrazas |
| City of Pharr | Com. Eleazar Guajardo |
| City of San Benito | Bernard Rodriguez |
| Cameron County | Paulina Vega |
| Hidalgo County | Anthony Garza |
| TxDOT Pharr District | Melba Schaus |
| Valley Metro | Frank Jaramillo |
| Brownsville Metro | ABSENT |
| McAllen Metro | Jon Ray Bocanegra |
| Port of Brownsville | ABSENT |
| Port of Harlingen | Neil Haman |
| Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District | ABSENT |
| Cameron County RMA | Pete Sepulveda |
| Hidalgo County RMA | Pilar Rodriguez |
| Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp. | Mark Yates |
| NON-VOTING MEMBERS | |
| LRGVDC | Ron Garza |
| Brownsville MPO | Mark Lund |
| Harlingen/San Benito MPO | J. Joel Garza |
| Hidalgo County MPO | Andrew A. Canon |
| | |
| Federal Highways Administration | |
| Federal Transportation Administration | |

II) PUBLIC COMMENTS

➤ Evelia Castillo, Program Manager for Texas A & M University made an announcement to the RGV Policy Members discussing the Active Transportation Learning Hub Committee. This committee will work in collaboration with Texas A&M Transportation Institute, Texas A&M Health Science Center, and Hidalgo County MPO. This learning hub will cover active transportation topics related to public health and the transportation field. While incorporating the Hidalgo County Mobility Plan and focus on Regional Planning and culminate in a POP-UP demonstration project in Jan 2020.

III) PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Ron Garza provided a brief update on the Roll for RGVTAC Committee Members, which is not address in the RGV MPO Bylaws: 1) No Quorum Required; 2) These are recommendations to the Policy Board; and 3) These are not weighed votes (19 Members) define entities.

A. Consideration and Action to Approve Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

➤ Mr. Garza open the floor for nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. He did inform the RGV TAC Committee present, that the meeting will still be facilitated by him (Mr. Garza), until the next RGV TAC meeting, which at that time the RGVTPB, would have approved the nominations recommended by the RGVTAC Committee respectfully. **No discussion took place on the selection of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson amongst the TAC Committee; Hidalgo County made a motion to nominate Pete Sepulveda with Cameron County RMA as Chairman and JP Terrazas, with the City of Mission as Vice Chairman and recommend those nominations to the RGVTPB for consideration and approval. The motion was seconded by Mark Lund, City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Consideration and Action on the Planning Agreement

- Mr. Joel Garza informed the RGVTAC Committee members present that TxDOT Planning Agreement is the most important document that needs to be executed by the RGVTCPB Committee by October 1, 2019. The document has been reviewed by TxDOT and the Brownsville Harlingen and McAllen Urbanized areas have been identified in the documents. Edits have been highlighted in red for TAC Committees' review. **After some discussion on this item, RGV TAC Members present were in consensus to have the Planning Agreement presented to the RGVTCPB Committee for their consideration and approval. Report only, not action taken at this time.**

C. Consideration and Action of Letter to FHWA for Postponement of Certification Review

- Mr. Andrew Canon informed the RGVTAC Committee members present that a Letter on behalf of RGVTCPB Chairman was prepared to Federal Highway Administration, respectfully requesting a one-year postponement of the Federal Certification review. Each MPO must undertake every four (4) years. This postponement would allow the newly formed RGVMPPO to adequately address the transportation planning process and prepare for a favorable Certification Review in December 2020. Staff concluded by informing the RGVTAC Committee members present that this letter to FHWA will be mailed, once it has gone before to RGVMTCPB for their review and approval. **After some discussion on this on this item, the City of Pharr made a motion to recommend the letter submittal to "FHWA for Postponement of Certification Review" as presented by staff to the RGVTCPB for approval. The City of Brownsville seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

D. Consideration and Action on the 2020-2021 UPWP (Staff Budget)

- Mr. Canon noted that no action is required on the 2020-2021 UPWP (Staff Budget), however; staff will be seeking TAC / Policy approval at the August 2019 meeting, in order to meet the October 1, 2019 (MPO Merger) deadline. There are Two (2) RGVMPPO meetings scheduled for August 7 and 28, 2019. Mr. J. Joel Garza noted that staff will also be seeking approval to hire a consultant to assist with staffing, once all three MPO merge. Mr. Mark Lund noted that FY 2020-21 UPWP document for RGVMPPO does not list any of B Metro's 5307 transit activities. Mr. Lund also noted BMPO and B Metro staff did not pursue having the 5307 activities incorporated into the RGVMPPO UPWP on an arbitrary basis, which staff was instructed to do so by FTA. Andrew Canon noted that the 5307 has never being placed on the UPWP, funds are used to do external studies. After some discussion on this item, Mr. Garza noted that these items (5303 and 5307) will be discussed further with all three MPO Directors and would be resolved accordingly before the next RGVTAC/RGVTCPB Meetings. **No further discussion took place on this item, RGV TAC Members present were in consensus to have this item presented to the RGVMPPO TPB for their consideration and approval. Report only, not action taken at this time.**

