

Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday October 24, 2025 – 1:30 PM
Presiding: Chair Commissioner Ellie Torres (Hidalgo County Pct. 4)

Call to Order

Chair Hidalgo County Commissioner Ellie Torres called the Transportation Policy Board meeting to order at 1:00P.M., and a quorum was established. The Meeting was held in person with members present.

Roll Call

RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board Representatives in attendance were as follows:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
Hidalgo County	Comm. Ellie Torres – PRESENT Comm. Everardo Villarreal (Alternate)
City of Brownsville	Mayor John Cowen (Vice-Chair) – PRESENT Comm. Pedro Cardenas (Alternate)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. - PRESENT Com. David A. Garza (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) City Manager Isaac Tawil (Alternate) - PRESENT
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) - PRESENT Tomas Reyna (Proxy) – PRESENT
City of Mission	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza (Designee) Assistant City Manager Juan Pablo “JP” Terrazas - PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Mayor Norma Sepulveda (Designee) - ABSENT City Manager Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate) – PRESENT
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) - PRESENT Tom Goodman (Proxy)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) - PRESENT Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	Robert L. Lozano (Designee) Ramon Navarro (Proxy) - PRESENT
Valley Metro	Tom Logan (Designee) - ABSENT Nancy Sanchez (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) - PRESENT Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
EX-OFFICIO	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
Others Present:	
RGVMPO Executive Director	Michael Medina
Caso Law firm	Jose Caso
RGVMPO Staff	

PUBLIC COMMENT:
NONE

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Approval of minutes for September 24, 2025.

Presenter: Chairperson

Pedro “Pete” Alvarez of TxDOT Pharr District made a motion to approve the minutes with a correction to item 3; presenter should be Melany Rodriguez, MPO staff. The motion was seconded by Cameron County and passed unanimously with correction.

2. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute a memorandum of understanding agreement for the distribution of Eco-Counter equipment between RGVMPPO and the following municipalities.

- City of Brownsville
- City of Elsa
- City of Harlingen
- City of McAllen
- City of Mission
- City of Pharr
- City of Primera
- City of San Benito

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Pedro “Pete” Alvarez made a motion to approve item as presented. The motion was seconded by mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra from the City of San Benito. The item was unanimously approved.

3. Consider authorizing the chair to Sign Resolution 2025-13 and approval of the amendments to the November Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Judge Eddie Trevino from Cameron County made a motion to approve item as presented. The motion was seconded by mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra from the City of San Benito. The item was unanimously approved.

4. Consider authorizing approval of out-of-state travel to Tampa, Florida for MPO employees to participate in FHWA-FTA Transportation Planning Capacity Building Peer Exchange between Nov. 17-19, 2025.

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Frank Parker, Jr. from Cameron County RMA made a motion to approve item presented. The motion was seconded by Judge Eddie Trevino, Jr. from Cameron County. The item was approved.

5. Consider approval of out-of-state travel for MPO employees to attend the 2026 Transportation Research Board Annual Conference in Washington, DC, on January 11-15, 2026.

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Pedro “Pete” Alvarez from TxDOT Pharr District made a motion to approve item as presented. The motion was seconded by Ramon Navarro from Hidalgo County RMA. The item was approved.

6. Nominate and elect Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board.

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Judge Eddie Trevino Jr. from Cameron County moved to nominate Mayor John Cowen for Chairperson of the Board. The motion was seconded by City Manager Isaac Tawil from the City of McAllen. The motion to approve the nomination passed. Mayor John Cowen was elected Chairperson.

7. Nominate and elect Vice-Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board.

Presenter: RGVMPPO Staff

Commissioner Ellie Torres from Hidalgo County moved to nominate City of McAllen Manager Isaac Tawil for Vice-Chairperson of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mayor for the City of Mission Norie Gonzalez Garza. The motion to approve the nomination passed. City Manager for McAllen Isaac Tawil was elected Vice-Chairperson.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

8. MPO Reports

- A. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Comment Period
- B. Project Readiness Report
- C. Category 10 Carbon Reduction Program call for projects
- D. Technical Advisory Board Appointment

9. Agencies Reports

- A. TxDOT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

10. **Closed Session:**

None

11. **Open Session:**

None

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Ellie Torres with Hidalgo County made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Pedro “Pete” Alvarez with TxDOT Pharr District. Adjournment at 1:57 p.m.

Minutes Approved as to content: December 5, 2025