

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

August 12, 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	Robert Salinas (Alternate)
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
City of Harlingen	Ana Hernandez
City of McAllen	Yvette Barrera
City of Pharr	Maria Rangel
City of San Benito	Rick Guerra (Mayor)
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	ABSENT
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
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 July 8, 2021

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of July 8, 2021.

TxDOT noted one correction to the attendance list, Norma Garza was in attendance, not Melba Schaus for TxDOT. No other corrections were noted to the minutes, Cameron County made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2021, with correction. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDAS

2.1 Discussion on ROW Funding Update

Norma Garza, TxDOT provided an update on the ROW Funding as follows (Attachment Provided):

ROW Update

- On May 3, 2021, the District was directed to cease work on ROW acquisition for projects not in FY 20 or FY 21 lettings due to statewide ROW budget issues (expenditures were projected to extend beyond allocation).
- ROW directive was later expanded to also include Local Government (LG) projects ROW acquisitions with reimbursement from Federal Funds (Category 7).
- In late June/early July 2021, ROW Division began having discussions on how to move forward and prevent the same budget issues from occurring in the future.
- The result... Effective September 1, 2021 (FY 2022), each TxDOT district will be given it’s own ROW budget allocation to manage for their respective ROW/Utility needs.
- In PHR’s case, the District will also need to cover the LG projects with MPO Cat 7 for ROW/Utilities using state funds allocated to the District.
- This means that the previous process of the ROW Division covering all expenditures under their umbrella is no longer feasible, and now the District will be managing and allocating ROW funds to the respective LG projects as available.
- TxDOT and LGs will need to prioritize the projects to be worked on by FY and adhere to the selected projects list.
- The expectation is that all ROW funds allocated to the District need to be expended in FY 22 (i.e. 9/1/21 to 8/31/22). Same expectations will hold for the LG for any funds allotted to their projects.
- Our 1st priority should be on projects in the STIP/Construct years (2022-2025).

ROW Process beginning FY202

Local Government

- Provide the District with a project status of all active ROW/Utility projects, including the anticipated eligible expenditures in FY 22. (Please include an updated project schedule.)
- Provide monthly updates on project progress to the District/ROW section
- Submit reimbursement requests for selected project(s) as soon as possible for review and processing.

TxDOT-PHR

- Will use the updated project status reports provided by LG to determine/select what projects and how much funding can be allocated for FY 22.
- ROW section will monitor/track the projects on a monthly basis and provide monthly reports to District.
- **District and ROW section will evaluate projects not progressing and determine if that funding will need to be re-allocated to another project at District’s discretion.**

ROW Division

- ROW Division will be monitoring the District’s expenditures and budget

It is imperative that the District and Local Government prioritize our projects based on project health, ranking and letting date to make sure we do not lose any ROW funds.

Estimate Needs in FY22 and FY23 (On-System and Off System)

- We have not received our ROW allocation to date
- Based on information we have available from LGs for current LG projects our needs are:

FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL	OFF-SYSTEM ROW	ON-SYSTEM ROW	OFF-SYSTEM UTILITIES	ON-SYSTEM UTILITIES	ON-SYSTEM SURVEY
FY 2022	\$48,907,806	\$9,713,000	\$18,872,000	\$3,369,303	\$14,689,003	\$2,264,500
FY 2023	\$155,235,808	\$4,967,000	\$29,450,000	\$4,460,588	\$113,993,220	\$2,365,000

Current Off-System Projects
 ▪ **Current LG Projects**

Let Date	CSJ	LG	RCSJ	HWY
Feb-16	0921-02-301	Mission	0921-02-306	US 83
Aug-19	0921-02-312	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-370	Dicker Rd.
Nov-20	0921-02-321	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-344	Mile 3 N
Oct-21	0921-06-311	Primera		STUART PLACE/PED/RR
Oct-21	0921-06-312	Harlingen		CS/RR/PED
Dec-21	0921-06-252	Cameron Cnty	0921-06-307	S. Parallel Corridor
Jan-22	0921-02-168	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-356	CS/Mile 6 W
Jan-22	0921-02-286	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-355	CR 623/Mile 6 W
Aug-22	0921-02-328	Mission	0921-02-377	Taylor Road PH II
Sep-22	0921-02-375	Pharr	0921-02-413	HI LINE RD W
Sep-22	0921-02-376	Pharr	0921-02-418	HI LINE RD W
Dec-22	0921-02-194	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-372	Liberty Blvd. PH I
Feb-24	0921-02-327	Mission	0921-02-378	Taylor Road PH I
Jan-25	0921-02-332	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-422	Mile 3 Road
Jan-26	0921-02-361	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-421	Nolana Loop
Jan-28	0921-02-403	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-404	El Dora Road
Jan-28	0921-02-322	Hidalgo Cnty	0921-02-364	Liberty Blvd. PH II

After much discussion on this item, TxDOT reminded TAC members that there is a deadline to submit Monthly Prioritized Projects, which is “the end of the month”. City of Brownsville made a motion to Acknowledge the ROW Funding Update as presented by Norma Garza. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.2. Discussion and Possible Action of FY2019 TASA Projects Updates and Potential AFA Amendments

Eva noted that staff continues to review and monitor projects that have been awarded TASA funds. To ensure regional FY 2019 funds are obligated by September 2022, staff has been working with local government agencies to collect project updates. Staff provided a presentation which highlighted project challenges and potential changes that may be considered to amend AFAs, or otherwise provide clarification on how to proceed.

