

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

**September 9, 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:**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	
<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>
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	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	<b>ABSENT</b>
Hidalgo County RMA	Eric Davila
Brownsville Metro	Antonio Zubieta
McAllen Metro	Jon Bocanegra
Port of Brownsville	<b>ABSENT</b>
Port of Harlingen	<b>ABSENT</b>
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	<b>ABSENT</b>
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
<b>GUEST</b>	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz, Executive Director
<b>STAFF</b>	
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 August 12, 2021**

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of August 12, 2021.

*No corrections were noted to the minutes of August 12, 2021, TxDOT made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 12, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

## 2. CONSENT AGENDAS

### 2.1 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. RGVMPPO Staff, and our TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO'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	<b>RGV BikeShare</b>	<b>\$408,000</b>	<b>0921-02-429</b>	<b>LRGVDC</b>	<b>Hidalgo</b>
8	Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan	\$264,000	0921-02-430	LRGVDC	Hidalgo
9	<b>Jackson Hike &amp; Bike Project Phase II</b>	<b>\$400,232</b>	<b>0921-02-431</b>	<b>McAllen</b>	<b>Hidalgo</b>
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

Staff noted that at the last TAC meeting, Manuel Cruz, LRGVDC Director, respectfully requested (\$408,000) be de-obligated TASA Fund for the Regional Collaborative Initiative - RGV B-Cycle BikeShare program. Due to the prices increase with the current vendor (over \$20,000) for each of the cities, which included environmental / engineering plans that was not factor into the current amounts, this project will not be moving forward as plan. *TAC members present recommended that this item be addressed at the October TAC meeting with recommendation and a Resolution on what project will be awarded these funds (\$408,000).*

*After some discussion on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to recommend approval to de-obligate (\$408,000) funds and in October TAC Meeting vote on who to award the funds to along with a Resolution and be presented to the Policy Board as discussed. The motion was seconded by the City of San Benito; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

### 2.2 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 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:***

PROJECT	REQUEST	*PRORATED	TOTAL PROJECT COST
Elsa- Getting Connected	\$46,920	\$41,749	\$69,000
Arroyo Colorado Trail Phase III Planning and Design	\$141,568	\$125,966	\$179,200
Bridge Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Development	\$70,000	\$62,285	\$87,500

***Construction Projects Proposals Reviewed were:***

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS	REQUEST	TOTAL PROJECT COST
West Rail Trail	\$900,000	\$1,115,000
Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail	\$699,995.80	\$999,994
Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension	\$435,300	\$741,825
Pharr I Road/Santa Ana Refuge Phase I Connector	\$865,800	\$1,165,800
Lamar Elem. School & Victor Park Connectivity Project	\$375,507.71	\$475,326.21

*Staff noted that Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee is recommending for the FY2021-2022 TASA Funds be awarded to the following projects:*

- [Elsa – Getting Connected](#) · \$46,920 ·
- [Arroyo Colorado Trail Phase III Planning and Design](#) · \$141,568 ·
- [Bridge Street Pedestrian and Bicycle Development](#) · \$70,000 ·
- [West Rail Trail](#) · \$900,000 ·
- [Freddy Gonzalez Hike-and-Bike Trail](#) · \$699,995.80 ·
- [Bejarano-McFarland-Galvan Trail Extension](#) · \$435,300 ·

City of Harlingen did note that not enough time was allotted to the BPAC Committee to review applications/projects that were submitted for consideration.

Staff noted that a timeline was established, application were reviewed in its entirety and submitted to BPAC as per guidelines. Scoring was compiled through a Microsoft Application for final scoring.

***After some discussion on this item, City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board the Projects for FY2021-2022 TASA Funds as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg. The City of Harlingen voted against; and upon a vote, the motion passed.***

### 2.3 Discussion on Public Involvement for the FY 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP - November Revisions

Rudy noted as a part of the 30-day Public Involvement process, the RGVMP and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) have giving notice of Amendment to the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and 5307 Program of Projects for Regional Transit Providers. The MTP is the RGVMP's 25-year long range transportation planning document that serves as a blueprint for the next 25 years. The TIP is the RGVMP's 4-year short range plan that serves as a blueprint for the next 4 years. **This information was made available for public review and comment on our Website and Social Media Outlets from August 30 – September 30 of 2021.**

The FY 2021-2024 statewide TIP, or STIP, is pending updates from the July Revision period. Additional updates were received for the November Revision period, so all necessary changes have been identified. The MTP has been revised as well, with most recent changes highlighted throughout the document. Once this 30-day public involvement period closes, TAC and TPB will need to approve these documents prior to uploading to the E-STIP portal. Deadline to enter all projects enter the E-STIP portal is September 28, 2021, and Policy Board meeting is set for September 29, 2021. These dates have been approved with TxDOT and TPP.

City of McAllen had a question on the process for outer years for FY2041-2045, when and how does that process work to add projects to those years and does it come back to TAC members to review. Also, at one time these projects were too in the outer years, City of McAllen concerns is, requesting to have some kind of input on projects moving forward, regardless what years they are in.

Staff replied was those decisions are made by the Policy Board and by ranking and where they are in the funding years.

TxDOT emphasis that these projects are just planning projects in the outer years.

Staff recommended to move forward with approving MTP and identify no projects in those outer years and at the next cycle work with the TAC Members to review those outer years projects.

Hidalgo County had a question regarding the Funding Summary – COVID 19 Funding, what process was taking to identify those three projects. Also requested any communication, emails, letters that might be conveyed with staff regarding COVID-19 Funds.

