

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

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 11:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The RGVMPPO 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 11:01 A.M.

II. ROLL CALL

RGVMPPO 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	Maria Rangel
City of Brownsville	Octavio Salazar	Joel Garza
Valley Metro	George Huerta	Claudia Olmedo
LRGVDC	Horacio Garza	Nancy Sanchez
UTRGV	Rodney Gomez	Pablo Aguilar
TPWD	Javier De Leon	Kelly Malkoski
Citizen At-Large	Nina Torkelson	Robert Ordez
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
- RGV Cycling
- **RGVMPPO Staff:**
- Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator
- Rodolfo Zamora, Planner II

BPAC Minutes Approved
March 1, 2023

III. CITIZENS INPUT

- Arroyo Trail extension towards Dixie Park in Harlingen nearing completion. Will be fully open soon.
- Utilizing group to share bike/ped events. Eva Garcia plans to send out an email on upcoming events.

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of January 11, 2023

The Minutes of the January 11, 2023 RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was presented. Omar Rodriguez made the motion to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2023. The motion was seconded by Larry Ayala, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

B. Consideration and Action regarding the 2023 RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting Schedule

A recap of the 2020-2022 meeting schedule was provided by Eva Garcia. The 2023 RGVMPPO BPAC meeting schedule was presented. After some discussion, recommendations were made and Nancy Sanchez, made the motion to approve the schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Octavio Salazar, and upon the vote the **motion passed unanimously**.

C. Presentation and Discussion on the RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan

A review of the initiatives that have been implemented and kicked off were highlighted. Eva Garcia discussed a new feedback survey for the RGVMPPO BPAC, but still needed to work on it before sharing with the BPAC. Item to be revisited at a future meeting.

D. Presentation and Discussion on the FY2023-2024 RGVMPPO Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside

The information presented and feedback received at the first and second TASA Working group meeting was recapped for the BPAC members. Staff also shared the agenda for the third and final TASA working group meeting scheduled for February 16, 2023.

V. PROJECT UPDATES

Jon Ray Bocanegra discussed the North Transfer Hub and the expansion of the number of Valley Metro routes from 9 to 12 this summer. It is located at Buddy Owens and 23rd St, just north of the large McAllen Library. Jon Ray Bocanegra also discussed the utilization of MPO PL funds to fund the update to Valley Metro's Short-Range Plan. Eva Garcia emphasized that the MPO has an open call for plans, in which they can provide PL funds for local plans.

David Hernandez said VORBA wrote a letter of support for the City of San Benito's RAISE grant application. They are expanding Strenger St. and including shared use paths and shoulders. VORBA is offering to provide letters of support to other organizations applying for grants.

Maria Rangel said the City of Pharr received a FLAP grant for Veteran's Rd Trail, which will connect to the Pct. 2 Hike and Bike Trail and to the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge.

Eva Garcia mentioned that the MPO's Policy Board approved the resolution for the amendments to the Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect and the Cameron County projects. She emphasized that current TASA projects need to execute their AFA's by April 2023, if they have not already, or else reallocation of funds is possible.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, George Huerta made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:00pm. The motion was seconded by Omar Rodriguez, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.