Staff provided a brief background and noted that two years have passed since FY 2019 TASA funds were programmed to awarded/selected projects. Through the project development process, some challenges and changes have been discussed. RGVMP staff, and our TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with the RGVMP’s policymakers and transportation professionals.

FUNDS TO OBLIGATE BY SEPTEMBER 2022: \$2,154,958.32

	Project Name	Award Amount	CSJ Number	Project Sponsor	County
5	Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect Phase I	\$512,000	0921-06-322	Brownsville	Cameron
6	PSJA Tri-City Pedestrian Improvements Phase II	\$1,577,340	0921-02-432	Pharr	Hidalgo
7	RGV BikeShare	\$408,000	0921-02-429	LRGVDC	Hidalgo
8	Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan	\$264,000	0921-02-430	LRGVDC	Hidalgo
9	Jackson Hike & Bike Project Phase II	\$400,232	0921-02-431	McAllen	Hidalgo
10	Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect Phase II	\$512,000	0921-06-324	Brownsville	Cameron
11	Henderson Sidewalks	\$308,810	0921-06-325	Los Fresnos	Cameron
12	Olmito Sidewalk Improvements	\$318,965	0921-06-326	Cameron Co.	Cameron
13	Las Palmas Sidewalk Improvements	\$240,934	0921-06-327	Cameron Co.	Cameron
14	UTRGV Campus Bike/Ped Improvements	\$356,625	0921-02-480	UTRGV	Hidalgo

City of McAllen did report that the Jackson Hike & Bike Project Phase II continues to move forward, some challenges are the amount funding awarded by the MPO, but with the Amendment, this will help with this project possibly moving forward.

Mr. Cruz with LRGVDC, did convey to TAC member present that the RGV BikeShare, Inter-Local Agreements with the respective cities have been obtained as of last month. However due to the prices increase with the current vendor (over \$20,000) for each of the cities, which include environmental / engineering plans that was not factor into the current amounts, this project will mostly like will not be moving forward as plan.

Andrew asks if the LRGVDC Board has set a date on deciding whether these funds will be used, so that the Policy Board will have the opportunity to decide and make a recommendation on how to use these funds with other projects.

Mr. Cruz noted that a decision would be made in the next coming week and he will forward a letter to RGVMPPO on the final determination on whether these funds will be utilized for the RGV BikeShare Project.

After some discussion on this item, TxDOT made a motion to Acknowledge the Discussion on the FY2019 TASA Projects Updates and Potential AFA Amendments as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Edinburg; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Discussion and Possible Action of Projects for FY2021-2022 TASA Funds

Eva presented information regarding the evaluated and scored projects that have been reviewed and recommended by the RGVMPPO’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The RGVMPPO opened the FY 2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects on June 1, 2021. The Call closed on Friday, July 30, 2021. The RGVMPPO BPAC reviewed, evaluated, and scored project submittals on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. The official programming of funds, through consideration and action, is tentatively set to take place during the September 2021 by BPAC, TAC and RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board meeting.

The following Construction Project Proposal received were:

- ❖ Pharr I Road/ Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
- ❖ Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
- ❖ West Rail Trail
- ❖ Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
- ❖ Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension

Planning Projects Proposals Received were:

- ❖ Elsa-Getting Connected
- ❖ Arroyo Colorado Trails Phase III Planning and Design
- ❖ Bridge Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Development

PROJECT CATEGORY	% AVAILABLE	REQUEST
Construction	90%	\$2,070,000 \$4,076,604
Planning	10%	\$230,000 \$258,488
TOTAL CAT. 9	100%	\$2,300,000

EVALUATOR:	TOTAL POINTS:	PROJECT UNDER EVALUATION:
G	98	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
E	107	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
A	77	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
F	112	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
B	75	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
D	114	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
H	54	CONSTRUCTION: West Rail Trail
TOTAL SCORE:		633
AVERAGED SCORE:		90 West Rail Trail
G	104	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
B	84	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
E	67	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
D	103	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
F	102	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
A	69	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
H	95	CONSTRUCTION: Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
TOTAL SCORE:		624
AVERAGED SCORE:		89 Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail
G	61	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
E	56	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
C	107	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
C	109	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
D	103	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
B	73	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
A	91	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
H	90	CONSTRUCTION: Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
TOTAL SCORE:		692
AVERAGED SCORE:		87 Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension
A	76	CONSTRUCTION: Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
B	77	CONSTRUCTION: Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
C	78	CONSTRUCTION: Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
D	116	CONSTRUCTION: Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
E	50	CONSTRUCTION: Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
F	77	CONSTRUCTION: Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
TOTAL SCORE:		476
AVERAGED SCORE:		79 Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector
C	96	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
B	62	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
D	37	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
G	46	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
F	71	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
E	90	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
A	86	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
H	76	CONSTRUCTION: Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project
TOTAL SCORE:		594
AVERAGED SCORE:		74 Lamar Elementary School and Victor Park Connectivity Project

City of Harlingen did have a request for the next TASA Project Process, ask that BPAC Committee be given more time to reviewing applications / projects being submitted for consideration.

