

Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
RGVMPO POLICY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, November 30, 2023 – 1:30 PM

MINUTES

Presiding: Chairman Eddie Trevino, Jr. (Cameron County)

I) Call to Order

Chairman David L Fuentes called the Transportation Policy Board meeting to order at 1:33 P.M., and a quorum was established. The TPB Meeting was held virtually with members present.

II) Roll Call

RGVMPO TPB Representatives in attendance were as follows:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Chairman) – ABSENT Comm. Everardo Villarreal (Proxy) -
City of Brownsville	Mayor John Cowen (Vice-Chairman) – PRESENT Helen Ramirez (Proxy)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. Com. David Garza (Alternate) -PRESENT
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) Roel “Roy” Rodriguez (Alternate) - PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) - PRESENT Comm. Daniel “Dan” Diaz (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza (Designee) Assistant City Manager JP Terrazas (Proxy)- PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Mayor Norma Sepulveda (Designee) - ABSENT Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Designee) – ABSENT Comm. Daniel Chavez (Alternate)
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) Reyna Guerra Proxy – PRESENT
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (Designee) – PRESENT Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) – PRESENT Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda Jr. (Designee) Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy) - PRESENT
Valley Metro	Tom Logan (Designee) - PRESENT Nancy Sanchez (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) - PRESENT Rex A. Costley (Alternate) – PRESENT
EX-OFFICIO	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
GUEST	
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENT
none

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

A. 2025 UTP – CAT 2 Project 2 Project List

Dora Robles began her presentation by addressing the members and providing an overview of Category 2 funds. She reiterated that these funds are designated for addressing mobility and added capacity projects on urban corridors, with the primary goals of mitigating traffic congestion, enhancing traffic safety, and facilitating roadway maintenance or rehabilitation. Furthermore, Dora Robles emphasized that the projects eligible for CAT 2 funding must be situated within the state highway system. Dora Robles explained the role of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in selecting projects. She highlighted that MPOs collaborate closely with TxDOT districts to conduct a performance-based prioritization process. This process assesses mobility needs within the boundaries of the MPO. Dora Robles noted that it is essential for project funding to be officially authorized by the Texas Transportation Commission. Dora Robles emphasized that the presentation of CAT 2 funded projects is part of the yearly UTP efforts. She requested concurrence from the members on the projects presented. She also mentioned that the determination of the fiscal year for each project listing considered the project's development status and fiscal constraints. Any changes were indicated in the red text for clarity and reference. Dora Robles reminded the members that the deadline for the Pharr District to submit this project listing to the TxDOT UTP team is December 1, 2023, which is the reason the current special meeting was called.

Chairman Commissioner Chairman David Fuentes raised a question regarding the project FM88 and its readiness for construction, inquiring why it was not in the construction budget. Pete Alvarez provided an explanation, stating that FM88 is currently set up for development authority, as certain preparations, including plans, are required before moving it to construction authority. Chairman Commissioner Fuentes thanked Pete for the clarification and asked if there were any further questions or comments related to the proposed schedule.

Roy Rodriguez had questions about the project shown in red font, specifically SH107 from 69 to 1426, and asked if it was a new project. Pete Alvarez clarified that this project involved drainage improvements for the State Highway 107 corridor and detailed the changes in project limits. Roy Rodriguez had a second question regarding a figure in red at the bottom of the sheet for develop authority, which was \$65 million without specifying "CS." Pete Alvarez explained that it referred to the I69 connector project and the budget adjustments made due to cost increases in other projects. Chairman Fuentes inquired if there were any additional questions.

Ramiro Garza asked about the project related to Farm Road 2220 from State Highway 107 to Mile 5, specifically the additional \$33 million allocated. Pete Alvarez provided details, explaining that it involved converting a two-lane road into a six-lane raised median project. Chairman Fuentes asked if there were any more questions or comments and since there were none, he entertained a motion.

Roy Rodriguez made a motion to approve the presented projects, and Pete Alvarez seconded the motion.

Chairman Fuentes acknowledged the motion and announced that it had passed.

V) New or Unfinished Business

none

VI) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the RGVMPD TPB Members, Chairman Commissioner David L. Fuentes called the meeting adjourned at 1:44pm.

ATTEST:



RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN