

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
IN PERSON MEETING  
November 18, 2021**

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

JP Terrazas, (City of Mission) Chairman called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The TAC Meeting was held “Virtual”.

**II) ROLL CALL**

**RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	
<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>
City of Mission	JP Terrazas, Chairman
Cameron County	Crystal Gonzalez (PROXY)
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza (ABSENT)
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna (ABSENT)
City of Harlingen	Carlos Sanchez
City of McAllen	Yvette Barrera
City of Pharr	Moises Beas (ABSENT)
City of San Benito	Rick Guerra (Mayor)
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr. (ABSENT)
TxDOT Pharr District	Maria Champine
Valley Metro	Maribel Contreras
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda (ABSENT)
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 (ABSENT)
<b>GUEST</b>	
LRGVDC	
<b>STAFF</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

**III) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Andrew explained to TAC members present that on Thursday, November 18, 2021, morning; at approximately 8:30 a.m. the RGVMPO network system came under attack from an external, malicious software which was apparently dormant on our servers for about 3 months. The launch of this malware took our servers completely down and held our system at ransom, demanding payment to release our network. Fortunately, we have an encrypted network and have IT here now “scrubbing” laptops and individual systems and restoring our servers to a time before the malware gained entrance into our network. We apologize for the cancellation of the TAC meeting Thursday, November 18, 2021.

**IV) DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:**

- **October 14, 2021**

**Mr. Terrazas, Chairman (City of Mission) asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of October 14, 2021.**

**No other corrections were noted to the minutes of October 14, 2021, City of McAllen made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 14, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. Consent Agenda**

### **2.1 Discussion on the Congestion Study-RFP**

Andrew noted The RGVMPPO periodically performs a regional Congestion Study to analyze congestion levels within the region as well as preforms a signal synchronization study to analyze corridor movements and possible improvements that can be made to synchronization of corridors to improve traffic movements. The RGVMPPO hopes to analyze 1,000 center line miles (vs 500); as well as 75 signalized intersections for possible recommendations.

FHWA requires that the RGVMPPO performs, at least, bi-annually, a regional congestion study of the region. The study should provide recommendations to address traffic delays and to analyze volume versus capacity as well as other attributes that will provide recommendations to address delay and congestion on a regional basis.

**After some discussion on this item, Chairman Terrazas moved on to the next item on the agenda, being this item was only for informational purposes and discussion.**

### **2.2 Discussion on the UPWP Financial Amendment**

Fernando Cantu, GIS Specialist II provided updated information on the FY2022-2023 UPWP Amendment #1. RGVMPPO staff has made administrative changes to the FY2022-2023 UPWP and staff is asking to move over funds from FY2022-23 Task 2 into Task 5 in the amount of \$100,000, to be utilized for a Congestion Management Process study (See Attachments).

Also added to the UPWP under “Definition of the Area”, was the MAB to include Starr County (MAB), as approved by Governor Abbott and the Transportation Policy Board in FY2021. Under TASK 1.0 “Administration/Management” Was the RGVMPPO “Website” to meet all work task criteria, the RGVMPPO needs to migrate from an outdated content management system to a more astute time efficient content management system that will support the needs of the RGVMPPO.

**No discussion took place on this item, Chairman Terrazas moved on to the next item on the agenda, being this item was only for informational purposes and discussion.**

### **2.3 Discussion on the FY2023-2026 TIP Text Document**

Rudy noted that staff is creating the Comprehensive TIP Text Document for FY 2023-2026. The Comprehensive TIP text is an all-inclusive document covering planning aspects that range from the definitions of our planning area to funding programs, public involvement process, public transportation, performance measures, TIP project selection process, and additional supporting information. The text portion of the document is completed before the inclusion of both Highway and Transit TIP tables. A timeline for creation of the FY 2023-2026 TIP is included in the meeting packet, as well.

The Final FY2023-2026 TIP Text Document sections will be provided to TAC member with final revisions prior to approval of documents. FY2023 – 2026 TIP Text document was included in meeting packet for your review and consideration. Andrew asked TAC members present to provide either positive or affirmative feedback. Staff is available for questions and/or concerns.

**After some discussion on this item, Chairman Terrazas moved on to the next item on the agenda, being this item was only for informational purposes and discussion.**

#### **2.4 Discussion on the FY2021 - 2024 TIP & 2045 MTP Amendment, February 2022 Revisions**

Rudy noted that The FY 2021-2024 Highway & Transit TIP tables will undergo its last Revision cycle before creation of the new TIP. The MTP will also be updated during this revision cycle. Please submit all Revisions and Administrative Modifications to RGVMPPO staff prior to TAC's approval and final recommendations (January 6, 2022).

The FY 2021-2024 Highway & Transit TIP tables, along with the 2045 MTP will be amended for the February 2022 Revision cycle. Staff will be accepting any amendments to current projects, or submittal of new projects, beginning next Monday, November 1st. Our timeline is as follows: TIP revisions will be submitted to TAC on November 18 and December 2 for discussion and consideration. TAC will take final action and approval of the amendments on January 6, 2022. Staff will provide versions of the TIP/STIP update to Policy on December 15th for discussion. Final action by TPB will be January 19, 2022. Public involvement shall begin on December 3rd after the second review by TAC on the December 2nd. As previously mentioned in the email announcement sent by Andrew: Please bear in mind that no additional funds or funding has been identified so staff expects that this revision will be minimal at best, since we just completed a major update.