E. Consideration and Action on the RGVMPPO 2045 MTP Scope

- Mr. Canon noted that staff had met with TxDOT and Federal Highway regarding the RGVMPPO 2045 MTP Model. Currently both Hidalgo and San Benito have the same consultant, and Brownsville have their own in-house consultant, that are working on the scope of work, with a deadline of December 2020. Staff will be bringing a consultant to work on their scope of work for the 2045 MTP, to include the Long-Range Plan, Travel Demand and Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. **After some discussion on this item, RGV TAC Members present were in consensus to have this item presented to the RGVTCPB for their consideration and approval. Report only, not action taken at this time.**

F. Discussion and Presentation on the Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- J. Joel Garza noted that the Public Participation Plan is part of the packet, which includes the process of how to advertise for PPP, MTP and UPWP. The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is intended to provide direction for public involvement activities to be conducted by the MPO. The PPP includes descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the MPO and other agencies in the public involvement process. The PPP also lists public involvement techniques that could be used by the MPO to encourage the public to engage in the planning process. As a part of the 45-day public involvement process, the RGVMPPO is giving notice of the new RGVMPPO Public Participation Plan. Also listed in the PPP are how /where Public Meetings will be held in each respective region (Hidalgo, Harlingen and Brownsville). This information will be available for public review and comment from July 26th - Sept 8, 2019. This will be for the September 2019 adoption, which means the (PPP) document would need to be adopted before the MTP or UPWP can be adopted/approved by RGVTCPB. **After some discussion on this item, RGVTAC Members present were in consensus to have this item presented to the RGVTCPB for their consideration and approval. Report only, not action taken at this time.**

G. Discussion and Presentation on the RGVMPPO Draft Bicycle Plan

- J, Joel Garza noted that this document (Bicycle Plan) will also be part of the PPP, MTP and UPWP documents. A Bicycle (BPAC) Planning Committee will also be selected at later date, that will also include representatives from all three regions (Hidalgo, Brownsville and Harlingen). Staff noted this was for information purposes. No further discussion took place on the RGVMPPO Draft Bicycle Plan.

V) RGVMPPO STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

* MTP/TIP UPDATES

Andrew Canon noted that staff has been working collectively with Harlingen and Brownsville to update the Long-Range Plan and provided a brief update on **the Brownsville, Harlingen and Hidalgo Long Range Plan** and **RGVMPPO Long Range Plan MTP** as follows:

Brownsville, Harlingen & Hidalgo MPO Long Range Plan

- Staff has developed a plan to update independent plans
- 3 MPO Plans will be merged into a singular document
- RGVMPPO TPD will adopted at the October 30th Meeting
- Merged document will allow for continued TIP/MTP Amendments, except for November 2019 Amendment
- Public Involvement and adoption will NOT allow for November revisions, however; Staff will coordinate with TAC and TPB approval for a regionwide Congestion Study to address delay in the RGV.

RGVMPO Long Range Plan MTP

- Staff will work with LRGVDC Procurement Department for RFP Process
- Staff has developed a scope for MTP, Bike Ped and Long-Range Transit Plan
- Staff has developed a Timeline for RFP Process and hopes to bring executable contract to TPB by October 30, 2019.

RGVMPO Development Timeline

- 2025 MTP Model – Merging has begun, will be presented to RGVTAC for consideration and final approval by TPB at the October 2019 meeting.
- 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program staff have merged all three (3) TIP's after the portal upload on July 23, 2019, will merge (3) three TIPs into one document for TPB adoption on October 30, 2019.
- Public Participation Plan begins 45 days of Public Involvement July 27, 2019, staff will complete Federally Mandated 45 days public involvement for PPP and bring to TPB for adoption at the September 25, 2019 Meeting.
- UPWP, (2) Years staff budget – adoption no later than September 25th TPB meeting.
- 2045 MTP Model, Bike/Ped Plan and Long-Range Transit Plan, staff has produced a horizon timeline and scope for contract and TPB Committee will adopt no later than December 2020.

