

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

Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 at 11:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The RGVMPPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held 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	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
- 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
June 7, 2023

III. CITIZENS INPUT

David Hernandez, BPAC Chair, mentioned a new 911 emergency response system that allows for precise location of distressed citizens. The system will be piloted in the city of Harlingen this summer. They are looking for interested municipalities to implement this for all trail systems across the valley.

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of March 1st, 2023.

The Minutes of the March 1st, 2023, RGV MPO BPAC Meeting was presented. David Hernandez made the motion to approve the Minutes of March 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Nancy Sanchez, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously.**

B. Presentation and Discussion on the FHWA Complete Streets Workshop (held March 8th) Summary

Chris Nelson, Planner I, gave a summary on the FHWA Complete Street Workshop held on March 8 in Weslaco. **No action was taken.**

C. Presentation and Discussion on the Quarterly RGV B-Cycle (bikeshare program) Updates

Horacio Garza, RGV B-Cycle Coordinator, gave an annual report of new cost estimates for 11 new electric bikes and 9 (3.0) dock stations with possible action items to improve the program. The following steps are to replace McAllen and Hugh Ramsey Nature Park Kiosk Stations with the new 3.0 dock station, seek new cities to add RGV B-Cycle stations, promote new events for RGV B-Cycle, and plan to apply for more funding through Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation.

Javier Deleon asked if the bikes being discussed were regular bikes or e-bikes. Horacio responded that they are e-bikes.

Richard Cavin asked why the bicycles needed to be upgraded. Horacio explained that the upgrade to e-bikes is to be in accordance with the constant B-Cycle system updates.

Richard Cavin inquired about the quantity of bikes and docking stations. It was mentioned that there are 11 e-bikes and 9 docking stations available.

The pricing options for rentals were discussed:

- A 24-hour pass is available for \$6, which requires the bike to be docked every 60 minutes.
- A 70-hour pass for \$16
- A 30-day rental is priced at \$30.
- Additionally, a yearly pass can be obtained for \$60.

Richard Cavin asked if there was a way to track the bikes and determine their location when they are undocked. Horacio mentioned that an alert is sent to the LRGVDC (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council) when a bike is undocked, but currently, the system does not provide the path the bike was taken. However, they are actively looking into implementing a tracking system to address this in the future.

No action was taken.

D. Presentation and Discussion on the TxDOT Pharr District Bike Plan

Aaron Sussman, Planner, with Toole Design Group, gave a presentation on TxDOT Pharr District Bike Plan. **No action was taken.**

V. PROJECT UPDATES

There's a workshop in Arkansas on recreating Bentonville bicycle tourism network. Some members will share what they have learned. Building off-road trail systems. IMBA has information on

workshops in the future, can contact David Hernandez.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. FY2023-2024 RGVMPPO TASA Program Call

Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I, gave an update on the schedule of activities for the 2023-2024 RGVMPPO TASA Program Call and information on how to request for technical assistance within the RGVMPPO website.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Nancy Sanchez made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:56 AM. The motion was seconded by David Hernandez, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

DRAFT