Staff noted that these projects were part of the Revisions to 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP in the TAC Packet:

**COVID-19 Relief Funds - (CRRSA) TOTAL: \$9,402,414**

0684-01-068 – SH 550 (GAP II) – FY 2022: Update CONST Cost and Funding  
Adding **2,161,668** of COVID-19 Relief Funds (CRRSAA)

0921-02-327 – Taylor Rd. – FY 2024: Update Funding and **\*Move to FY 2022**  
Swapping **\$4,500,000** of Traditional CAT 7 for COVID-19  
Relief Funds (CRRSAA)

0921-02-254 – Mile 1 East – FY 2025: Adding **\$327,164** of COVID-19  
Relief Funds (CRRSAA)

0921-02-363 - I Rd. – FY 2024: Update Cost & Funding  
Adding **\$2,413,582** of COVID-19 Relief Funds (CRRSAA)

After much discussion it was the consensus of the TAC members to approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP - November Revisions as presented by Staff, except for the CRRSAA (\$9,402,414.00) as allocated by FHWA. As instructed by Chairman Sepulveda and TAC members a Special Meeting is to be held, to review Program sub allocation of the “Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act”.

***City of Harlingen made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board the FY 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP - November Revisions, except for the CRRSAA (\$9,402,414.00) as allocated by FHWA and call for a Special TAC Meeting. The motion was seconded by City of San Benito; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.***

City of Harlingen ask for clarification on how and where these CRRSAA (\$9,402,414.00) funds from FHWA can be used towards.

Norma Garza provided the following information to TAC members present as follows:

**Some key things to note:**

- Project must meet the eligibility requirements for urban areas with population > 200,000 (*same as Cat 7*)
- Available for obligation now through **09/30/2024**
- Once obligated, funds must be spent by **09/30/2029**.
- After this date, any unexpended balance of obligated CRRSAA funds will be cancelled
- Participation: 100% Federal
- Program as Cat 7

Based on these items, we are recommending that the RGVMPPO consider utilizing these funds on:

- Construction only for projects that will be/are ready to let in FY 22 or FY 23
- Distribute the funding on a handful of projects (consider 1 in Cameron County and 1 in Hidalgo County); this will help in monitoring the funding and making sure that it is obligated before the deadline and expenditures are done before the expiration date.
- FPAA will show fixed allocation
- AFA will be required
- Potential STIP revision may be needed

#### **2.4 Discussion and Action on City of Edinburg Census (1 Additional Vote)**

Andrew provided a brief update regarding the City of Edinburg's (1) one Additional Vote. Based upon the 2010 Census, the composition of the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) voting membership is as follows: The signatory cities are allocated board votes are: Brownsville - 4, McAllen - 3, Harlingen - 2, **Edinburg - 2**, Pharr - 2 and Mission - 2. All other cities over fifty thousand (50,000) population are allocated one (1) board member. As per the RGVMPPO Bylaws, Cities with a population over fifty thousand (50,000) are allocated one or more **VOTES** on the Transportation Policy Board, along with the two (2) counties and other transportation partners. All population requirements will be determined based on the most recent U.S. Decennial Census. Transportation Policy Board membership shall be adjusted following publication of each official decennial census. Cities will be given membership on the Transportation Policy Board based on one (1) member with one vote once the city reaches fifty thousand (50,000) population in an official census (the federal threshold for the creation of an MPO) and one (1) additional **VOTE** for each additional fifty thousand (50,000) population bracket marker reached. **City of Edinburg** has reached that threshold, which will allow them for one (1) additional vote, total vote of **three (3)**.

*No discussion took place on this item, City of McAllen made a motion to recommend approval of the City of Edinburg Census (1 Additional Vote) to the Policy Board as discussed/presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **IV. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES**

##### **Financial Update**

Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. *Report filed with the September 9, 2021, RGV TAC Packet.*

**FY2021-2022 Budget-** Staff noted that FY2021-2022 Budget has been Approved by FHWA and TxDOT

#### **V. STATUS REPORTS**

##### **A. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Melba Schaus, (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 (August 2021 – August 2022). *TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the September 9, 2021, RGV TAC 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 September 9, 2021, RGV TAC 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 September 9, 2021, RGV TAC Packet. ( Report only, no action taken at this time).***

**D. McAllen Metro**

Jon Ray Bocanegra with McAllen Metro provided an updated report and informed TAC members present that a new Hub Station Ribbon Cutting was held, and the project is expected to be completed in two years, August of FY2022 **(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. **The reports are filed with September 9, 2021, RGV TAC Packet. ( Report only, no action taken at this time).**

**F. Valley Metro**

Andrew related some sad news regarding Frank Jaramillo, Mr. Jaramillo passed away during heart surgery complications. Services will be held on Monday, September 13, 2021, from 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm with a prayer service at 7:00 pm at Trinity Funeral Chapel of the Holy Spirit. **The Valley Metro Report was provided and is filed with the September 9, 2021, RGV TAC Packet. (Report on, no action taken at this time).**

**VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **I Road** – Virtual Public Meeting with “In Person Options” – Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 4PM
- **Boca Chica Boulevard** - Virtual / In Person Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021- 8AM. In Person from 5PM – 7PM  
TxDOT is proposing to improve SH 4 Boca Chica Boulevard from SH 48 to FM 313 in Cameron County, Texas.
- **TAC Special Meeting to take place September 22, 2021, at 3PM** (VIA Teams) prior to the Regular TAC Meeting scheduled for October 14, 2021.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

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