

**BRIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IN PERSON MEETING**

JUNE 9, 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 “IN PERSON” at the Ken Jones Boardroom located at 301 West Railroad - Weslaco.

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
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.
Starr County	Jose Escamilla / Rose Benavidez (ABSENT)
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	ABSENT
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
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:

- **May 12, 2022**

Mr. Terrazas, Chairman (City Mission) asked if there were any corrections to the TAC minutes of May 12, 2022.

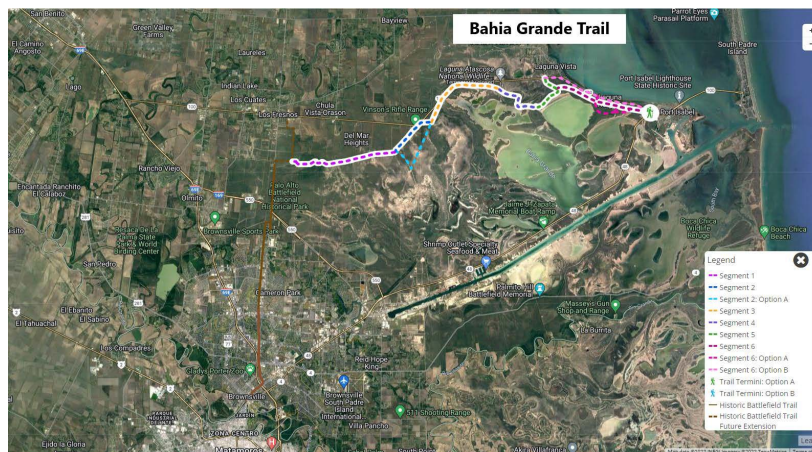
No other corrections were noted to the minutes of May 12, 2022, HCRMA made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of San Benito and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to support the submittal of a Texas Federal Lands Access Program (TX FLAP) proposal for the design and partial construction of the Bahia Grande Trail.

Eva provided updated information regarding the proposal for the design and partial construction of the Bahia Grande Trails as follows: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has offered to provide ~\$1.5 million to use as match for the full design (all ~20 miles) and partial construction (~3-5 miles) of the Bahia Grande Trail. RGVMPO Staff politely requests the support of the RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee to submit a TX FLAP Application.

The Bahia Grande Trail is approximately 20-miles long and will connect the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park (National Park Service) and the Bahia Grande Unit of the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) to the South Texas Eco-Tourism Center and communities of Brownsville, Los Fresnos, Laguna Vista, and Port Isabel. By improving access to two federal land management agencies, the Bahia Grande Trail is eligible to receive funding from the Texas Federal Lands Access Program (TX FLAP).

Staff concluded by letting TAC members know that the TX FLAP recently opened their 2022 Call for Projects and completed submissions are due August 1, 2022.



After some discussion on this item, Cameron County RMA made a motion to recommend approval to Support the Submittal of a Texas Federal Land Access Program (TX FLAP) proposal for the design and partial construction of the Bahia Grand Trail to the Policy Board as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and Possible Action on Updates on the IJA Infrastructure BIL, Specifically on Safe Streets for All Grant Program

Javier provided a presentation to TAC members present on the release of the schedule of notice of funding opportunities for the Infrastructure BIL and the upcoming application opportunity for Safe Streets; “All Grants” that are due on September 15, 2022.

Staff noted that the US Department of Transportation has released a schedule of when the Notice of Funding Opportunities can be expected to be opened for the various program grants under the IJA Infrastructure BIL. For more information, visit the Safe Streets and Roads for All website at www.transportation.gov/SS4A. - [Subscribe to email updates to receive program updates.](#)

Getting Ready to Apply: Joint Application

- Applications covering several agencies are strongly encouraged!
- Joint applications can involve many entities and take multiple forms. Examples:
 - MPO creating a single Action Plan for all or some member jurisdictions.
 - MPO or transit agency applying for and distributing funds and/or assistance to members for individual plans.
 - High-capacity jurisdiction jointly applying with one or more lower-capacity jurisdiction(s).
- Joint applications:
 - Better support regional approaches to roadway safety.
 - Help applicants meet federal funding requirements and lower administrative costs and delays.