City of McAllen asked staff; "whether their project submittals were added to these Amendments. Staff response was "Yes", accordingly.

**No further discussion took place on this item, Chairman Terrazas moved on to the next item on the agenda. This item was only for informational purposes and discussion.**

#### **2.5 Discussion on Adjustment to Letting Year Construction Cost on 2045 MTP and Funding Projects for Advancement into TIP Years**

Rudy noted that all Highway Projects programmed outside of TIP fiscal years must distinguish Letting Year Construction Cost from Current Construction Cost. As projects accelerate into TIP years, federal funding should match Current Construction cost while Local Funds cover any additional project costs. Examples will be shared within the meeting packet for presentation.

A 4% annual increase in Construction Cost (for every year outside of the TIP) should be accounted for, due to inflation. Currently, our TIP years include FY 2021-2024, so projects in FY 2025 begin accounting for an inflated Letting Year Cost. Once we begin programming for the FY 2023-2026 TIP, Letting Year inflation should be added to projects, beginning in FY 2027. Federal funding assigned to a construction phase should match the Current Construction cost. While project phases remain programmed outside of TIP fiscal years, additional costs should be funded with Local dollars.

**After some discussion on this item, Chairman Terrazas suggested maybe holding a Workshop to further discuss the process. Staff did note that a prior Workshop was held, but staff is willing to hold another "Workshop. This item was provided for informational purposes only, no action taken.**

### **V) RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT 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 November 18, 2021, RGV TAC Packet.*

**FY2021 TAC /Policy Meeting Dates Schedule** – Staff noted that due to the forthcoming holidays and the timeline of having the next STIP revision completed by January 25th, staff is recommending the following TEMPORARY changes to the TAC and TPB meeting schedule.

#### **TAC MEETINGS:**

November 18, 2021 @ 10 a.m.

December 2, 2021 @ 10 a.m.

January 6, 2022 @ 10 a.m.

#### **TPB**

December 15, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. (Immediately following LRGVDC Board meeting).

January 19, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.

**Estimated Impact – Highlighted for Texas** – Andrew provided the following information to TAC Members present:

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)		GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION   FEDERAL AFFAIRS SECTION	
<b>Estimated Total Funds for Texas Over Five Years (FY22-FY26)</b>		<b>Estimated Funds for Texas in FY22</b>	
Highway Contract Authority	\$26.893 billion	Highway Contract Authority	\$5.168 billion
General Fund Advanced Appropriations	\$945 million*	General Fund Advanced Appropriations	\$189 million
Rural Transit	\$450 million	Rural Transit	\$86 million
General Aviation Airports	\$390 million	General Aviation Airports	\$78 million
Ferry Boats and Terminals	\$25 million	Ferry Boats and Terminals	\$21 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28.7 billion</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.528 billion</b>
Annual FY Average	\$5.7 billion	Average funding increase per year above FY 2021: \$1.14 billion	

\*FY Charging Station: \$472 million; Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation: \$107.2 million

**Designates I-14 from Texas to Georgia as a High Priority Corridor as Future Interstate**

- Per amendment offered by Senator Cruz and Senator Warnock (D-GA).

**Two New Funding Categories (Apportionments within the Highway Program)**

**1. Carbon Reduction Program:**

- \$6.42 billion over 5 years distributed via formula for all states (Texas: \$642M over 5 years).
- Requires States to develop a carbon reduction strategy within two years.
- Makes the reduction of transportation emissions an eligible use under all apportioned funding categories to states.

**2. Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation**

**(PROTECT) Program:**

- \$7.3 billion over 5 years distributed via formula to all states (Texas: \$792M over 5 years).
- Funds apportioned to a State for the PROTECT program must be obligated for resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure.
  - ▶ Of note, there is also \$1.4 billion over five years for competitive discretionary grants for the PROTECT Program.

**Nationwide Supplemental Bridge Funding**

- \$27.5 billion over 5 years for a bridge replacement, rehabilitation, preservation, protection, and construction program, to be distributed annually in equal amounts.
- Formula distribution for this program is more favorable to Texas than prior formulas.

**Largest New Discretionary Grant Programs: Five Year Nationwide Totals**

- \$9,235 billion for Bridge Investment Program grants.
- \$7.5 billion for RAISE grants.
- \$5 billion for National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Megaprojects) grants.
  - Allows for single-year or multi-year grant agreements for large surface transportation projects in various modes.

**Edinburg New Location Open House Event** – Staff will be sending invitations to TAC and Policy Members to attend the RGVMPO Open House Event scheduled for December 16, 2021, at 6PM. Staff is seeking for Sponsorship, for food and beverages. Please contact or email sponsorship form to staff.

**VI) Status Report**

Andrew is recommending skipping the “Status Report” Updates / Presentations until the next TAC Meeting to be held December 2, 2021, due to the current “Hack Issue” situation. These Status Reports/ Presentations will be presented at the next TAC meeting as provided unless otherwise requested.

**TAC members presented agreed to skip the Status Report as recommended by staff.**

**VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

TAC Meeting – Next TAC Meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021

**VIII) ADJOURNMENT:**

*There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Chairman Terrazas called for a motion to adjourn. City of McAllen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 AM. The motion was seconded by City of Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*