After some discussion on this item, City of Edinburg made a motion to Acknowledge the Discussion on the Projects for FY2021-2022 TASA Funds as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Cameron County and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.4 Discussion on the Emergency Management Funds

Missy Lowe, TxDOT Maintenance Division provided a summary / presentation regarding Federal Reimbursement Programs for Emergency Situations (Floods, Hurricanes, etc). The presentation was regarding the federal reimbursement programs, determining which agency will reimburse for damages during disasters, what types of expenditures are reimbursable, and meeting federal reimbursement requirements.

Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide – Provides policy, rules and regulations for PA and IA Programs.

- ❖ Presidentially Declared events only
- ❖ Statewide Cost Threshold – Approximately \$38M

Covers Emergency and Permanent Work

- ❖ \$3,200 minimum per location
- ❖ \$3,200 - \$128,899 (small projects)
- ❖ \$128,900 and up (large projects)

FHWA ER Local Public Assistance

- ❖ TxDOT administers the FHWA ER Program for local governments
- ❖ Districts Offices play a key role in insuring cities and counties receiving ER Funding by:
 - Notifying the city, county of the event and declaration
 - Assist with identifying eligible roadways and damages
 - Requesting ER Funds
 - Coordinating locally administered projects
 - Providing technical support
 - Reviewing projects and documentation
 - Providing oversight and inspection of projects

City of Pharr ask whether a standard form would be available that TxDOT would have LGs utilize for Pavement assessment when requesting for reimbursement. TxDOT reply was “a standard form” has not been developed per say, TxDOT at this time are conducting visuals only.

City of Pharr also asked, will there be future Training soon on this TOPIC “Emergency Management Funds”. TxDOT replied not at this time, but there is a link that will provide plenty of guidance, to include videos on this Topic at TxDOT.gov.

No further discussion took place on this item, TxDOT made a motion to Acknowledge the Discussion on the Emergency Management Funds as presented by Missy Lowe, TxDOT Maintenance Division. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.5 Discussion on the RGV Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

Luis Diaz, noted that as part of the Yearly RGV Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process, Staff will be accepting amendments to the RGV Thoroughfare Plan until December 17, 2021. Please keep in mind that all Thoroughfare Plan Amendments must be accompanied by a Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Form and Approved Resolution or Ordinance from the Jurisdictions Governing Body. The RGV MPO performs a yearly Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process, where planning partners throughout the region are asked to compare their jurisdiction's Right of Way (ROW) data with the RGV MPOs UMAP Interactive Map Thoroughfare Plan Data and provide any amendments to the data reflected. The 2020 RGV Amendments Thoroughfare Plan was presented and approved on April 13, 2021, by Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court. Thoroughfare Plan received were solely from Hidalgo County Commissioner Precincts 1 and 4. Deadline is scheduled for December 17, 2021 for all amendments to be submitted to Staff.

2.6 Discussion on the City of Mission Ongoing Projects

Staff noted that this item would be tabled, due to Mayor Armando O'Caña previous engagement. However, this item will be presented to the Policy Board at their meeting scheduled for August 25, 2021.

Item Summary: Project #1 - An update on the Mission Madero Multi Modal International Bridge.

Project#2 – Introduction High Speed Train to Mission. High Speed Rail to connect from Houston to Mission.

Project#3 – Introduction Multi-Counties Loop Video Presentation. Four County Loop Corridor for 18-Wheeler, Rail, and Freight Traffic.

IV. RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES

New Office Location –Edinburg Staff are all moved into the new Edinburg Location. **617 West University Drive**, emails for staff will remain the same.

Brownsville Office – Staff for Brownsville have moved into a temporary office location. Should be moving to their permanent location at “City Plaza – Mezzanine”. New phone numbers will be assigned for staff in Brownsville, emails will remain the same.

Financial Update

Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. *Report filed with the August 12, 2021, RGVTAC Packet.*

V. STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Melba Schaus, (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPO 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 August 12, 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 August 12, 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 August 12, 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 **August 12, 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 August 12, 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 August 12, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report on, no action taken at this time).**

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TAC Meeting – Scheduled for (Thursday) September 9, 2021 (In Person).

Policy Meeting – Scheduled for (Wednesday) September 29, 2021 (In Person).

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGV TAC Members, Chairman Sepulveda called for a motion to adjourn. Cameron County made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 AM. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.