

**Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization  
RGVMPO POLICY BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2024 – 1:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Presiding: Chairman Commissioner David L. Fuentes (Hidalgo County)**

**I) Call to Order**

Chairman Commissioner David L. Fuentes called the Transportation Policy Board meeting to order at 1:30 P.M., and a quorum was established. The Meeting was held in person with members present.

**II) Roll Call**

**RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board Representatives in attendance were as follows:**

<b>Members Present:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Chairman) – PRESENT Comm. Everardo Villarreal (Proxy) -
City of Brownsville	Mayor John Cowen (Vice-Chairman) – PRESENT Helen Ramirez (Proxy)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. -PRESENT Com. David Garza (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) Eduardo Mendoza (Proxy) - PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) - PRESENT Comm. Daniel “Dan” Diaz (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza (Designee) City Manager (Alternate) – PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Mayor Norma Sepulveda (Designee) Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate) - PRESENT
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Designee) – PRESENT 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) Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate) – PRESENT
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda Jr. (Designee) Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy) - PRESENT
Valley Metro	Tom Logan (Designee) - PRESENT Nancy Sanchez (Alternate) - PRESENT
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) - PRESENT Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
LRGVDC	Javier Dominguez
<b>GUEST</b>	
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

### III) PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker: Brian Boardley

Comment: Brian Boardley, representing Rapture Consulting, expressed concerns regarding transit in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area. He noted that despite attending several meetings, there hasn't been a clear overview of the regional plan from all stakeholders involved. Boardley emphasized the importance of understanding how transportation initiatives fit into the broader regional scheme. He suggested that future meetings should include presentations outlining the region's plan and how transportation efforts align with it. Boardley also mentioned having observations and recommendations but highlighted the lack of context provided by the absence of a comprehensive regional plan.

Chairman David L. Fuentes thanked Brian Boardley for his comment but stated that a response couldn't be provided in the moment since it wasn't part of the agenda. However, the RGVMPPO staff will address his comment in writing. Additionally, he encouraged Boardley to reach out to the RGVMPPO office for detailed information about projects and funds.

### IV) ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### A. Approval of Minute(s) for December 13, 2023.

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of December 13, 2023.

**No corrections were noted to the minutes of December 13, 2023. Motion to approve by Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez from the City of Pharr and it was seconded by Reyna Guerra from Starr County. The item was unanimously approved.**

#### B. Discussion and Action on the February 2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Revision Cycle.

Rodolfo Zamora provided an overview of the February 2024 STIP Revision Cycle, highlighting key points from the agenda packet. He noted 10 total revisions and seven administrative changes, with 17 changes on the highway side. Zamora mentioned an investment of over 1.76 billion across all funding categories for FY 2023 to 2026. The public development process included three in-person meetings, and approval was obtained from the technical advisory committee for the revisions and administrative changes.

Mr. Zamora discussed pending revisions for the May revision cycle, including projects from the Brownsville and Hidalgo County areas. Two projects from Brownsville, Dana Avenue and Old Alice Road, are slated to move into TIP years. Efforts are being made to accelerate these projects with the collaboration of partners such as TxDOT Pharr District and local government. He also mentioned pending administrative changes, particularly for the Old Alice Rd project in the Brownsville area. Zamora expressed optimism about addressing the Nolana loop phase administratively but highlighted the need to consider fiscal constraints. Meetings with the finance division of TxDOT and department at the district level are planned to address these issues.

Mayor Ramiro Garza inquired about the Freddy Gonzalez project, which Rudy Zamora elaborated on, highlighting changes in project scope and local contributions.

**Chairman Commissioner David Fuentes opened the floor for questions before entertaining a motion to approve the item. Ramon Navarro moved to approve, and Mayor Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion. Chairman Fuentes thanked everyone, and the item passed.**

#### C. Passenger Discussion and Action on the Adoption of Safety Performance Measures and Targets (PM1)

The presenter Miguel Arispe was not present therefore Luis Diaz presented the item.

He emphasized the RGVMPPO's obligation to establish Safety Performance Targets annually, as mandated by 3 U.S.C. 148 and codified in 23 CFR 924. These targets inform the Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), with states required to report HSIP targets by August 31 each year, and MPOs to establish their targets within 180 days thereafter.

Luis Diaz added that the RGVMPPO staff is seeking approval to continue supporting the Statewide Targets for 2024 (Resolution 2024-01), and to adopt the TxDOT Statewide Safety Targets for 2024 as reported to FHWA.

