

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

November 19, 2020

I) CALL TO ORDER

Pete Sepulveda, (Cameron County RMA) Chairman called the TAC Microsoft Teams Meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. The RGV TAC Microsoft Teams Meeting was held remotely with the following TAC Members.

II) ROLL CALL

RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda, Chairman
City of Mission	JP Terrazas, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
City of Harlingen	Gabriel Gonzalez
City of McAllen	Yvette Barrera
City of Pharr	Com. Eleazar Guajardo / Omar Anzaldua
City of San Benito	Manuel De La Rosa/ Bernard Rodriguez (ABSENT)
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
TxDOT Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo
Hidalgo County RMA	Eric Davila
Brownsville Metro	Norma Zamora / Antonio Zubieta
McAllen Metro	Jon Ray Bocanegra
Port of Brownsville	Ariel Chavez, III (ABSENT)
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
GUEST	
Steve Taylor, Consultant	CoPlan
Jory Dille, PMP	Alliance Transportation Group (ATG)
Tim Simon, AICP	Alliance Transportation Group (ATG)
Ben Magallon, AICP	Alliance Transportation Group (ATG)
STAFF	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IV) PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of October 8, 2020

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of October 8, 2020. *No corrections were noted to the minutes of October 8, 2020, City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

B. Consideration and Action of Category 7 Workshop Recommendation to Retain Category 7 Funding as is Presently Being Used for ROW, PE and Construction

Andrew A. Canon noted that staff is seeking feedback from the TAC Committee, to leave Category 7 Funding as it is presently being used for ROW, PE and Construction.

After some discussion on this item, City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board to Retain Category 7 as it is presently being used for ROW, PE and Construction. The motion seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion carried. TxDOT abstained.

Mr. Canon noted that staff would like for Chairman Pete Sepulveda to take the following agenda items (G, F, and E) out of order. ATG Representatives will be providing the (TDP, ATP and 2045 MTP) presentations. These Plans (TDP, ATP and 2045 MTP) will be part of the initiative that the Policy Board approved at the merger for the RGVMPPO to meet federal compliance and assure proper planning tools were in place. All three plans will successfully complete the required 30-Day Public Involvement period, and in addition the RGVMPPO will host a virtual Open House “Online” with opportunities to provide comments in both English and Spanish. The Public Comments period for these Plans will conclude on December 4, 2020. Staff will also be seeking approval of these items.

G. Consideration and Action to Adopt the Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Tim Simon, AICP, TDP Task Lead Representative provided a brief update on the Adoption of the Transit Development Plan (TDP), and its’ contents. The Objectives for Transit Development Plan is to create a regional plan that would establish a shared vision for transit in the RGVMAAB and make service more connected, reliable, and accessible.

The TDP Components consist of 5 Chapters:

- Chapter 1: Transit Existing Conditions Analysis
- Chapter 2: Regional Service Standards
- Chapter 3: Recommendations and Alternatives
- Chapter 4: Implementation Plan; and
- Chapter 5: Transit Investment

Mr. Simon concluded his presentation by letting TAC members know that TDP Components consist: Established an understanding of existing service and the regional transit market and Created service standards for a cohesive, reliable regional transit network.

McAllen Metro had just a small correction to Page 23 of the TDP, “removing commuter bus from types of service and changing the Buses operating at Peak Service to 12”. Mr. Simon noted that Public Comment is still open but before finalizing the Transit Development Plan, recommendation / corrections will be included to the final document of the TDP.

After some discussion on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board approval to Adopt the Transit Development Plan (TDP) subject to Public Involvement Comments submittal and with McAllen Metros’ corrections. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

F. Consideration and Action to Adopt the Active Transportation Plan (ATP)

Mr. Jory Dille, PMP, ATP Task Lead Representative provided a brief update on the Adoption of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and its’ contents. The Objectives for the Active Transportation Plan is to deliver a regionally coordinated system for walking and bicycling designed to provide world class facilities for active transportation and to integrate active tourism to support economic opportunity in local communities.

