

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

June 10, 2021

I) CALL TO ORDER

Pete Sepulveda, (Cameron County RMA) Chairman called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The TAC Meeting was held remotely with the following TAC Members in attendances.

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	Carlos Sanchez
City of McAllen	Yvette Barrera
City of Pharr	Omar Anzaldua
City of San Benito	Rick Guerra (Mayor) 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	Antonio Zubieta
McAllen Metro	Jon Bocanegra
Port of Brownsville	Ariel Chavez, III
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates / Crystal Gonzalez
GUEST	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz, Executive Director
STAFF	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IV) PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of May 13, 2021

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of May 13, 2021.

No corrections were noted to the minutes of May 13, 2021, and the City of McAllen made a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDAS

2.1 Discussion and Possible Action of Re-Designation Amendment

Staff noted that at the last month TAC Meeting the Re-designation Agreement was tabled due to it not being ready for approval. Mayor Boswell (City of Harlingen) did review the agreement and several corrections and additions were made to the Re-Designation Agreement as recommended and are highlighted in yellow as follows:

Page 1 -A. Identification of Valley MPO Boundary: The Valley MPO Boundary shall include all the territory combined from the three (3) existing MPO boundaries and the urbanized areas of Starr County as identified by the latest census designations.

Page 2 – Composition of Policy Board – Weighted Votes is as follows:

Table 1. Transportation Policy Board			
	2010 Population by City	Members	Weighted Votes
Hidalgo County	240,273	1	7
City of Brownsville	175,023	1	4
Cameron County	136,486	1	4
City of McAllen	129,877	1	3
City of Edinburg	77,100	1	2
City of Mission	77,058	1	2
City of Pharr	70,400	1	2
City of Harlingen	64,849	1	2
City of San Benito (<i>reference section 1.05, e.</i>)	24,250	1	1
Cameron County RMA		1	1
Hidalgo County RMA		1	1
Starr County	60,968	1	1
Valley Metro		1	1
TxDOT Pharr District		1	1
Additional cities (N=number of cities that reach the 50,000-population threshold)			
Total		43 14	34 32

Chairman Sepulveda for clarification asked Staff that this was just procedure to add Starr County to the Policy Board voting structure. Staff replied, “that is correct”, and the approval of Governor Abbott is also pending.

TxDOT had a couple of comments with the wording being used in the document, the Title in the Document is “Re-Designation Agreement for MPO Consolidation”. Starr County is NOT an MPO; therefore, maybe should read...” Agreement for MPO Boundary Expansion”.

Chairman and staff did note that in the original document that is how it read, however; staff will get in touch with Mayor Boswell (City of Harlingen) and ask for guidance regarding Starr County.

TxDOT second comment was in the first paragraph how the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is referred to vs “the Valley MPO”, which is how it is worded throughout the whole document. Just refer to it as “RGVMPO” throughout the whole document.

Again, staff will be reaching out to Mayor Boswell and address these comments and have them presented at the Policy Board Meeting for approval.

TxDOT noted that on Page 3, the word “Transportation” on the third line; last paragraph needs to be corrected and finally, TxDOT had one last comment regarding the maps and the smoothing of the Boundaries, understanding they were done after the 2020 Census up to standards and approved by Policy Board.

Staff noted that it was approved by the Policy Board, and it was also mail out to Jessica Butler with the explanation on how the smoothing of the Boundaries were done on the urbanize area and again Re-Designation Agreement is still pending the Governor’s approval.

After some discussion on this item, City of Edinburg made a motion to recommend approving the Re-Designation Agreement for MPO Consolidation to the Policy Board; with the corrections noted and with staff getting clarification from Mayor Boswell on the wording as discussed by TxDOT. The motion was seconded by City of Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Discussion and Possible Action on 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP Revisions

RGVMPO staff is seeking guidance and recommendations for approval of the 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP Revisions/ADMIN modifications. A draft copy of the Highway TIP and a ranking of Category 7 funded projects are shared within the meeting packet. The RGVMPO 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 is set for August 2021. Upon official announcement of the STIP approval, a firm deadline will be issued for all revisions and modifications to be uploaded via the E-STIP Portal. Prior to uploading of supporting documentation, a 30-day Public Involvement period will be necessary to establish transparency with our local entities and the public. Please advise on any discrepancies and share comments and/or concerns regarding our region's projects.

