

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
MAY 12, 2022**

**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	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
City of Harlingen	Craig Cook
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Daniel Chavez
City of San Benito	Manny De La Rosa
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
TxDOT Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda
Hidalgo County RMA	Eric Davila
Brownsville Metro	Antonio Zubieta
McAllen Metro	Jon Bocanegra/ Robert De Leon
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
<b>STAFF</b>	
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:**

- **March 10, 2022**

**Mr. Terrazas, Chairman (City Mission) asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of March 10, 2022.**

**No other corrections were noted to the minutes of March 10, 2022, City of Brownsville made a motion to approve the Minutes of March 10, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the Cameron County RMA; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

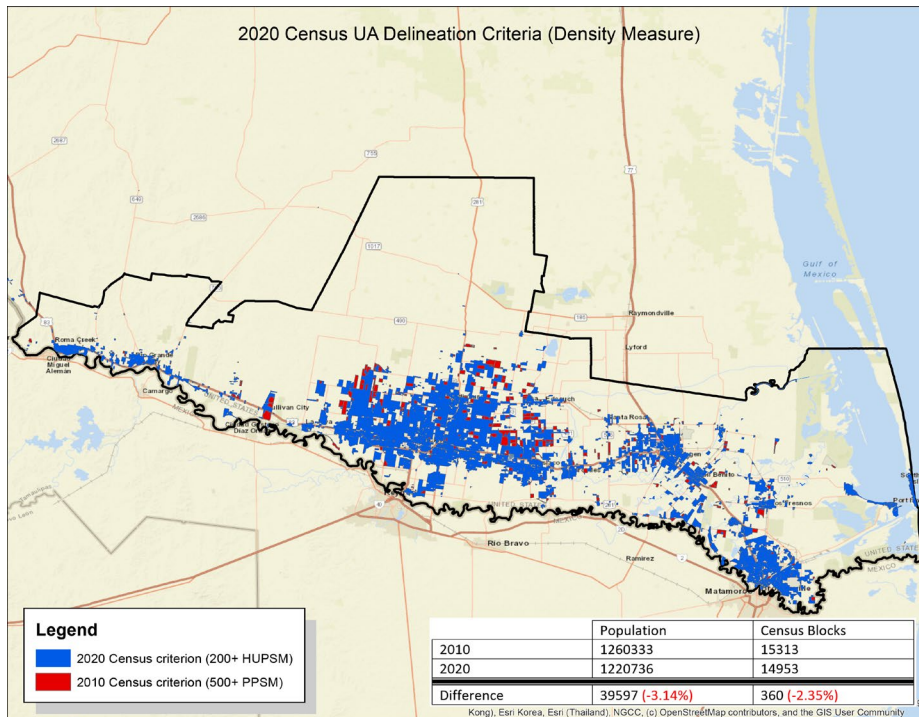
**2. Discussion and Action to approve the FY2022-2023 UPWP Amendment #2**

Fernando provided updated information on the FY2022-2023 UPWP Amendment #2. RGVMPPO staff has made administrative changes to the FY2022-2023 UPWP and staff is asking to move over funds from our carry over, into Task 1,3,5 in the amount of \$998,948.33 for Subtask 1.3 to be utilized for Policy Board Workshop to be conducted by an outside consultant to cover subject matter such as but not limited to, update and prioritized policy board objectives for the executive director and staff. Identify highest priority projects, discuss project rankings, and project development; and to discuss successes since the merger of the RVMPO and other factors. The budget shall include funds for meeting space if needed and food for the policy board during the workshop. As well as Subtask 3.2 Planning Assistance (City of Brownsville and McAllen Transit Plans); Subtask 3.4 Complete Streets Planning; Subtask 3.5 Resiliency Planning; Subtask 3.6 Performance Based Planning and Subtask 5.4 Corridor Study

**After some discussion on this item, City of Harlingen made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2022-2023 UPWP Amendment #2 to the Policy Board as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Discussion on the Final 2020 Census Urban Area Criteria**

Fernando provided an updated map which contained information on the Urban Area Criteria for the 2020 Final Census-Final.



RGVMPO staff worked on a map, with the help from UTSA - IDSER/Texas Demographic Center, showing the potential loss of population by 3.14% and loss of census blocks by 2.35%, under the new 2020 Census Criterion.