SAFE STREETS FOR ALL PROGRAM

Eligible Activities

- Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an action plan
- Carry out projects and strategies identified in an action plan

Action Plan Before Implementation Plan

Is there an existing plan(s)?

NO YES

NONE/SOME MOST/ ALL

Supplemental Planning

YES NO

Apply for an Action Plan

Apply for an Implementation Plan

Action Plan Grant Example Activities

- Leadership commitment and goal setting
- Planning structure
- Safety analysis
- Engagement and collaboration
- Equity
- Policy and process changes
- Strategy and project selections
- Progress and transparency methods

Lighting

Crosswalk Visibility Enhancements

Speed Safety Cameras

Pavement Friction Management

UPCOMING NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS 2022

June

- Bridge Investment Program
- Railroad Crossing Elimination Program
- Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Project Program
- Ferry Programs

July

- All Stations Accessibility Program
- Rail Vehicle Replacement Program

Summer

- National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program
- Thriving Communities

August

- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements Grant Program

September

- Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program

RGVMPO Staff concluded by stressing to TAC members present, to take advantage of BIL new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program that will provide \$5-6 billion in grants over the next 5 years. Funding supports regional, local, and Tribal initiative through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program supports the Department’s National Roadway Safety Strategy and a goal of zero death and serious injuries on our nation’s roadway. Staff will be presenting the “Vision Zero Goal” Resolution, which will strongly encourage decision makers to consider the implementation of Vision Zero Goals within their respective jurisdictions to the Policy Board for approval.

This item was for discussion only, no action taken.

4 Discussion and Possible Action of Section 5310 Applications

Javier noted that only (2) two recipients submitted their 5310 applications (Valley Metro and the City of Weslaco). Staff gave a brief synopsis of what Section 5310 Program is: 5310 Program aims to assist operators of public transportation, local government authorities, and private nonprofit organizations support transportation services and expand transportation mobility options for seniors and individuals with disabilities in all areas.

Two applications were scored and ranked by staff which were: 1) Valley Metro submitted a Traditional Application and 2) City of Weslaco submitted a Non-Traditional application as shown below:

Two Applicants

- Valley Metro | Traditional
 - Request - \$1,100,524.00
 - Total Project Cost - \$1,892,761.00
- City of Weslaco | Non-traditional
 - Request - \$500,000.00
 - Total Project Cost - \$500,000.00

The Valley Metro Regional Call Center and Fleet Replacement Project is designed to serve individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and the public to provide information on transportation needs and services throughout the Rio Grande Valley region.

The Weslaco Pedestrian 2022 Project is Phase 2 of the previously approved MPO funding from 2017. The project will continue to provide people with mobility issues more accessibility in public areas.

SECTION 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Program Purpose

The program is intended to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by providing funds for capital and operating expenses that expand transportation mobility options.

Traditional – At least 55% of Program Funds

Buses and vans; wheelchairs lifts, ramps, and securement devices; transrelated information technology systems including scheduling/routing/oncall systems; and mobility management programs

Non-traditional – Remaining 45%

Under Map-21, the program was modified to include projects eligible under the former 5317 program. Including travel training, volunteer driver programs; building an accessible path to a bus stop including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals and features.

5310 - \$1,100,524

	Valley Metro	City of Weslaco
Project Type	Bus Fleet Replacement/ Purchase & Regional Call Center	Sidewalk, ADA Compliance/ Pedestrian Connectivity
Score	79/100	81/100

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/enhanced-mobility-seniors-individuals-disabilities-section-5310/>
rgvmopo.org
rzamorara@rgvmopo.org

Staff noted that Valley Metro is requesting \$1,100,524.00, total project cost is \$1,892,761.00. City of Weslaco is requesting \$500,000.00 and their total project cost is \$500,000.00.

Staff is recommending, as per the scoring process the following – Valley Metro be awarded 55% - \$605,288.20 and City of Weslaco be awarded 45% - \$495,235.80 of the total amount of 5310 Grant which consist of \$1,100,524.00.