The ATP Components consist of 4 Chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Public Outreach
- Chapter 3: Recommendations and Network Development
- Chapter 4: Implementation Plan; and
- Appendix A, B, C

Mr. Dille concluded his presentation by letting TAC members know that ATP Components consist of Facility Selection: 1) Identify Community Needs and Route; 2) Understand Current Conditions, 3) Identify Solutions Based on Local Context and Traffic Speed/Volume to Design Guidelines – Side Path.

After some discussion on this item, City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board approval to Adopt the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) contingent to Public Involvement Comment submittal. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Consideration and Action to Adopt 2045 MTP (Long Range Plan)

Ben Magallón, AICP, MTP Task Lead Representative provided a brief update on the Adoption of the 2045 MTP (Long Rang Plan) and its’ contents. The Objectives for Metropolitan Transportation Plan is to forge a new regional vision for multimodal transportation in the Rio Grande Valley; Respect what makes each of its component communities unique; Comprehensively balance the relationship between the planning process and

federal rules; and Apply that understanding toward achieving a plan that meets or exceeds the region's needs and federal compliance requirements.

The MTP Components consist of:

- Chapter 1: Introduction to Planning Processes
- Chapter 2: Vision, Goals, and Objectives
 - Safety Environmental Stewardship Inclusivity
 - Efficiency Sustainability Economic Growth
 - Connectivity Asset Management Security
- Chapter 3: Public Involvement Process
- Chapter 4: Multimodal Needs Analysis
- Chapter 5: Strategies for Regional Mobility
- Chapter 6: Staged Improvement Plan
- Chapter 7: Environmental Impact Considerations
- Chapter 8: Financial Plan
- Chapter 9: System Performance Report

Multimodal Needs Analysis and Stakeholder Feedback Integration:

- Active Transportation Analysis
- Bridge and Pavement Conditions Analysis
- Demographics Analysis
- Environmental Resources Analysis
- Equity Analysis
- Freight Analysis
- Roadway Analysis
- Safety Analysis
- Transit Analysis

Mr. Magallón noted on his presentation that MTP Components consist of Federal Compliance, Systems Performance and Project Scoring.

The final steps consist of:

- ❖ Delivery of Final Plans
- ❖ Demo with MPO Staff
- ❖ Public Involvement Memo
- ❖ Executive Summary
- ❖ Finalize delivery of data and project files
- ❖ Transportation Policy Board Presentation and Plan Adoption (December 10, 2020)

Mr. Magallón concluded his presentation by encouraging everyone to leave any comments necessary on the final documents of the (ATP, TDP and 2045 MTP Long Range Plan) and noted that all three gentlemen from ATG were present to answer any questions the TAC members may have.

After some discussion on this item, Hidalgo County RMA made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board approval to adopt the 2045 MTP (Long Range Plan), contingent to Public Involvement Comment submittal. The motion was seconded by the City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Consideration and Concurrence on FY 2022 UTP Submittal

Andrew A. Canon Staff is seeking consideration and concurrence of the 2022 UTP (Cat. 2) as contained within TAC packet. Because the UTP must be fiscally constrained by year so there is a need to balance the program statewide. The statewide methodology is to shift projects throughout the UTP to keep fiscal constraint Moved from year to year within Construct Authority (2021-2024), Construct Authority (2021-2024) to Develop Authority (2025-2031) and Develop Authority (2025- 2031) to PLAN (2035). The following is information on how the RGVMPPO region was impacted in comparison to a statewide need to balance projects. Board members will see that the requested shifts in projects is equitable to the statewide initiative and does not seem to be more burdensome to the RGVMPPO than other areas.