Andrew informed TAC members present, that Chairman Judge Trevino (Policy) had written a letter to the Census Bureau requesting clarification on what constitutes a "Urbanized Area". There's a deadline of November 2022, to hear back from the Census Bureau. Staff will keep TAC members up to date on this issue as it develops.

**This item was for discussion only, no action taken.**

**4 Discussion and Request for Travel Demand Model from Municipalities**

Luis noted that staff is in coordination of 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 that a true reflection of Demographics throughout the valley region is collected. Staff is requesting from all municipalities within the RGVMPPO MAB to please provide a listing or map of new or planned subdivisions, apartment complexes and commercial developments. (Preferably in GIS format).

In 2016, Regional MPO Staff began work on the Regional Transportation Model (TDM) with a base year of 2014 model for the RGV. 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. Staff concluded by asking TAC members, that any updates be submitted to staff prior to May 27, 2022; and moving forward to be consistence; that they be submitted on a regular basis.

**This item was for discussion only, not action taken.**

**5. Discussion and Possible Action on Updates for the FY2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6: Public Involvement and Prioritization of Additional Funding Requests**

Rudy noted that the FY 2023-2026 Highway & Transit TIP tables are undergoing public involvement prior to submitting to TXDOT TP&P for review. All project updates submitted have been reviewed and incorporated, and a draft Summary Sheet has been provided within the TAC meeting packet.

The MTP, Highway, & Transit TIP tables have been included within this packet for members’ review and possible action. Approval is contingent upon any minor corrections needed. Requests for additional CAT 7 funding will be addressed during individual meetings between now and approval of the 2023 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP). A list of these requests has been provided for consideration of highest priorities.

The deadline to submit the new FY 2023-2026 Comprehensive TIP is June 10, 2022. A 30-day Public Involvement period will have taken place from May 6 – June 6, 2022. Public involvement dates, locations, and materials were shared by announcement via email, social media, and the RGVMPPO website. A list of locations for in-person public outreach has been shared and included within this packet.

<b>Tuesday May 10th</b>	<b>McAllen Transit Center</b>	<b>2PM - 5PM</b>
<b>Wednesday May 11th</b>	<b>Edinburg City Hall</b>	<b>9AM - 12PM</b>
<b>Friday May 13th</b>	<b>San Benito City Hall</b>	<b>9AM - 12PM</b>
<b>Saturday May 14th</b>	<b>Brownsville Farmers Market</b>	<b>9AM - 12PM</b>

Rudy concluded by noting that the Transportation Policy Board will approve MTP & TIP tables during the May 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting. In preparation for future funding opportunities, RGVMPPO staff is seeking a priority of projects. Whether by utilizing federal grants or UTP allocation, the highest priority of projects should be considered for funding. RGVMPPO staff is available for guidance as necessary.

**After much discussion on this item, TxDOT made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board on the updates of the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6: Public Involvement and Prioritization of Additional Funding Requests as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion passed. Cameron County RMA, Cameron County and Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp; voted against approval due to the agenda item not clearly stating that it was an “Action Item”.**

**6. Discussion and Possible Action of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Project Update and**

**Potential Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) Amendment**

Eva presented to TAC members present on recent project updates, including project challenges and proposed changes for a potential Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) Amendment regarding CSJ 0921-06-325. The City of Los Fresnos in coordination with the RGVMPPO and TxDOT Pharr District, request an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) Amendment to reflect changes to the project. The City of Los Fresnos agrees to maintain the intent of the project and ensure the timely obligation of TASA Funds (Spreadsheet part of TAC Packet).

In 2019 the BMPO merged with the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO) and Harlingen-San Benito Metropolitan Planning Organization (HSBMPO) to form the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO), the current designated agency for Transportation Planning in the Transportation Management Area and responsible agency for selecting projects to receive TASA funding.

The Brownsville Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMPO) received an apportionment of federal TASA funds for FY2019-2020 and awarded \$308,810 of these funds to the City of Los Fresnos for the construction of the North High School Park Connection (CSJ 0921-06-325).

RGVMPO Staff continues to review and monitor projects to ensure regional Category 9/Transportation Alternatives set aside (TASA) funds are obligated within the required three years of authorization.

