

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

**Wednesday, February 26, 2025 – 1:30 PM**

**Presiding: Chair Commissioner Ellie Torres (Hidalgo County Pct. 4)**

**I) Call to Order**

Chair Hidalgo County Commissioner Ellie Torres called the Transportation Policy Board meeting to order at 1:32 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. Ellie Torres (Chair) – PRESENT Comm. Everardo Villarreal (Alternate) -
City of Brownsville	Mayor John Cowen (Vice-Chair) – PRESENT Comm. Pedro Cardenas (Alternate)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. Com. David A. Garza (Alternate) - PRESENT
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) - PRESENT Michelle Rivera (Proxy)
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) - PRESENT Comm. Daniel “Dan” Diaz (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza (Designee) – PRESENT Asst. City Manager Juan Pablo “JP” Terrazas (Alternate) - PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Mayor Norma Sepulveda (Designee) - ABSENT City Manager Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Designee) Maria Rangel (Proxy) - PRESENT
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) - ABSENT Reyna Guerra (Proxy) -
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (Designee) Tom Goodman (Proxy) – PRESENT
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) – PRESENT Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	Robert L. Lozano (Designee) – PRESENT Ezequiel Reyna Jr. (Alternate)
Valley Metro	Tom Logan (Designee) - PRESENT Nancy Sanchez (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) - PRESENT Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO Executive Director	Michael Medina
Caso Law Firm	Jose Caso
Troutman Pepper Locke	Brian L. O’Reilly – virtual presence
RGVMPO Staff	

**III) PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**IV) ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEM**

**A. Approval of minutes for January 15, 2025.**

**Presenter:** Commissioner Ellie Torres (RGVMPO Chair)

**Pedro Alvarez from TxDOT made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Norie Gonzalez-Garza from the City of Mission. The item was unanimously approved.**

**B. Consideration and Action regarding the FY2025-2027 TASA Evaluation Scoring Criteria**

The RGVMPO is recommended to the Transportation Policy Board the withdrawal/removal of four (4) of five (5) affected evaluation methods from the scoring criteria.

**Presenter:** Eva Garcia (RGVMPO Planner III)

**A motion to change how projects are evaluated by removing certain scoring methods was made by David A. Garza. The motion was seconded by Mayor Javier Villalobos from the City of McAllen. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**C. Discussion and Action to amend the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan to include non-toll projects of Western Inner Loop Section A1 and Western Inner Loop Section A2 in the unfunded project list with Hidalgo County as the project sponsor.**

**Project Name: Western Inner Loop Section A1**

- Limits: From FM 1016 to FM 2062
- Length: 5.27 Miles
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$142,005,246
- Estimated Right of Way (R.O.W.) Cost: \$19,000,000 Proposed Highway: Non-tolled New Location Expressway

**Project Name: Western Inner Loop Section A2**

- Limits: From FM 2062 to IH-2 (La Joya Relief Route). Length: 7.5 Miles
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$260,924,753
- Estimated Right of Way (ROW) Cost: \$27,016,445 Proposed Highway: Non-tolled New Location Expressway

Request from Hidalgo County to include two non-toll projects in the unfunded project list.

**Presenter:** Hidalgo County and the City of Mission

**A motion was made by Robert L. Lozano with Hidalgo County RMA to table the item with the direction to return within 30 days with an opinion from TxDOT. The motion was seconded by David Garza from Cameron County. The motion passed.**

**D. February 2025 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Revision Cycle**

Request for a recommendation to approve projects for submission to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Revision Cycle.

**Presenter:** Rudy Zamora Jr. (RGVMPO Transportation Planner II)

**A motion was made by Pedro Alvarez from TxDOT to approve projects for submission to the STIP Revision Cycle. The motion was seconded by Tom Logan from Valley Metro. The motion passed.**

**E. Discussion and Action on Adoption of Federal Performance Measures IN Resolution 2025-02 and Resolution 2025-03.**

Request for adoption of Federal Performance Measures under Resolutions 2025-02 and 2025-03.

**Presenter:** Shana Bricker (RGVMPO GIS Specialist I)

**A motion for approval of Resolution 2025-02 and Resolution 2025-03 was made by mayor Javier Villalobos from the City of McAllen. The motion was seconded by David Garza from Cameron County. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**V) PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS**

**A. Executive Director's Report**

1. Announcement of Planning (PL) Project Call
2. TAC Subcommittee Update

**Presenter:** Michael Medina (RGVMPO Executive Director)

**B. TxDOT Letter(s) of Support for Federal Grant Applications**

**Presenter:** Dora E. Robles (TxDOT Pharr District Advance Transportation Planning Director)

**C. TxDOT Project Status Report**

**Presenter:** TxDOT Pharr District TP&D Staff

**D. Project Status Report**

- 1. Hidalgo County RMA**
  - a) Ramon Navarro IV (HCRMA Chief Construction Engineer)
- 2. Cameron County RMA**
  - a) Eric Davila (CCRMA Chief Development Engineer)
- 3. Transit Report**
  - a) Gennie G. Garcia (Brownsville Metro Deputy Director)

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business to come before the RGVMPO TPB Members, Chair Ellie Torres called the meeting adjourned at 3:03pm.*

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN**