Staff noted that a Workshop is scheduled for July 7, 2021, between 10AM-12 (Noon), all updates are being requested prior to the Workshop to incorporate those changes to TIP/MTP Revisions. Staff concluded by letting TAC members present know that updates/revisions will be posted on RGVMPO Website for anyone to review.

Chairman Sepulveda ask TxDOT confirmation date for the August TIP Update. TxDOT reply, was no definite date has been set, since the 2021-2024 STIP has NOT yet been approved.

Chairman Sepulveda ask when will the "DRAFT MTP" be ready for review by staff.

Rudy noted that the Draft TIP/MTP will be or should be ready for the August Revisions submittal deadline of July 27, 2021. If all goes well with Public Involvement, which is set to start June 10, 2021, and ends July 11, 2021. Staff is asking for all submittals for both TIP/MTP be provided to staff, no later than July 7, 2021, before the Workshop.

Andrew noted that both the TIP/MTP tables will be posted on the Website by Friday, June 11, 2021, for TAC / Policy Board to start reviewing for the duration of the Public Involvement Period.

After much discussion on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to acknowledge the 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP Revisions as discussed and presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2022-2023 United Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Fern Cantu provided information on the FY2022-2023 UPWP. RGVMPO staff is asking to move over funds from FY2021 Task 2 into Task 4 in the amount of \$100,000, to be utilized to balance out the books and this will be a zero-sum game.

No discussion took place on this item, TxDOT made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2022-2023 UPWP to the Policy Board as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

City of Harlingen asked about the studies for Harlingen, which were not included in this 2020-2021 UPWP. Staff did clarify for everyone that is CORRECT, those studies were part of the 2022-2023 UPWP.

IV. RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES

New Office Location – Staff noted that final approval has been received by FHWA to move staff to the new Office in Edinburg and moving date is set for the first week of August 2021. It will be at the discretion of the Policy and TAC Board to determine how long these Virtual Meeting will be held. Both TAC and Policy Meeting will continue to be held at the Ken Jones Boardroom.

Brownsville Office – Still Pending additional information on the Brownsville office, which will house (4) Four RGVMPO Employees.

TIP Workshop - Staff will be sending an email regarding holding the Virtual TIP Workshop July 7, 2021, from 10AM – 12 (Noon).

Executive Director - Will be on Vacation from June 16, 2021, thru June 25, 2021. Please contact Luis Diaz, Asst. Director for any question or concerns.

Financial Update

Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. *Report filed with the June 10, 2021, RGVTAC Packet.*

TASA / Category 9 Update - Eva provided background/current status/ and the next steps regarding TASA Funding discussions, decisions, and / or potential impact on future and other projects with the following slides: (*Report only, no action taken at this time*).

OBJECTIVES

Category 9: TASA Funding Update

Presenter: RGVMP and TxDOT Pharr District
Summary: An update to the RGVMP TAC regarding Category 9: TASA Funding.

Purpose/Objective(s)

1. Recount a highlevel history of Category 9: TAP/TASA funding administered through the Brownsville MPO, Hidalgo County MPO, and TxDOT Pharr District.
2. Dive into project information and updates for awarded HCMPO FY 2017/2018 TAP Projects.
3. Provide transparency and prepare RGVMP TAC Members for the potential discussions, decisions, and/or potential impact on future/other projects.

PAST

Brownsville MPO Category 9: TAP/TASA Program History

- ◆ FY 2015-2016: \$1,391,369 awarded
- ◆ FY 2019-2020: \$1,892,709 awarded

Hidalgo County MPO Category 9: TAP/TASA Program History

- ◆ FY 2015-2016: \$4,640,000 awarded on June 18, 2015 (Resolution 2015R1)
- ◆ FY 2017-2018: \$2,526,333 awarded on March 16, 2017 (Resolution 2017-04)
- ◆ FY 2019-2020: \$2,640,000 awarded on December 13, 2018 (Resolution 2018R4)

PAST

HCMPO FY 2017-2018 TAP Project

Total Available \$2,540,000 - Planning \$254,000 - Construction: \$2,272,333

5 Projects were awarded \$2,526,333 by the HCMPO TP on the 16th of March 2017

Award Amount	Sponsor	Project Name	AFA Resolution	June 2021 Project Status
\$120,000	McAllen	Vision Zero Planning Study	Sept. 24, 2019	AT RISK OF LAPSING FUNDS
\$134,000	Pharr	Pedestrian Safety Wellness Plan	Oct. 21, 2019	AT RISK OF LAPSING FUNDS
\$1,577,340	PSA	In-City Ped Safety Improvements	Mar. 18, 2019	FPAA Received Sept. 2020
\$422,400	Edinburg	Hike & Bike Lighting Improvements	Mar. 27, 2019	FPAA Received May 2021
\$272,593	Donna	Sidewalk Improvements	Oct. 31, 2018	AT RISK OF LAPSING FUNDS

