

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

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 11:00 AM

Via Microsoft Teams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held VIA Microsoft Teams and called to order by RGVMPPO Planner III, Eva Garcia, at 11:02am

II. ROLL CALL

RGVBPAC Representatives **PRESENT:**

| Organization/Agency | Voting Membership | Alternate Voting Member |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Caracara Trails | Chair <i>Commissioner Dr. Rose Gowen</i> | Adrienne Wheatly |
| At-Large | Vice-Chair <i>Michael McNew</i> | |
| City of Brownsville | Frank Gudino | <i>Joel Garza</i> |
| City of Edinburg | <i>Larry Ayala</i> | <i>Valentin Sanchez</i> |
| City of Harlingen | Andy Vigstol | <i>Javier Mendez</i> |
| City of McAllen | Marlen Garza | Rosvel Hinojosa |
| City of Pharr | Omar Anzaldua | <i>Maria Rangel</i> |
| City of Weslaco | <i>Omar Rodriguez</i> | <i>Rebecca de la Fuente</i> |
| TxDOT Pharr District | <i>Joseph Leal</i> | Craig Wuensche |
| Valley Metro | <i>Frank Jaramillo</i> | <i>Tom Logan</i> |
| Museum of South Texas History | Rene A. Ballesteros | |
| Bicycle World RGV | Ana Adame | |
| TPWD Estero Llano Grande SP | Javier de Leon | Kelly Malkowski |
| USFWS Santa Ana NWR | Christine Donald | <i>Imer de la Garza</i> |
| At-Large | <i>Eudenia "Eudy" Carrillo</i> | |
| At-Large | Richard Cavin | |
| At-Large | <i>Michael Padgett</i> | |

Other Attendees:

- Kathleen de Gennaro, Texas Sea Grant
- Horacio Garza, RGV B-Cycle
- Jim Carillo, HALFF Assoc.
- Sarai Garcia, City of McAllen
- Sarah Dierlam, LRGVDC

RGVMPO Staff:

- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Rudy Zamora, Planner II
- Melany Rodriguez, Planner I
- Javier Dominguez, Planner I
- Chris Nelson, Planner I
- Nick Cousineau, GIS Specialist I
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE.

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. **Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of August 4, 2021**

Eva Garcia, RGVMPO BikePed Program Coordinator, presented the Minutes of August 4, 2021. BPAC Member Frank Gudino (City of Brownsville) made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 4, 2021. The motion was seconded by Omar Anzaldua (City of Pharr) and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

B. **Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Minutes of September 1, 2021**

Eva presented the Minutes of September 1, 2021. BPAC Member Frank Gudino (City of Brownsville) made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 1, 2021, with the recommended changes. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche (TxDOT) and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

C. **Discussion & Possible Action regarding RGV Bicycle & Pedestrian Count Data Program**

Eva shared a list of municipalities/trails that were allocated for eco-counters and introduced RGVMPO Planner I Chris Nelson. Chris provided BPAC Members with a program update and shared that some information on the installed counters was still needed – specifically, the wiring/directional details. Chris shared that we were working on getting all the information to share with Eco-Counters to set up the Eco-Visio API. Additionally, Chris advised the participating municipalities that he would be emailing the MOU Amendments for consideration/signatures. Members were given the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. **No action was taken.**

D. **Discussion & Possible Action regarding RGV B-Cycle BikeShare Program**

Horacio Garza, Regional Bikeshare Coordinator with the LRGVDC, shared that he and Executive Analyst, Sarah Dierlam, manage RGV B-Cycle. Horacio provided BPAC Members with the history of the program, sharing that the program expanded from McAllen (8 stations) and is now also available in Harlingen (4 stations) and Brownsville (5 stations). There are a total of 17 stations with 110 bikes. Membership options include hourly (\$2), daily (\$6), weekly (\$15), monthly (\$30) or annual (\$65). Riders can pay through the mobile app or the station kiosks to check out a bike. Horacio reported on membership sales for the last 4 months, and rider trips in 2021. Bikeshare goals include reduce transportation costs, increase overall physical activity, improve quality of life, attract new riders/visitors to explore the RGV, and provide affordable access to recreational activities for families. RGVMPO BPAC Members provided their thanks and input to Horacio on his presentation. One shared idea was to consider the potential of bundling transit passes with bikeshare membership. **No action was taken.**

E. **Discussion & Possible Action regarding the RGVMPO BPAC Membership**

Eva reviewed the updates to the RGVMPO BPAC Membership website and showed which members needed to identify alternates.. It was presented that the BPAC had the following membership vacancies:

- Economic Development Agency (1)
- Pedestrian-Oriented Agency (2)
- Advocate Agency (2)
- Bicycle-Oriented Agency (1)

BPAC Members were notified that a Membership Application was received from David Warren Hernandez, who is the Valley Off-Road Bicycling Association (VORBA) Founder/Director. BPAC Member Richard Cavin (Citizen At-Large) made a motion to approve Mr. Hernandez's membership application to serve a two-year term on the RGVMPO BPAC. As a representative of VORBA, Mr. Hernandez will be filling the Bicycle-Oriented Agency vacancy. The motion was seconded by Rene Ballesteros (Citizen At-Large) and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

F. Discussion and Possible Action regarding RGVMPPO Category 9: TASA Program Funds

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator, provided members with an update on all RGV TASA funds and projects. Eva reviewed the federal process for TASA funds and gave a high-level overview of the process from application to project development. Eva then provided status updates on funding from FY2017 to the recently awarded project. She highlighted that a resolution to re-program funds would be presented to the RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board, and that the City of McAllen's Jackson Rd. Hike and Bike Trail Project was being recommended to ensure the obligation of funds. Sarah Dierlam, LRGVDC Executive Analyst shared with BPAC members that LRGVDC is actively looking for other grant opportunities/funding sources to continue to expand the regional bikeshare program (with B-Cycle as the provider) that is still relatively cost-friendly for municipalities. **No action was taken.**

V. PROJECT UPDATES

A. Frank Gudino, City of Brownsville, notified members that the **West Rail Trail** and **Southmost Nature Trail** received Letters to Proceed and will be procuring construction/contractor services soon.

B. Adrienne Wheatly, Caracara Trails, notified members that the **Bahia Grande Feasibility Study** is currently soliciting public input via an interactive map (www.caracaratrails.org). The Study is expected to be completed April 2022.

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

A. BPAC Members brought up the continued interest to have in-person meetings, potentially hybrid. This will be considered as an item for the next BPAC meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the BPAC Committee, Frank Gudino (City of Brownsville) made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:59 AM. The motion was seconded by Craig Wuensche (TxDOT), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.