**After much discussion on this item, Cameron County made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board of the Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) Project Update and Potential Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) Amendment. The motion was seconded by TxDOT; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Discussion and Update on the RGVMPPO BikePed Program**

Eva presentation include information regarding the RGV Transportation Alternatives Facility Inventory and RGV Traffic Safety Initiative. To ensure transparency with regional transportation professionals, RGVMPPO Staff continues to report on the status and upcoming activities of various BikePed Projects and Programs listed/posted on the RGVMPPO website.

Staff also noted that RGVMPPO received a TxDOT Traffic Safety grant to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety through the distribution of safety materials (helmets and lights), in addition to administering two traffic safety trainings for law enforcement, and two traffic safety trainings for planners and engineers to be held once grant is received. Staff will also be recommending approval to procure 1,505 bike helmets for \$27,742.25. The cost of these helmets will be reimbursed through the TxDOT Traffic Safety grant and will be presented for approval to the Policy Board at their next meeting.

**This item was for discussion only, not action taken.**

## Financial Update

Andrew provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the May 12, 2022, RGV TAC Packet.

- Item Summary:**      **2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Forum  
May 2-5, 2022 - Omni Hotel – Houston - Update**  
Staff attended the 2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference in Houston. Conference covered “**Texas planning: sharing knowledge and experience**” and provide other updated information about planning and programming processes, procedures, and tools used to coordinate the development of transportation projects. Transportation workshops and presentations showcase various topics such as environmental affairs, federal and state legislation, sustainability, public involvement, freight, and multi-modal planning.
- Item Summary:**      **2022 AMPO Planning Tools & Training Symposium  
May 16-19 – Riverside Hotel – Fort Lauderdale, FL**  
Several Staff members, including Andrew will be attending “The 2022 AMPO Planning Tools & Training Symposium in Fort Lauderdale, FL. This conference takes place over the course of two and a half days and consists of multiple roundtable workshops. The workshops are divided into two tracks: Core Functions and Hot Topics. The Core Functions track is developed with junior staff in mind and seeks to provide practical training by topic area (i.e., MPO process and products, public involvement/environmental justice/Title XI, performance management, etc.). The Hot Topics track is developed with senior-level staff in mind and provides peer-to-peer exchange and training opportunities to discuss the state of the practice, innovation, and identify efficiencies.
- Item Summary**      **RGVMPO Policy Board Retreat – Friday, June 3, 2022 Cameron County  
Amphitheater and Event Center - 53550 Dolphin Cove – SPI -Update**  
The RGVMPO Policy Board Retreat is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd at the Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center. A big “Thank You” to Cameron County for providing this facility to us. Emails were sent out to TAC Members that are currently appointed as Proxy to the TAC Committee. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Gloria before May 20, 2022. A second email will also be sent out for your lunch meal selection on May 23, 2022; with a deadline of May 27, 2022; please look out for that email as well. I look forward to this, we have wanted to do this since the merger and Covid got in our way. I know nothing but positive paths forward will come from this Board Retreat.
- Item Summary:**      **Safety Taskforce**  
The TxDOT Commission, led by Commissioner Laura Ryan, has established the TxDOT/MPO Safety Taskforce. Your Executive Director has been asked to serve as one of 7 MPO’s in representing MPOs across Texas. The Taskforce is identifying opportunities to address safety concerns and collectively develop ideas that may work regions, or statewide. As these opportunities are identified, they will be brought back to the RGVMPO for discussion, consideration, and possible implementation. This is an exciting opportunity to identify items such as distracted driving and examine opportunities to address this growing problem.

**A. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Melba Schaus, (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPO area, Via Microsoft Teams. The Monthly Letting Projects provided did indicate that Projects have been extended to FY2023. Project to be Re-Lett are (April 2022 – Anzaldua’s Int’l Bridge); and (PSJA Tri-City Ped Safety, from May to June. Reminder to for LG’s to continue moving forward projects with TxDOT. *TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the May 12, 2022, 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 May 12, 2022, 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. IBTC & 365 Projects. Soon to announce the 365 Tollway Groundbreaking Ceremony, more information to follow in the coming days, along with invites. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the May 12, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

**D. McAllen Metro**

Robert De Leon provided an updated report Via Microsoft Teams for McAllen Metro. This report includes ongoing ridership. The report is filed with the May 12, 2022, 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 May 12, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **( Report only, no action taken at this time).**

**F. Valley Metro**

Nancy Sanchez 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 May 12, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report on, no action taken at this time).**

**VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

**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 11:07 AM. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*