

**Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 1:30 PM**  
**Presiding: Chair Mayor John Cowen**

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Mayor John Cowen 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.

**2. Roll Call**

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

<b>Members Present:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
City of Brownsville	Mayor John Cowen (Chair) – PRESENT Comm. Pedro Cardenas (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) City Manager Isaac Tawil (Alternate) – PRESENT
Hidalgo County	Comm. Everardo Villarreal (Designee) Judge Richard F. Cortez (Alternate) - PRESENT
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. - PRESENT Com. David A. Garza (Alternate)
City of Edinburg	Mayor Omar Ochoa (Designee) - PRESENT Tomas Reyna (Proxy) - PRESENT
City of Mission	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza (Designee) Assistant City Manager Juan Pablo “JP” Terrazas - PRESENT
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Designee) Maria Rangel (Proxy) – PRESENT
City of Harlingen	Mayor Norma Sepulveda (Designee) City Manager Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate) – PRESENT
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (Designee) - PRESENT Tom Goodman (Proxy)
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) Reyna Guerra (Proxy) - PRESENT
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) - PRESENT Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	Robert L. Lozano (Designee) - PRESENT Ramon Navarro (Proxy)
Valley Metro	VACANT (Designee) Nancy Sanchez (Alternate) - ABSENT
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
RGVMPO Staff	

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
**NONE**

## DISCUSSION AND ACTION

4. Approval of minutes for December 5, 2025.

**Presenter:** Chairperson

**Pedro “Pete” Alvarez requested a correction to the minutes to record Rex A. Costley (TxDOT) as present. Additionally, Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. noted that his entity was incorrectly listed as Hidalgo County and requested a change to Cameron County. Judge Treviño then moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Reyna Guerra (Starr County) and carried unanimously with requested changes.**

5. Discussion, consider and possible action approving amendments to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, 20250 Metropolitan Plan, and 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the February 2026 Revision Cycle.

**Presenter:** TAC Chair and RGVMPO Staff

**City Manager Isaac Tawil from McAllen made a motion to approve item as presented. The motion was seconded by Pedro “Pete” Alvarez from TxDOT Pharr District. The item was unanimously approved.**

6. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to approve a resolution of the development of the Texas Evaluation Prediction Tool for the RGVMOP, and to consider the project for future funding.

**Presenter:** TAC Chair and RGVMPO Staff

**Judge Eddie Trevino Jr. from Cameron County made a motion to approve item as presented. The motion was seconded by City Manager Isaac Tawil from the City of McAllen. The item was unanimously approved.**

7. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to approve a resolution to participate in FY2026 STBG (Surface Transportation Block Grant) Partnership.

**Presenter:** TAC Chair and RGVMPO Staff

**City Mayor from Edinburg, Omar Ochoa made a motion to approve item as presented. The motion was seconded by Isaac Tawil from the City of McAllen. The item was unanimously approved.**

8. Discussion, consideration, and possible action to approve the quarterly update to the RGVMPO’s Project Readiness Report.

**Presenter:** TAC Chair RGVMPO Staff

**Isaac Tawil from the City of McAllen made a motion to approve item. The motion was seconded by Reyna Guerra from Starr County. The item was approved.**

## REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

9. Discussion on the development of a strategic transportation funding plan.

**Presenter:** RGVMPO Staff

**10. MPO Reports**

- A. Public Participation Plan.
- B. Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities – Section (FTA) 5310 Program Management Call for Projects Update.
- C. Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program.

**11. Agencies Reports**

- A. TxDOT

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**12. Closed Session:**

None

**13. Open Session:**

N/A

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment at 2:41 p.m.**

**Minutes Approved: February 18, 2026**