- 21 UTP Cat 2 **PHR** TOTAL = \$430,788,656 (\$43M/yr. avg)
- 2021 and 2022 were only about \$22.5M, which would be only half (50%) of the avg

- 2023 total is about 1.5 times the avg, at \$66.9M
- 2024-2031 tries to remain balanced throughout with 2030 dropping to only \$18M which would be less than half of the avg
- 21 UTP Cat 2 STATEWIDE TOTAL = \$9,762,261,100 (\$976M/yr. avg)
- 2021 and 2022 were only about \$515M, which would be only half (50%) of the avg
- 2023 total is about 1.5 times the avg, at \$1.5B
- 2024-2031 tries to remain balanced throughout with 2030 dropping to only \$424M which would be less than half of the avg

Category 7 projects were submitted as they appear in order in the 25-year MTP except for the East Loop project which staff identified as #1 to be in alignment with the letter submitted by the RGVMPO in June identifying its Top 10 regional projects and East Loop was the only one identified with Cat. 7 funding.

Chairman Pete Sepulveda noted, he is not very comfortable with moving forward on this item, only because there was not enough time to review the backup information regarding FY2022 UTP Submittals. Would of have like to have held a workshop with TAC members and staff to received feedback on any concerns on the FY2022 UTP Submittals.

Chairman Pete Sepulveda noted that a deadline is set for January 28, 2021 to have TxDOT review documents. What criteria was used to move or remove projects from the UTP, according to the listing currently 11 out of 14 projects in Cameron County on the UTP will be either moved or removed in the outer years. With (4) projects completely removed. Hidalgo County is also having the same as far as having projects being removed or moved.

TxDOT noted the following regarding 2022 UTP -CAT 2 Projects:

- Statewide MPOs' are having to balance their budget
- Projects need to be physically constrained by year.
- Projects were moved based on where the projects are currently at (Status);
- Inflation has been added to base estimates as follows (Yr 1 - 0%, Yr 2 - 4%, Yr 3 - 8%, and Yrs 4-10-12%)
- UTP Estimate includes Base Construction Estimate + Inflation + Contingencies (Safety and Change Order)
- UTP estimate shown does not represent authorized amounts. All projects have partial Cat 2 funding and a request for the funding gap will be made as part of the FY22 UTP.
- Once final numbers are revealed, TxDOT would like to re-visit these projects again in February 2021.

Chairman Pete Sepulveda ask TxDOT, how are those projects that are going to be moved out going to be track. TxDOT replied, that a list/report will be created by TxDOT to keep track of those projects.

Armando Garza (Hidalgo County) had a request to have \$2.5 million allocated towards FM493 be used towards the FM88 Project since this project is "Shovel Ready".

After much discussion on the FY2022 UTP Submittals, Hidalgo County made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board to approve the FY2022 UTP with the following change/request the \$2.5 million that is being allocated towards FM493 be used towards FM88 as discussed/ presented. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

JP Terrazas, Vice Chairman took over the meeting.

D. Consideration and Action to Approve Executive Summary of 2019 CMP

Andrew A. Canon introduce Mr. Steve Taylor with CoPlan, whom would be providing a brief update on the Executive Summary of the 2019 CMP. Mr. Taylor noted that the Executive Summary was established for the RGVMPO (CMP) to monitor the transportation network in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. The goal of the monitoring system areas and related transportation deficiencies. Traffic studies are conducted each year, rotating among the seasons. In 2019/2020 update, the Winter season was studied in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. Past CMP Studies in Hidalgo County include Spring 2001, Fall 2002, Summer 2003, Spring 2004, Winter 2005, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Winter 2008/2009, Summer 2009, Fall 2010, Spring 2013 and Winter 2015. Past CMP studies were performed following the merger of the Hidalgo County, Harlingen, and Brownsville MPOs.

Staff concluded by noting that staff is seeking consideration and approval of the 2019 Congestion Management Process. This Plan originally began with the HCMPO and was part of the initiative that the Policy Board approved

at the merger for the RGVMPPO to meet Federal Compliance. This updated integrated date from the previous Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito, and Hidalgo County MPO's. Over 1,000 centerline miles and 80 high priority intersections were identified for this region wide approach. The executive summary provides guidance to address corridor efficiencies and possible intersection improvements.

After much discussion on this item, City of McAllen made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board to approve the Executive Summary 2019 CMP as presented. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

H. Consideration and Action to Extend CMP Contract for Time Purposes Only (3 Months) from December to March 31, 2021

Staff is seeking consideration and approval of a time extension for the FY 2019 CMP contract. The extension timeline is for 3 months until March 31, 2021. The extension in time (*no additional dollar amount*) is to provide an opportunity for implementation of equipment in the Mission area. This would complete signal timings for the 16 intersections that remain out of the 80 that make up the regional study.