Documents to Approve for Advancement by TPB Committee

- 2020 – 2021 UPWP – 2 years Operational Budget
- Planning Agreement
- 2045 MTP Scope
- Public Participation Plan

Discussion on the RFP, whether they need to be approved by RGVTAC took place amongst RGVTAC members. Staff noted that RFP have never being brought / presented for approval to the Policy in the past, the TAC Committee gives the green light for approval. Contract usually take less than 3 months to get process and approved. With the understanding that RFP go through the LRGVDC Procurement guidelines. Mr. Ron Garza noted that there should not be any issues if modifications need to be done, regarding RFP's process procedures on whether it be RGVTAC or RGVTAC approving the final RFP's submittals.

- Mr. Lund noted that staff have work as a Region on the Travel Demand Modal and should be ready for approval by September 2019. Hoping to have a draft of the MTP, and as per Categories (1, 8, and 11) hope to have everything wrap up and approved by September 18, 2019.

* **CMP UPDATES**

- Andrew Canon noted that a Regional Congestion Study is a requirement by all three MPO's. A Region Congestion Study RFP has been submitted, with a deadline of August 9, 2019.

VI) STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Reports

- Melba A. Shaus with TxDOT provided an updated report on projects within the RGVMPO area. Monthly Letting Projects are listed from August 2018 thru October 2019 and are listed by counties. All projects are moving forward as scheduled and TxDOT Monthly Letting Report is filed with the July 25, 2019 RGVTAC packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

B. Cameron County RMA

- Pete Sepulveda with Cameron County RMA provided a brief presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled and Cameron County RMA monthly report is filed with the July 25, 2019 RGVTAC Packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Hidalgo County RMA

- Eric Davila, Chief Development Engineer with Hidalgo County RMA provided a brief overview on the following projects: 1) 365 Toll Project; 2) IBTC Project; 3) Overweight Permit Summary; and 4) Construction Economic Update. All projects are currently with in the Hidalgo County RMA and all projects continue to move. Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the July 25, 2019 RGVTAC Packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

D. McAllen Metro

- Jon Ray Bocanegra provided a brief update to RGVTAC Members present and noted that Ridership Report covers from October 2018 to June 2019. To date there has been a total of 484,000 Riders. Mr. Bocanegra concluded by letting RGVTAC Members know that McAllen Metro just went through their FY 2019 FTA Triennial Review. Full report will be provided at the next TAC Meeting. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

E. Brownsville Metro

- Mark Lund noted that staff re-organization is currently taking place, the three Planners will be moving to the City of Brownsville and will be working in the Transit and Multi-Modal Departments. For the next RGVTAC Meeting Norma Zamora will be available to provide an updated Brownsville Metro Report. Mr. Lund concluded by letting RGVTAC members know that he has been appointed to the RGVTAC Committee as the Representative for the City of Brownsville.

F. Valley Metro

- Frank Jaramillo provided a brief update to RGV TAC Members present and noted that Ridership continues to be study, aside the from school being out for the summer. Mr. Jaramillo also stated that Valley Metro also had their FY2019 FTA Triennial Review and are pleased to announce that Valley Metro had a positive review and were found to be in compliance as per FTA Triennial Review. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Mr. Ron Garza noted that he would like to submit to RGVTPB Members a fix schedule for future ongoing RGV TAC Meetings. Mr. Garza would like to make a recommendation to hold the RGV TAC Meeting two (2) weeks prior to the schedule RGVTPB Meetings, which means RGV TAC Meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month, at 10:00 AM at the Ken Jones Boardroom.

The RGV Policy/TAC Meetings for August are as follows:

- RGVTPB (Policy) Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at Noon at the Ken Jones Boardroom
- RGV TAC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Ken Jones Boardroom
- RGV TPB (Policy) Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at Noon at the Ken Jones Boardroom.

Finally, Mr. Garza noted that the RGV Policy Meetings after August 2019, will be held the last Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise scheduled on a different day by the RGVTPB Chairman. No discussion took place on this item, RGV TAC Members present were in consensus with Mr. Garza's RGV TAC Meetings schedule **to be presented to the RGVTPB for consideration and approval.**

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGV TAC, Ron Garza called for a motion to adjourn. The City of Pharr made a motion to adjourn. The City of Mission seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 pm.