After some discussion on this item, the City of Edinburg made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board; Staffs’ recommendation as per the scoring process the following: Valley Metro be awarded 55% - \$605,288.20 and City of Weslaco be awarded 45% - \$495,235.80 of the total amount of 5310 Grant of \$1,100,524.00. The motion was seconded by the City of San Benito; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects

Rudy provided and included a list of CAT 7 funding requests from various local governments within the meeting packet. Staff informed TAC members present that individual meeting with local government and planning partners will be scheduled in the upcoming week. The purpose of these meetings is to prioritize projects needing additional / new Category 7 funding. Meetings will be held collaboratively with TXDOT Pharr District staff and other federal funding opportunities may be discussed. The “Priority” listed under the subject projects is meant for ranking the submitted requests. As example of ranking by priority is assigning each request a number within the total of request submitted: For a total of 5 requests: 1 would be the highest priority, while 5 would be the lowest priority. Results from the suggested meeting times & dates poll will also be shared once all dates have been scheduled.

RGVMPO staff received numerous requests for additional Category 7 funding for highway projects. The requests included additional funding for Construction, Construction Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Preliminary engineering. A table displaying totals of these requests was presented during the Project Update workshop, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, and Transportation Policy Board meeting. RGVMPO staff will be meeting with our region’s entities to prioritize projects and requests for additional funding.

Unified Transportation Plan CAT 7 Allocation for RGVMPO							
	2022 Allocation	2023 Allocation	Delta in \$	Brownville (19.02%) Delta	HSB (15.69%) *Delta	Hidalgo (65.29%) Delta	Total of Delta in \$
2022	\$37,101,859						
2023	\$28,191,480	\$32,097,775	\$3,906,295	\$742,977	\$612,898	\$2,550,420	\$3,906,295
2024	\$27,958,924	\$32,739,773	\$4,780,849	\$909,317	\$750,115	\$3,121,416	\$4,780,849
2025	\$28,275,109	\$33,394,773	\$5,119,664	\$973,760	\$803,275	\$3,342,629	\$5,119,664
2026	\$28,556,354	\$34,062,546	\$5,506,192	\$1,047,278	\$863,922	\$3,594,993	\$5,506,192
2027	\$27,165,023	\$32,752,614	\$5,587,591	\$1,062,760	\$876,693	\$3,648,138	\$5,587,591
2028	\$27,315,097	\$32,752,614	\$5,437,517	\$1,034,216	\$853,146	\$3,550,155	\$5,437,517
2029	\$27,614,671	\$32,752,614	\$5,137,943	\$977,237	\$806,143	\$3,354,563	\$5,137,943
2030	\$27,971,525	\$32,752,614	\$4,781,089	\$909,363	\$750,153	\$3,121,573	\$4,781,089
2031	\$28,435,493	\$32,752,614	\$4,317,121	\$821,116	\$677,356	\$2,818,648	\$4,317,121
2032		\$32,752,614		\$6,229,547	\$5,138,885	\$21,384,182	\$32,752,614
Total	\$288,585,537	\$328,810,387	\$40,224,850	\$7,650,766	\$6,311,279	\$26,262,805	\$40,224,850

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

6. Discussion on and Possible Action on the RGVMPO Regional Complete Streets Policy Update

RGVMPO Staff has continued to engage regional stakeholders to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of existing and potential Complete Streets Policies. Staff has begun planning outreach events to engage Stakeholders and discuss the potential benefits of implementing Complete Streets Policies, to ascertain the necessary buy-in to ensure the efficacy of the policy. RGVMPO Staff intends to complete an inventory of existing Complete Streets Policies adopted by Municipalities in the Region.

Since the authorization to begin work on a Regional Complete Streets Policy by the Transportation Policy Board on February 23, 2022, RGVMPO Staff has continued to research the Complete Streets Policies of agencies both inside and outside of the region. UPWP Amendment #2, which included an added Complete Streets subtask, allotted a total of \$120,000 in PL funds over the remainder of the two-year period towards Complete Streets planning activities, as mandated by the BIL. UPWP Amendment #2 was adopted by the Transportation Policy Board during the May 25, 2022, Regular Meeting, and is pending approval by TxDOT and FHWA.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

7. Discussion on and Possible Action on the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form

The RGVMPPO presented amendments to the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP 25 Year Plan) Off System Project Evaluation Form with a recommendation for replacement by the Unified Transportation Program (UTP 10 Year Plan) CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form.