After much discussion on this item, City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend to the Policy Board to approve to Extend CMP Contract for Time Purposes Only (3 Months) from December to March 31, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V) RGVMPPO STAFF REPORTS AND UPDATES

A. Director Update

- RGVMPPO PROJECT ENTRY TOOL – SCORING PROCESS – GIS PORTAL:

- Staff continues to score projects
- Online GIS Portal – Staff to be utilizing in the upcoming year.
- Off System Projects – Still moving forward.

B. Update on Federal Certification Review

Andrew Canon provided the schedule for RGVMPPO Certification Review December 8-10, 2020 as follows:

- **DAY ONE – TUESDAY (DECEMBER 8, 2020):** Session 1 from 9:00 am to lunch will have Introductions, MPO profile, UPWP, TIP, MTP. Session 2 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm will have CMP, PBP and Public Involvement.
- **DAY TWO – WEDNESDAY (DECEMBER 9, 2020):** Session 3 from 9:00 am to lunch will have Public Transit, Title VI, EJ and ELP; Freight, Transportation Safety Planning; Management and Operation/ITS and Security. Session 4 from 2:00 pm will have FHWA/FTA Discussion of Certification Review
- **DAY THREE – THURSDAY (DECEMBER 10, 2020):** Session 5 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am will have FHWA/FTA Preliminary Observations and Comments
- FHWA will also be meeting and requesting feedback from the following Mayors of Brownsville, Harlingen, and Pharr.
- **FHWA FINAL REVIEW** – FHWA will also be providing their final findings and a presentation to the Policy Members at the Policy Meeting scheduled for December 10, 2020.

C. Financial Update

Mr. Canon was please to provide financial update he presented a PowerPoint detailing RGVMPPO finances. RGVMPPO staff has been expanded and current budget reflects the end this fiscal year all under budget. Next meeting the new fiscal year budget will be presented. No further questions regarding financial update.

VI) STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Melba Schaus (TxDOT) provided an updated Via Microsoft Teams TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPPO area. The following reports included TxDOT Monthly Letting Update (Nov. 2020, Dec. 2020, Apr. 2021, May 2021, July 2021) and Pharr District Master Letting Plan. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

B. Cameron County RMA

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via Microsoft Teams on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled. Cameron County RMA report is filed with the November 19, 2020 RGVMTAC Packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Eric Davila, PE, (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via Microsoft Teams on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA; he discussed the major milestones of each project. All projects are continuing to move forward despite COVID-19 related issues. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the November 19, 2020 RGVTAC Packet. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***

D. McAllen Metro

Jon Ray Bocanegra provided a brief update Via Microsoft Teams and noted a small passenger increase since the previous month and everything appears to be moving forward. The McAllen Metro report is filed with the November 19, 2020 RGVTAC Packet. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***

E. Brownsville / Island Metros

Antonio Zubieta provided an updated report Via Microsoft Teams which included the Brownsville Metro and Island Metro. These reports include on-going connecting community projects and combined ridership. The reports are filed with November 19, 2020 RGVTAC Packet. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***

F. Valley Metro

Frank Jaramillo provided an update Via Microsoft Teams for ridership for both rural and urban year to date report. COVID-19 continues to impact services, however, there is a steadily increase. The reports are filed with the November 19, 2020 RGVTAC Packet. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Yvette Barrera, City of McAllen – For future meeting recommends that RGVMPPO Staff provide memos on items being presented on the TAC agenda, explaining the items for consideration or discussion in more detail on what the objectives and goals are being requested.

RGVMPO Office will be closed for:

- Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday and Friday (11-26-27-2020)
- Christmas Holidays – Thursday and Friday (12-24-25-2020)
- New Year’s Holiday – Friday (01-01-2021)

VIII) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Pete Sepulveda, (Cameron County RMA) Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. The City of Mission made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.