PRESENT

February 2021:

- ◆ TxDOT Pharr Dist. requests project status updates from project sponsors

March 2021:

- ◆ \$955,603.92 RGVMP TAP Funds identified as *in jeopardy of lapsing*
- ◆ TxDOT Pharr Dist. coordinates bi-weekly meetings with the project sponsors and MPO staff

May 2021:

- ◆ Edinburg's Lighting Improvements obligates \$422,400 through an FPAA
- ◆ Possible lapse of funding is discussed at RGVMP Transportation Policy Board Meeting

June 2021:

- ◆ \$680,426.32 RGVMP TAP Funds *AT RISK OF LAPSING*
- ◆ Bring the risk of losing funds to the attention of the RGVMP Technical Advisory Committee

PRESENT

There is always hope.

- ◆ Funds must be obligated through an FPAA by September 30, 2021 or funds will lapse.
- ◆ The FPAA request takes time and there must be complete confidence the project will let.

Award Amount	Sponsor	Project Name	June 2021 Project Status
\$120,000	McAllen	Vision Zero Planning Study	RFP Approval & Advertisement Pending
\$134,000	Pharr	Pedestrian Safety Wellness Plan	RFP Approval & Advertisement Pending
\$272,593	Donna	Sidewalk Improvements	Railroad Agreement Pending

FUTURE

Important Dates:

- ◆ Tues., June 15th - Donna Sidewalk Project status will be presented at City of Donna Council Meeting
- ◆ Wed., June 16th - City of Donna notifies TxDOT and RGVMP of the Council's decision at project meeting
- ◆ Thu., July 8th - RGVMP Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
- ◆ Wed., July 14th - RGVMP Transportation Policy Board Meeting
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 - Deadline to obligate funds through FPAA

ACTION ITEMS / NEXT STEPS

Preparing for Next Year

- ◆ \$2,154,858.32 in projects must be obligated by September 30, 2022
- ◆ Working on identifying at-risk projects now
- ◆ Asking for support in ensuring the funds get obligated
- ◆ Interested in identifying awarded projects that are further in development or 'shovel ready'

RGVMP Category 9: TAP/TASA Program Call for Projects is OPEN.

- ◆ FY 2021-2022: \$2,300,000
- ◆ Deadline: Friday, July 30, 2021 by 5:00 P.M.

THANK YOU Melba Schaus and Melany Rodriguez for your collaborative work to prepare this update!
Eva Lizette Garcia - Planner III/Bike/Ped Program Coordinator - egarcia@rgvmpo.org

Both the City of Pharr and City of McAllen indicated that their projects are moving forward and confidence their RFP will let by September 30, 2021.

Chairman Sepulveda instructed Staff to assist City of Donna with their project as much as possible. Staff acknowledged the Chairman's request and did let the TAC members know that the City of Donna will be discussing the Donna Project at their next City Commission Meeting. Staff will be in attendance. The City of Edinburg also offered to assist the City of Donna with their project.

TxDOT did have a minor correction on the FPAA date, actual date is mid to late -August, due to FHWA trying to meet other deadlines.

V. STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Melba (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPPO area, Via Microsoft Teams. The following report included some of many TxDOT Monthly Letting Projects that has been extended from (November 2020 – August 2022). *TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the June 10, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (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 June 10, 2021, RGVTAC 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. *The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the June 10, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).*

D. McAllen Metro

Jon Ray Bocanegra with McAllen Metro report was provided and is filed with the June 10, 2021, 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 June 10, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).**

F. Valley Metro

Frank Jaramillo provided an update report Via Microsoft Team, for both the Rural and Urban areas for the Year-To-Date Report. **The Valley Metro Report was provided and is filed with the June 10, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report on, no action taken at this time).**

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City of McAllen – Emergency Relief Program Request Update – Chairman Sepulveda did let the City of McAllen know that he would be contacting Mr. Alvarez with TxDOT and possibly have it as an item at the next TAC meeting for discussion.

Next TAC Meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2021.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Chairman Sepulveda called for a motion to adjourn. City of McAllen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 AM. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.