

**Meeting Minutes of the  
Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The rgvmop Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held in-person at City Plaza – Mezzanine Level, 1034 E. Levee Street, Brownsville, TX and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by David Hernandez, Chair, at 11:00 A.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

RGVMPO BPAC Representatives **PRESENT:**

Organization/Agency	Voting Membership	Alternate
Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association	David Hernandez, Chair	
Caracara Trails	Rose Gowen, Vice-Chair	
City of Weslaco	Omar Rodriguez	Rebekah de la Fuente
City of Sullivan City	Alma Salinas	Ana Mercado
TxDOT Pharr District	Craig Wuensche	Roberto Garza
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala	Valentin Sanchez Jr.
City of Pharr	Ruben Alfaro	<b>Maria Rangel</b>
City of Brownsville	Octavio Salazar	Joel Garza
Valley Metro	George Huerta	<b>Claudia Olmedo</b>
LRGVDC	Horacio Garza	Nancy Sanchez
UTRGV	Rodney Gomez	Pablo Aguilar
TPWD	Javier De Leon	Kelly Malkoski
Citizen At-Large	Nina Torkelson	<b>Robert Ordez</b>
Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin	
Citizen At-Large	Ana Adame	Tracy Roberts
Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew	Jon Ray Bocanegra

**Other Attendees:**

- Juan Pena, City of Brownsville
- Javier Mendez, City of Harlingen
- Ben Medina, City of Rio Hondo
- Lisa Mitchell-Bennet, UT School of Public Health
- RGV Cycling
- RGVMPO Staff:**
- Andrew Canon, Executive Director
- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I
- Javier Dominguez, Planner I
- Christopher Nelson, Planner I
- Rudy Zamora, Planner II
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

BPAC Minutes Approved  
February 1, 2023

### III. CITIZENS INPUT

No comments were made.

### IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of November 2, 2022

The Minutes of the November 2, 2022 RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was presented. Rose Gowen, Caracara Trails, made the motion to approve the Minutes of November 2, 2022. The motion was seconded by David Hernandez, Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

#### B. Consideration and Action regarding the potential amendment(s) to the RGVMPPO BPAC Bylaws

Eva Garcia presented the proposed amendment(s) to the RGVMPPO BPAC Bylaw. After some discussion, recommendations were made and Rodney Gomez, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, made the motion to approve amendment(s) to the RGVMPPO BPAC Bylaws. The motion was seconded by Alma Salinas, City of Sullivan City, and upon the vote the **motion passed unanimously**.

#### C. Presentation and Discussion regarding the RGVMPPO BPAC FY 2023 – 2024 TASA Call for Projects

The agenda and summary of the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Working Group Meeting #1 (December 19, 2022) was presented to members. At the meeting the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) program guide and application was reviewed prior to a review of the draft RGVMPPO TASA materials. Feedback from meeting participants found that the most helpful and useful information would be details on scoring criteria, terminology, definitions, and evaluation methods. A Mentimeter was used to ask BPAC Members when the next TASA Working Group Meeting should be held; Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm was selected. **No action was taken**.

### V. PROJECT UPDATES

#### A. FY2019-2020 TASA Program Schedule of Activities

The status of all nine (9) projects was presented with three (3) projects being identified as requesting project changes:

- Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect Phase I & II needed to reroute the trail due to ROW challenges.
- Olmito Sidewalks reducing the length of sidewalks by 40% due to inflation costs.
- Las Palmas Sidewalks reducing the length of sidewalks by 40% due to inflation costs.

#### B. FY2020-2021 TASA Program Schedule of Activities

A revised schedule was presented, with a newly announced deadline of April 2023 for executing initial Advanced Funding Agreements (AFAs). Additionally, it was shared that projects able to obligate funds in FY2024 would be considered as “A+” students while projects utilizing the final “hours” of FY2025 would be considered as “C-” students, and projects unable to obligate funds in FY2025 would be considered as “F+” students (+ for trying).

#### C. Texas Federal Land Access Program Award(s)

Eva Garcia announced that the RGVMPPO received notification that the Bahia Grande Trail was shortlisted to receive \$2.5M in Texas Federal Lands Access Program funds for the full design and environmental compliance of the ~20-mile trail.

### VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

- Texas Department of Transportation Pharr District bicycle plan survey link
- RGVMPPO BPAC 2023 Meeting Schedule

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

**There being no further business to come before the Committee, Rose Gowen made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:45 A.M. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche, and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**