

MINUTES

Meeting of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGV MPO) Policy Committee

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 1:30 pm
LRGVDC Main Campus
301 W. Railroad Street
Building B, Ken Jones Executive Board Room
Weslaco, TX 78596

Presiding: Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (Mayor City of Pharr)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:41PM. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Committee Meeting was held at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board Room, 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and present were representatives from each respective entity and a quorum was declared.

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez (Chairman)
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman)
Hidalgo County	Com. Eddie Cantu
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez
City of McAllen	Mayor Jim Darling
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ricard Molina
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell
City of San Benito	Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr.
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda, Jr.
Valley Metro	Tom Logan
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez
EX-OFFICIO	
LRGVDC	Ron Garza
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon

III. Public Comment

NONE

IV. Presentation, Discussion and Action Items:

A. Adoption of Minutes From:

January 27, 2020

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 27, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of January 27, 2020; Mayor Armando O’Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020; as presented by staff. Tom Logan (Valley Metro) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration and Discussion Regarding 2021-2024 TIP Timeline

Andrew Canon provided a Draft of the 2021-2025 STIP Timetable to Policy Board Members for their review and noted in preparation

of the 2021-2024 TIP and revisions to the current 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Staff is asking for submittals of new or revised projects for consideration. All submittals must be completed with the attached TIP/MTP form as developed by staff and approved by the Policy Board. The following timeline will be used for the 2021-2024 TIP Timeline develop and will be posted on RGVMPPO Social Media for reference purposes. This Timeline will include (3) three Regional Public Meetings and have board adoption in advance of the deadline for submittal to TxDOT.

TIMELINE:

February 18	Call for Projects for 2021-2024 TIP and MTP revisions opens.
March/April	Three (3) Regional Public Meetings will be held, location/time TBD.
March 12	TAC Meeting, any submitted projects will be discussed for consideration.
March 25	TPB, Policy Board will review submittals and discuss as warranted.
April/May	Series of workshops to be held for ranking and reviewing projects within the TIP/UTP horizon.
May 14	Project Call closes and TAC will review and make final adoption
May 27	Projects will be submitted to TPB for review and final adoption
June 22	Deadline for RGVMPPO staff to upload all adopted projects to the eSTIP Portal

No further discussion took place on the 2021-2024 TIP Timeline, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

C. Discussion on Holding a Workshop for the Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process

Luis Diaz noted that Staff will be conducting a workshop on the Thoroughfare Plan to gather input and provide an opportunity for TAC Members to further discuss this subject. Staff will be sending out a survey with possible dates to better accommodate members' schedules.

Main topics to be discussed:

- Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process
- Amendment Submittal Form
- Thoroughfare Plan Resources
- Samples of Resolutions
- Policy Board Approval Process
- Commissioner Court Approval Process

Luis Diaz concluded his presentation by noting, the current Thoroughfare Plan Data can be viewed online VIA online interactive mapping tool UMAP on the RGVMPPO website WWW.RGVMPPO.ORG. Staff is available for assistance in navigating or utilizing the UMAP online map, please feel free to reach out to Staff.

No further discussion took place on the Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Workshop Process, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

D. Discussion on Holding a Workshop for the Performance Measures Status and Off System Project Scoring Process

Andrew Canon noted that Staff will also be conducting a workshop on Performance Measures and Off System Project Scoring Process to gather input and provide an opportunity for TAC Members of the committee to discuss this subject further. Staff will be sending out a survey with possible dates to better accommodate this workshop to TAC Members' schedules.

Main topics to be discussed:

- FHWA requirements/background
- Use of Decision-Lens
- Examples from other MPO's
- Off-system Scoring Sheet
- Assistance from ATG with project selection process

Andrew Canon noted that if members have any updates on current projects, send those to staff as soon as able; so that staff can have those updates included as part of the Workshop.

No further discussion took place on the Performance Measures and Off System Project Scoring Process Workshop, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

E. Discussion on Functionally Classifying Projects

Luis Diaz noted that Staff is conducting a review of Functional Classification GIS Data in relation to projects funded on the 2045 MTP. Staff will be coordinating with entities who have projects identified on the MTP that are not Functionally Classified to initiate the process of Functionally Classifying those projects.

Luis Diaz concluded and noted that the current Functional Classification network can be viewed online VIA online interactive mapping tool UMAP on the RGVMPPO website WWW.RGVMPPO.ORG. Please feel free to reach out to staff for assistance navigating or utilizing through the UMAP online map.

No further discussion took place on the Functionally Classifying Projects, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

F. Discussion on the Revised TASA Application

Rudy Zamora noted that Staff have prepared the application and scoring criteria for the upcoming 2021-2022 Transportation Alternatives Program TAP (TASA) Call for Projects. There are some revisions which are highlighted in RED to the TASA Application. The timeline consisting of workshop date, beginning of project call, deadline for submittals, and review/approval process will soon be comprised and shared accordingly. Included in this packet is the TASA application, that will be shared with TAC and Policy Board members, as well as posted on the RGVMPPO website, once approved. The scoring criteria, once approved, will be utilized when ranking submitted projects during the selection process by the BPAC, and then submitted to the TAC and finally to the Policy Board Members for their final approval.