**Chairman Commissioner David Fuentes opened the floor for questions before entertaining a motion to approve the item. Judge Eddie Trevino Jr. from Cameron County moved to approve, and Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez from the City of Pharr seconded the motion. Chairman Fuentes thanked everyone, and the item passed.**

#### **D. Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) – RFP Subcommittee Score and Consultant Selection**

Fernando Cantu provided an overview of the agenda item. He outlined that the RGVMPPO sometimes delegates tasks beyond its internal capabilities or scope, and to ensure compliance with fiscal guidelines and regulations, they follow the procurement process established by the LRGVDC, acting as fiscal agents for the RGVMPPO. Fernando informed the members that on January 8th, the RFP subcommittee evaluated three proposals submitted by consultants, and the resulting scores were available in the meeting packet for review.

Pharr Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez sought clarification on the nature of "Safe Streets for All".

Eva Garcia provided an explanation of "Safe Streets for All", detailing it as a safety action plan funded by the new BIL funding. The plan aimed to create a regional strategy to address safety concerns, with a focus on reducing fatalities and serious injuries on roads through data analysis and recommendations for implementation.

Chairman Fuentes inquired about the anticipated timeline for the study.

Fernando Cantu responded that the study was expected to last for one year, with completion by the end of December. He further explained that following the study, they intended to leverage its findings to pursue actual construction funds by identifying eligible road projects and programs within local entities.

Chairman Fuentes emphasized the importance of maintaining communication with local leaders throughout the process.

Fernando Cantu assured Chairman Fuentes that the subcommittee was currently responsible for this task, with scheduled quarterly meetings with the policy board.

Ambrosio Hernandez asked if the RGVMPPO had previously collaborated with the selected contractor.

Fernando Cantu confirmed that they had worked with the contractor on other SS4A grants in the past.

Chairman Fuentes sought confirmation on the expected delivery date for the project deliverables.

Fernando Cantu confirmed that the deliverables were expected by December.

Chairman Fuentes inquired about the competitiveness of the grant.

Fernando Cantu explained that while they were successful in securing planning funds, competition for construction dollars could be challenging due to larger MPOs.

Chairman Fuentes inquired about the granting agency.

Eva Garcia clarified that the granting agency was the USDOT, and eligibility for construction funds required a safety action plan to be in place.

**Chairman Commissioner David Fuentes opened the floor for questions before entertaining a motion to approve the item. Pedro Alvarez from TxDOT moved to approve, and Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez from the City of Pharr seconded the motion. Chairman Fuentes thanked everyone, and the item passed.**

#### **E. Executive Session**

A. Personnel Matters Pursuant to Section 551-074 (1) to Deliberate the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee

**Motion to proceed to executive session.**

**Motion to reconvene into Open Session was made by City of Mission's mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza and was seconded by San Benito's mayor Ricardo "Rick" Guerra.**

B. Reconvene into Open Session for **NO ACTION** for Executive Session as Described above.

#### **V) PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS**

##### **A. Request for Donation of Promotional Items for Public Outreach**

Fernando Cantu began by referencing 23 CFR § 645.117, which prohibits Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) from seeking reimbursement for advertising or promotional items as part of their outreach activities. He emphasized the importance of finding alternative means to support and enhance public outreach efforts. He highlighted the significance of seeking donations of promotional items that can effectively engage and attract the public during community outreach events. He explained that these items serve as valuable tools to increase awareness about the organization's mission and services. He mentioned that collected donations would be distributed at outreach tables to capture the attention of event attendees and initiate conversations. Fernando urged members to contact Adriana Estrada (aestrada@rgvmpo.org) to make the necessary arrangements.

**B. GIS Data Requesting**

Fernando Cantu addressed the members, stating that they were seeking to update the City Limit and ETJ boundary data. He emphasized the importance of having the most up-to-date data for planning the Rio Grande Valley's future transportation needs. Fernando requested all planning partners to provide the data, preferably in GIS Format, and if not available, in PDF format. He highlighted the significance of these vital datasets and encouraged members to visit the RGVMPPO UMAP online interactive mapping tool. Fernando urged the members to notify the office of any discrepancies identified to facilitate the amendment of data for accuracy. He concluded by stating that staff is requesting GIS data from all municipalities to provide elected officials with the most updated information. Fernando directed members to email updates to Alma Provencio (aprovencio@rgvmppo.org).

**C. RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates**

Luis Diaz provided an update on the RGVMPPO's budget highlighting that they are well below the expected expenditures for the fiscal year since it started in October.

No questions were raised.

**D. TxDOT Project Status Report**

TxDOT Pharr Area District Staff provided a detailed project status presentation.

Details for each area are included within the agenda packet.

**VI) OTHER BUSINESS (OLD OR NEW)**

**VII) New or Unfinished Business**

none

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to come before the RGVMPPO TPB Members, Chairman Commissioner David L. Fuentes called the meeting adjourned at 2:23pm.*

ATTEST:

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RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN

