

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

Wednesday, December 2, 2020  
At  
11:00 AM

## Microsoft Teams Minutes

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held VIA WebEx and called to order by RGVMPPO Bike/Ped Specialist Eva Garcia, at 11:04 AM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

RGVBPAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

BPAC MEMBERS:	
Entity	Individual
Bicycle / Ped Health Advocate	Rose Gowen (Chairperson)
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael McNew (Vice Chairman)
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza PRESENT
	Antonio Zubieta (Alternate)
City of Edinburg	Larry Ayala (Designee)
City of Harlingen	Andy Vigstol (Designee) PRESENT
	Javier Mendez (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Marlen Garza (Designee) PRESENT
	Martina Mejia (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Cynthia Garza (Designee)
	Maria Rangel (Alternate)
Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge	Christine Donald (Designee)
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department – Estero Llano Grande	Javier De Leon (Designee) PRESENT
TxDOT	Craig Wuensche (Designee) PRESENT
	Joseph E. Leal(Alternate)
Valley Metro – B-Cycle	Juan Macias (Designee)
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo (Designee) PRESENT
Bicycle World RGV	Ana Adame (Designee)
Citizen At-Large	Eudenia "Eudy" Carrillo (Designee)
Museum South Texas History	Rene A. Ballesteros (Designee) PRESENT
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Richard Cavin (Designee)
Bicycle / Pedestrian Citizen At-Large	Michael Padgett (Designee)
STAFF	
RGVMPPO	Andrew A. Canon
	Luis Diaz
	Rudy Zamora
	Eva Garcia
NON-MEMBERS	
ATG	Lee Miller

### III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE

### IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of November 4, 2020

Eva Garcia asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of November 4, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of November 4, 2020, Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen) made a motion to approve minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche (TxDOT Pharr District) and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

#### B. Discussion Regarding ATG Active Transportation Plan

- **TAC adopted plans on November 19, 2020**

Eva Garcia informed the Members that the Technical Advisory Committee adopted the three plans, including the Active Transportation Plan, recognizing that they were still in the Public Comment Period and that the necessary changes would be included in the final plan(s).

- **Public Involvement Period Ends December 4, 2020**

Reminder that there is still time to submit comments, until Friday, December 4, 2020. Mr. Lee Miller advised that there was a link in Eva's last email to the members. Eva then included the link for everyone in the Teams Chat. Mr. Miller encouraged everyone to leave any comments necessary for the final document, and then advised that he was present to answer any questions the members may have. Mr. Andrew Canon then informed the BPAC that the only comments he received included a cursory review from the federal partners, Greg Wood and Jose Campos, and were happy with the plan at the high level review. Eva Garcia gave one final reminder that not only the ATP were available for review, but also the Transit Development Plan and the 2045 MTP. Mr. Canon also emphasized the importance of feedback for all the three plans as these documents have a direct impact on the community.

#### C. Discussion on TxDOT Traffic Safety Program

- **Potential regional grant proposal ideas**

Eva Garcia informed the BPAC that she had spoken to a few communities about a regional grant that aims to support the target and strategies of the Texas Highway Safety Plan (HSP). Ms. Garcia shared that the application would require a problem statement, documentation of data, a proposed solution that addressed the problem through a comprehensive approach. The project should have objectives, an action plan with activities and performance measures. Ms. Garcia shared that she was reviewing a few plans for considerations for the proposed program/project: Texas Highway Safety Plan Goals, the RGVMPPO ATP, the USDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, and other regional needs. The review of these documents would allow for an alignment of goals and therefore highlight the strategies and activities that should be pushed forward.

- **Deadline for Proposal Submission: January 6, 2021**

Mr. Andrew Canon shared a performance measure for vehicle accidents and asked if they are proposing numbers or if we are. Ms. Garcia shared that we would be proposing performance measures in the application. Mr. Andy Vigstol spoke to the need for a standard of design guidelines for active transportation facilities but recognized it was in the ATP and that this grant might not be the best opportunity for it. Mr. Vigstol also informed the group that this grant and safety initiatives were usually handled internally by the Harlingen Police Department who have their own grant team. Mr. Vigstol additionally supported a proposal for staff trainings for project development and management training. Mr. Joel Garza shared that, while with the Harlingen-San Benito MPO, they worked with the Cities and their Police Departments to host several Bike Rodeos and gave out helmets, bike lights, etc. It was an educational component for the public to address issues like riding on the wrong side of the road or against traffic. Mr. Garza was not sure if we could do a two-County similar initiative but suggested adding a public education component to the grant application. Mr. Canon chimed in that Hidalgo County did something similar, though the pandemic might make it difficult. He felt we might not be able to develop one event, but several throughout the region. Additionally, Mr. Canon shared that Mr. McNew did a phenomenal job doing a one-on-one training for students at schools. Ms. Garcia agreed some public educational events could be included with some officer training and project development training, maybe with some problem identification activities. Mr. Canon also mentioned that the LRGVDC's Mayor Walk

would also be an opportunity to either record elected officials for a safety video and/or provide resources to the public that would increase safety while cycling (i.e. helmets, lights, reflective gear, etc.).

Ms. Eva Garcia advised that the grant requires a 20% match. Mr. Garza asked if the cities would have to provide that match. Mr. Canon answered that he had just discussed it with Ms. Garcia and he considered going to both Counties with a rate by population to provide the match.

Mr. Garza, Mr. Canon, and Ms. Garcia agreed a comprehensive application that included training activities and public education activities was supported.

## V. PROJECT UPDATES

- **TX FLAP Bahia Grande Trail Feasibility Study**

Eva Garcia advised that the meetings with municipal, county, and federal officials had kicked-off and that Federal Highway Administration Central Federal Lands Division would be contracting the consultants who would be overseeing the Study, and that they would be bi-lingual.

- **VBLF Battlefield Trail Extension Ribbon-Cutting was on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**

Joel Garza wanted to share that there was a successful virtual ribbon cutting for the Battlefield Trail Extension, which ties into the Bahia Grande Trail Feasibility Study and thanked for the participating partners.

- **TASA Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect in the RFP Phase for hiring PE consultants**

Mr. Garza additionally shared that the City of Brownsville was working on this phase to connect to Los Fresnos, stating that they were wrapping up the RFP process to hopefully have someone contracted by Spring 2021

- **VBLF/TPWD Los Fresnos Hike and Bike Trail Phase I began construction**

Mr. Garza recognized that the City of Los Fresnos did not have a representative on the BPAC, but that he knew that construction would soon be beginning on their Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation project.

- **TPWD Los Fresnos Hike and Bike Trail remaining phases has open RFP for PE consultants**

Mr. Garza shared that Los Fresnos was also working on the remaining phases of the connection – Craig Wuensche chimed in that Los Fresnos was also going through their RFP process for hiring preliminary engineering services for the remaining phases.

- **VBLF Harlingen Arroyo Trail Extension projected to begin construction near the New Year**

Andy Vigstol informed the BPAC that the contractors had been procured for the construction of the Extension and a pre-construction meeting was held. The City of Harlingen is working with TxDOT on some items near the BUS 77 tie-in, but should be beginning construction in the next couple of weeks.

## VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **City of McAllen TrailMoments Public Service Announcement** – Eva Garcia shared the video produced by the City of McAllen to encourage their residents to use the trails and share their stories.
- **U.S. DOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan** – Eva Garcia shared the United States Department of Transportation put out the first of its kind Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and highlighted the statistics from the plan.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Andy Vigstol (City of Harlingen) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:38 AM. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche (TxDOT Pharr District), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.