

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IN PERSON MEETING
December 2, 2021**

I) CALL TO ORDER

Ben Worsham, (Cameron County) Vice 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:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
City of Mission	JP Terrazas, Chairman
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman Crystal Gonzalez (PROXY)
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza (ABSENT)
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
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	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Maribel Contreras
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda
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.	ABSENT
GUEST	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
STAFF	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:

- November 18, 2021

Mr. Worsham, Vice Chairman (Cameron County) asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of November 18, 2021.

No other corrections were noted to the minutes of November 18, 2021, City of McAllen made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion on the Congestion Study-RFP

Andrew noted The RGVMPO 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 RGVMPO hopes to analyze 1,000 center line miles (vs 500); as well as 75 signalized intersections for possible recommendations.

FHWA requires that the RGVMPO 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. Staff concluded by providing the following information:

Schedule of Events**

RFP Release	Sunday, December 19, 2021	Deadline for Submittal of
Questions	Friday, January 14, 2022@ 4:00pm (CTZ)	Release of
Response to Questions	Friday, January 21, 2022	
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	Friday, February 11, 2022 @ 5:00 pm (CTZ)	
Anticipated award date	March 25, 2022 (subject to change)	
Contract Begins	Upon acceptance of the award and starting date is agreed on	

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

3. Discussion and Action on the UPWP Financial Amendment

Fernando Cantu, GIS Specialist II provided updated information on the FY2022-2023 UPWP Amendment #1. RGVMPO 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 (Attachments Provided).

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 RGVMPO “Website” to meet all work task criteria, the RGVMPO 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 RGVMPO.

No discussion took place on this item, HCRMA made a motion to approve the UPWP Financial Amendment as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by HCRMA; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion and Action 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 review and consideration. Andrew asked TAC members present to provide either positive or affirmative feedback. Staff is available for questions and/or concerns.

TxDOT for informational purposes noted that TxDOT will be providing additional changes to the TIP Text ONLY.

No further discussion took place on this item, HCRMA made a motion to approve the FY2023-2026 TIP Text Document as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action 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 RGVMPO staff prior to presenting to TPB Meeting in (January 19, 2022). All revisions and administrative modifications have been included on both the TIP & MTP tables included in the meeting packet. An action for approval of this item is needed before presenting to TPB.

The FY 2021-2024 Highway & Transit TIP tables, along with the 2045 MTP will be amended for the February 2022 Revision cycle. Staff will provide TIP/STIP/MTP updates to Policy on December 15th for discussion. Final action by TPB will be January 19, 2022. A 30-day public involvement period shall begin on December 3rd and all documentation will be displayed on our website and social media outlets.

Staff concluded by letting TAC members know 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.

No further discussion took place on this item, HCRMA made a motion to approve the FY2021-TIP & 2045 MTP Amendment, February 2022 Revisions as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of San Benito; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

JP Terrazas, Chairman takes over TAC Meeting.

6. Discussion on Transportation Demand Model Data Request

Staff will be coordinating a refresh of the 2014 – 2045 TDM with a new Base Year of 2019 and a Forecast Year of 2050, alongside the Texas Department of Transportation and the Transportation Planning and Programming Division, to assure a true reflection of Traffic Movement throughout the Valley Region is collected. Staff is requesting from all municipalities within the RGVMPO MAB, to please provide a listing of various projects completed between FY2014 and FY2019; for new facilities, added capacity, raised median, lane reductions, speed changes, directional flow changes and roadway removals or abandonments.

In 2016, regional MPO Staff began work on the regional transportation model (TDM) with a base year of 2014 model for the RGV. RGVMPO Staff in coordination with TxDOT previously contracted a consultant to aide in the development of the overall Rio Grande Valley Regional Travel Demand Model (TDM) which produced a 2045 forecasted TDM.

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.

V) **RGVMPO 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, RGVTAC Packet.*

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	
Estimated Total Funds for Texas Over Five Years (FY22-FY26)		Estimated Funds for Texas in FY22	
Highway Contract Authority	\$26.899 billion	Highway Contract Authority	\$5.168 billion
General Fund Advanced Appropriations	\$945 million*	General Fund Advanced Appropriations	\$389 million
Rural Transit	\$450 million	Rural Transit	\$86 million
General Aviation Airports	\$390 million	General Aviation Airports	\$78 million
Ferry Boats and Terminals	\$35 million	Ferry Boats and Terminals	\$71 million
Total	\$28.7 billion	Total	\$5.528 billion
Annual FY Average	\$5.7 billion	Average funding increase per year above FY 2021: \$1.14 billion	

*FY Charging Station: 1472.2 million; Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation: 2027.2 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.

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. (Staff will be reaching out to the TAC Chairman on whether this meeting is will be held.

TPB

- December 15, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. (Immediately following LRGVDC Board meeting).
- January 19, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.

Edinburg New Location Open House Event – Staff will be sent invitations to TAC and Policy Members to attend the RGVMPPO Open House Event scheduled for December 16, 2021, at 6PM. Staff acknowledged those sponsors received to date. Please contact or email sponsorship form to staff as soon as able, and RSVP attendance to the Open House.

VI) 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 (November 2020 – August 2022). ***TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the December 2, 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 December 2, 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. ***The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the December 2, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).***

D. **McAllen Metro**

Jon Ray Bocanegra provided an updated report Via Microsoft Teams for McAllen Metro. This report includes ongoing ridership. ***The report is filed with the December 2, 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 December 2, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).***

F. **Valley Metro**

Maribel Contreras 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 December 2, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report on, no action taken at this time).***

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RGVMPPO Office will be Closed for the Holidays:

Christmas - Thursday and Friday – December 23rd and 24th, 2021

New Year's Eve – Monday – January 3rd, 2022

TAC Meeting – Next TAC Meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2022 – 10:00 AM (Virtually)

Ribbon Cutting – City of McAllen invited TAC Members to The Official Opening of Bicentennial Boulevard Extension (Freddy Gonzalez to SH107) - December 8, 2021 – 10:00 AM.

CAT 7 Balances – Staff noted that several RGVMPPO Staff members will be meeting with Peggy Thurin (TxDOT) in Austin (December 8-9, 2021) to discuss CAT 7 Balance

Workshop Still Pending – Chairman asked that staff setup a date soon, maybe at the beginning of next FY2022 to discuss: 1) Adjustment to Letting Year Construction Cost on 2045 MTP; and 2) Funding Projects for Advancement into TIP Years.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

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