

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

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 11:00 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The RGVMPO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held in-person at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Small Board Room, 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by David Hernandez, Chair, at 11:02 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	
Hidalgo County	Velinda Reyes	Nick Perez
City of Sullivan City	Alma Salinas	Ana Mercado
TxDOT Pharr District	Craig Wuensche	Augustin Ramirez
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala	Valentin Sanchez Jr.
City of Pharr	Ruben Alfaro	Maria Rangel
City of Brownsville	Christopher Nelson	Juan (Johnny) Pena
Valley Metro	Claudia Olmedo	Stacie Garcia
LRGVDC	Horacio Garza	Nancy Sanchez
UTRGV	Rodney Gomez	Pablo Aguilar
TPWD	Javier Deleon	Orlando Carranco
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:

- Edgar Gonzalez, City of Mission
- Javier Mendez, City of Harlingen
- Herbert Camacho, City of McAllen
- Jared Hockema

RGVMPO Staff:

- Andrew Canon, Executive Director
- Melany Rodriguez, GIS Specialist/Planner I
- Rodolfo Zamora, Planner II
- Miguel Arispe, Planner III
- Javier Dominguez, Planner I
- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Alma Provencio, GIS Specialist
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

III. CITIZENS INPUT: No comments were made.

BPAC Minutes Approved
October 4, 2023

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of August 2, 2023

The Minutes of the August 2, 2023, RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was tabled for the October meeting. Chairman David Hernandez, VORBA, made the motion to table the Minutes of August 2, 2023. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche, TxDOT, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

B. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of August 17, 2023

The Minutes of the August 17, 2023, RGVMPPO BPAC Meeting was tabled for the October meeting. Craig Wuensche, TxDOT, made the motion to table the Minutes of August 17, 2023. The motion was seconded by Chairman David Hernandez, VORBA, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

C. Presentation and Discussion on the RGVMPPO BPAC +ATP Survey

Eva presented the RGVMPPO BPAC + ATP Survey which includes information and questions on the BPAC administration, and the TASA project call(s). The link to the survey was provided via MS teams chat and by email. Eva advised the feedback submission deadline was by Friday, September 29th. **No action was taken.**

D. Consideration and Action regarding the potential amendment(s) of the RGVMPPO BPAC Bylaws

Eva presented the BPAC membership information as per the current bylaws. An interactive Mentimeter survey was used to gather feedback from the BPAC members regarding the amendment of the BPAC bylaws and the membership definitions. Jon Ray Bocanegra advised to include all the above 50% Menti results to the BPAC Bylaws and applications. Jon Ray Bocanegra, Citizen At-large, also suggested to keep both Economic Development Agency definitions. Javier Deleon, TPWD, discussed there should be a limit # of positions per city or weighted votes and an equitable balance of representation from the counties. Javier Deleon, TPWD, made a motion to table this item, but continue at a later point. The motion was seconded by Robert Ordaz, Citizen At-Large, and upon vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

E. Consideration and Action to Appoint New Members to the RGVMPPO BPAC

Eva presented the Membership Applications that were received:

1. Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation (Economic Development Agency)
2. Council for South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP)
3. City of Brownsville (Pedestrian-Oriented)
4. City of Harlingen (Stakeholder Organization: Health/Fitness Community)
5. Even E Gonzalez (Stakeholder Organization: Health/Fitness Community)

Eva noted that the application form needs to be updated. After some discussion, Eva recommended she will communicate with the applicants that we are still working on the bylaws and the definitions of the memberships. **No action was taken.**

F. Presentation and Discussion on a potential grant application for the regional bikeshare and counter programs

Eva presented the RGVMPPO's interest and recommendation details in applying for the Legacy Foundation grant application for the RGV Counter program and the RGV B-Cycle (bikeshare) program for the next cycle. Eva went over the application process and deadline schedule. Jon Bocanegra discussed concerns on how the city of McAllen counts significantly decreased and noted that the overall program is an immense undertaking, as well as there is a lot of maintenance that is required. **No action was taken.**

V. PROJECT UPDATES

Eva made updates on the RGVMPPO funded projects from program calls:

- FY 2019-2020
- FY 2021-2022
- FY 2023-2024

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Javier Mendez, City of Harlingen, invited everyone to attend the Harlingen Dedication Ceremony for a Trail on Saturday at 9am at the Boggus Ford parking lot. The trail is being dedicated in memory of Mr. Frank Boggus. Eva provided a registration link to the upcoming Safe Streets for Texans event held on September 16th at 9am-3pm at the LRGVDC building in Weslaco.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Jon Ray Bocanegra, Citizen. At-Large, made a motion to adjourn meeting at 12:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Larry Ayala, City of Edinburg, and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.