Rudy Zamora concluded by noting that any revisions to the TAP (TASA) Application needs to be sent to staff by March 2, 2020.

No further discussion took place on the TASA Application process, Policy Board Members present acknowledged report as presented by staff.

V. RGVMPPO Executive Directors Reports and Updates

A. Financial Update

Andrew A. Canon gave an update on the RGVMPPO Budget and noted “still below budget” Year-To-Date. **Report filed with Policy Packet.**

B. Consultant Update (As Needed) -NONE

C. Project Development Workshop – Scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020

Andrew A. Canon reminded Policy Board Members present that the Project Development Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020 and will be held at the Ken Jones Boardroom from 9:00 AM to 12 (Noon). Please note there is seating for only two (2) per local government.

D. TxDOT Forum – San Antonio – RGVMPPO Staff Attended – February 9-11, 2020.

Andrew A. Canon noted that staff attended the 2020 Texas Transportation Forum held February 9-11, 2020 in San Antonio. Participants received a welcome from TxDOT Executive Director James Bass and Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Robert Nichols touch based on key transportation topics and the importance in the legislative arena. Also recognized were several transportation leaders who have contributed in a meaningful way over time to advance transportation priorities in their communities.

- James M. Bass, TxDOT
- Veronica Beyer, TxDOT
- Bill Hale, TxDOT
- The Honorable Robert Nichols, Texas Senate

E. TxDOT Commission Meeting – Austin – February 26-27, 2020

Andrew A. Canon notified Policy members present that he will be heading out to attend the TxDOT Commission Meeting scheduled in Austin and leaving right after the Policy Meeting.

F. TEMPO Meeting – Georgetown – March 13, 2020) Quarterly Meeting)

Andrew A. Canon noted that he and couple of staff members will be attending the TEMPO Meeting scheduled in Georgetown on March 13, 2020.

G. Consideration and Discussion of the “Governance & Guidance” Board Workshop

Staff noted that the Board Retreat is still in the planning stages, and will be looking into locations and dates and TxDOT’s guidance on what funding will be used towards the Board Retreat.

VI. Status Report

A. TxDOT Project Status Report (Action Taken as Required)

Mr. Gabriel Villarreal and Mr. Daniel Paredes with (TxDOT) were recognized and updated the Policy Board Members on TxDOT’s current projects and activities in the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. **(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

B. Cameron County RMA

Pete Sepulveda was recognized and updated the Policy Board Members present on Cameron County RMA’s current activities. **(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Ramon Navarro was recognized and updated the Policy Board Members present on Hidalgo County RMA’s current activities. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet).*

D. Regional Transit (Metro)

Frank Jaramillo, Valley Metro was recognized and updated the Policy Board Members present on the three (Metros) current activities *(Reports filed with RGVTPB Packet).*

VII. New or Unfinished Business

Starr County Merger – TxDOT informed Policy Board Members, that a meeting was held with Starr County Representatives to answer any questions or concerns and what the next steps are regarding the possible merger with RGVMPPO. Starr County Representatives did request that staff provide the process and documents that were used by Cameron County during their Merger. Andrew Canon noted that he would coordinate these efforts with Starr County, TxDOT and FHWA and provide some guidance and clarification on the process and as always staff is here to assist however, we can.

Andrew Canon noted that staff will be providing Starr County Representatives the following documents:

- 1) MPO submits a formal letter to TxDOT requesting the boundary expansion (presenting evidence that the area will be urbanized within the next (20) years).
- 2) The Transportation Policy Board is required to approve a Resolution of Support for the boundary expansion. TxDOT/TPP receives the resolution along with minutes of the Transportation Policy Board meeting in which the resolution was approved.
- 3) Maps of the current and proposed MPO Boundary are submitted.
- 4) A copy of the new Bylaws are submitted to TPP showing how the new areas would be represented/or no need for further representation on the Board due to the new area (city or town) to be included in the boundary already be represented by the county, etc.).
- 5) Resolutions of support by the communities/cities to be included in the new boundary.
- 6) This information will then be used to put together a memo, which along with all documentation are then submitted by TxDOT to the Governor’s Office for approval.
- 7) Submittal for recommendation by the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee.

Census 2020 Questionnaire– Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman) reminded everyone that **April 1, 2020 is Census Day**, a key reference date for the 2020 Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. When responding to the census, your answers are kept anonymous. They are used only to produce statistics. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Census 2020 is the most important thing that we can be doing as a region. “Don’t forget to fill out the 2020 Census Questionnaire”.

RGVMPPO Assistant Director – Andrew Canon introduced Luis M. Diaz as the new Assistant Director. Mr. Diaz has been with the MPO for over 8 years.

Thank You Ron Garza – Special recognition was given to Mr. Ron Garza for his outstanding work as Executive Director for the LRGVDC for the past (4) four years. Mr. Garza has accepted a position with the City of Edinburg as the new City Manager.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn at 2:45 PM. Mayor Richard Molina (City of Edinburg) made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Armando O’Caña (City of Mission) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST: _____
RGVMPPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN