

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

Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 11:00 AM

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held in-person at the UTRGV Center for Innovation & Commercialization, and virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Eva Garcia, Planner III: BikePed Program Coordinator, at 11:01 A.M.

**II. ROLL CALL**

RGVBPAC Representatives **PRESENT:**

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

**Other Attendees:**

- Rodney Gomez, UTRGV
- Horacio Garza, RGV BCycle

- Rick Carrera, LRGVDC
- Sarah Dierlam, LRGVDC

**RGVMPO Staff:**

- Andre Canon, Executive Director
- Luis Diaz, Assistant Director
- Melany Rodriguez, Planner I
- Javier Dominguez, Planner I
- Christopher Nelson, Planner I

- Rodolfo Zamora, Planner II
- Juan Pena, GIS Specialist I
- Miguel Arispe, GIS Specialist II
- Gloria Banda, Executive Assistant
- Eva Garcia, Planner III Bike/Ped Program Coordinator

BPAC Minutes Approved  
August 3, 2022

III. CITIZENS INPUT – NONE.

IV. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION, AND ACTION ITEMS

A. **Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of April 6, 2022**

Eva Garcia, RGVMPPO BikePed Program Coordinator, presented the Minutes of April 6, 2022. BPAC Member Frank Gudino made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 6, 2022. The motion was seconded by Rene Ballesteros and upon a vote; the **motion passed unanimously**.

B. **Consideration and Action to support a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) project proposal for the Bahia Grande Trail**

Eva Garcia gave RGVMPPO BPAC members a brief history of the Bahia Grande Trail, sharing that the project was identified as one of six catalyst projects in the Lower Rio Grande Valley Active Transportation and Active Tourism Plan. In 2019, Brownsville successfully applied for a TX FLAP grant for the Feasibility Study of the proposed 21-mile trail that would connect four communities and to Cameron County's South Texas Eco-Tourism Center.

Eva outlined some of the key takeaways from the Feasibility Study and shared that the 2022 Call for Projects (occurs every 3 years) was now open for new applications. The RGVMPPO is interested in applying for the full design and partial construction of the Bahia Grande Trail, which would be supported by \$1.5 million of USFWS funds to use as match for a potential project application. Frank Gudino shared that the City of Brownsville supports this project and emphasized its regional impact, connecting to communities of Port Isabel, Laguna Vista and Los Fresnos. Rick Carrera, LRGVDC, asked how much was going to be applied for and Eva responded the cost is being developed.

Frank Gudino made a motion to support the RGVMPPO's application. The motion was seconded by Javier De Leon and upon a vote; **the motion passed unanimously**.

C. **Consideration and Action regarding the RGV Active Transportation Facility Inventory**

Eva Garcia shared that RGVMPPO Staff had worked on developing a webpage for the initiative and gave a step-by-step demonstration of how to submit data changes. Eva emphasized that now was the time to submit new data, including proposed active transportation facilities, and promote the website to get more information. Rene Ballesteros commented that a flyer would be helpful, something shareable and visually shares information. Rick Carrera, LRGVDC, asked how we could integrate this initiative/map into some of the existing platforms in the region. He recommended that when the facility inventory is 50-70% complete it could be promoted for use. Rene suggested that Staff go to different cities with maps of what they have and ask what is missing from the inventory.

**No action was taken.**

D. **Consideration and Action regarding the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative**

Eva Garcia reviewed the grant objectives and advised members that the quantity of helmets for distribution was reduced from 2,725 to 1,505 due to a higher cost per unit than was originally estimated. Eva shared that the bike lights and helmets had been procured though, and were estimated to arrive mid-July. Tentative dates for the law enforcement officer trainings and project manager trainings were set for late July. Currently, the venue, training agendas, and speakers were being finalized. Additionally, Staff was in the process of determining how the distribution of materials would occur throughout the region.

**No action was taken.**

E. **Presentation and Discussion regarding the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Program Updates**

Eva Garcia presented some new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) guidance that changed some of the federal requirements around the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) program. Specifically, one BIL provision, requires that the MPO must provide adequate public involvement throughout the development of a competitive process. Additionally, the competitive process should include the prioritization of project location and impact in high-need areas as defined by the State, such as: low income, transit dependent, rural or other areas. Frank Gudino asked if transit data was going to be added to the RGVMPPO's UMAP, which had been used for the last program call.

**No action was taken.**

**V. PROJECT UPDATES**

- Eva Garcia advised members that the Los Fresnos North High School Park Connection was approved to revise the project limits due to a constraint of space o

**VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

A. The revised RGVMPPO BPAC membership application has been revised and the website regarding membership was updated to include the new Call for Members.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to come before the Committee, Frank Gudino made a motion to adjourn meeting at 11:50 A.M. The motion was seconded by Javier De Leon, and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**