Through an iterative discussion, the RGVMPPO staff and TAC refined a scoring for Category 7 projects to both leverage the technical expertise embodied in the TAC and reference performance criteria and regional goals to provide a robust scoring process for vetting and promoting projects geared to contribute towards targets. This scoring process likewise provides a platform to communicate with project sponsors and decision makers about project implications. The process also investigates what conditions a proposed project is improving and asks the sponsor to reflect on why they are submitting the project being reviewed. The continuity of this process invariably will refine and improve the process by which projects are submitted for consideration as well as the projects themselves. The latest version of the RGVMPPO Off System Project Evaluation Form is reflective of 3 TAC workshops and TPB approval May 27, 2020.

The following were some of the most recent amendments to the new CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form; after feedback provided at the TAC meeting.

The most recent amendments are as follows:

- Scores for Schematic Status, Environmental Status, ROW Status and Utility Status have been adjusted from 5 points max to now be 10 points max per each item.
 - Points were adjusted from each of the following from 10 points max to now 5 points max to keep the overall project total as 100 points.
 - Access to Transit Facility in Miles
 - Access to Existing Pedestrian Facility in Miles (Bicycle/Trail)
 - Regionally Significant
 - Congestion Reduction
- Access to Pedestrian Facility in Miles (Bicycle/Trail)
 - Was modified to now Read Access to Existing Pedestrian Facility in Miles (Bicycle/Trail)
- Contact Name and Email were added to the bottom of the form.

Andrew informed TAC members present that the revised form will be sent out once it is revised, and with a deadline to re-submit those changes/updates to staff. Please also keep in mind that the CAT 7 Scoring form will be presented to both TAC and TPB for final approval in August.

This item was for discussion only, not action taken.

V. **RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES**

Financial Update

Andrew provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the June 9, 2022, RGVTAC Packet.

- 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 was held on Friday, June 3rd at the Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center. A big “Thank You” to Cameron County for providing this facility to RGVMPO.

- Item Summary** **TAC Meeting – July 14, 2022 – Staff is recommending that the TAC meeting in July be deferred until August 11, 2022. No discussion took place on deferring the July TAC meeting to August. All members present were in consensus to deferred the July TAC meeting until August as recommended by staff.**

VI) **STATUS REPORTS**

A. **TxDOT Project Status Report**

Melba Schaus, (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report (In Person) within the RGVMPO area. The Monthly Letting Projects provided did indicate that Projects have been extended to FY2023. City of Mission had a question on one of their projects (“Taylor – Section #1) provided updated status report. TxDOT will be contacting the City of Mission once TxDOT has look into the status of this project. Reminder to for LG’s to continue moving forward projects with TxDOT. *TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the June 9, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).*

B. **Cameron County RMA**

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation (In Person) 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 June 9, 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 (In Person) on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. IBTC & 365 Projects. The 365 Tollway Groundbreaking Ceremony, is scheduled on June 8, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Calendar invite to follow. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the June 9, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

D. **McAllen Metro**

Robert De Leon provided an updated report (In Person) for the McAllen Metro. This report includes ongoing ridership. The report is filed with the June 9, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

E. **Brownsville / Island Metros**

Janie Garcia provided an updated report (In Person) which included the Brownsville Metro and Island Metro. These reports include on-going connecting community projects and combined ridership. The reports are filed with June 9, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. *(Report only, no action taken at this time).*

F. **Valley Metro**

Nancy Sanchez provided an update report (In Person), for both the Rural and Urban areas for the Year-To-Date Report. The Valley Metro Report was provided and is filed with the June 9, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report on, no action taken at this time).**

VII) **NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

City of Edinburg – SH-107 Project - Mr. Reyna informed TAC members present that on June 16, 2022 a Live Edinburg Public Outreach would take place, to inform citizens’of Edinburg of the “TxDOT SH107 Improvement Project” to take place.

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.