

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

At

1:30 pm

Web Ex Meeting

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM, a quorum was established. The Rio Grande Valley MPO Policy Committee Meeting was held as a WebEx Meeting with members present.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and present were representatives from each respective entity:

| Members Present: | |
|----------------------|---|
| Entity | Individual |
| City of Pharr | Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez (Chairman) |
| Cameron County | Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman) Com. David A. Garza (Alternate) |
| Hidalgo County | Com. Eddie Cantu |
| City of Brownsville | Mayor Trey Mendez Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (Alternate) |
| 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 (Absent) |
| 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 | |
| RGV Partnership | Sergio Contreras |
| Others Present: | |
| RGVMPO | Andrew Canon |

III. Public Comment

NONE

IV. Presentation, Discussion and Action Items:

A. Adoption of Minutes From:

April 29, 2020

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of April 29, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of April 29, 2020. Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to approve the minutes of April 29, 2020; as presented by staff. Mayor Armando O’Caña (City of Mission) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration and Action to Approve the Off-System Project Evaluation Form

Andrew Canon noted that a second Workshop was held on April 15, 2020 via WebEx to further discuss and revise form as recommended by TAC Members in attendance. Staff recorded all recommendations from the Technical advisory Committee and amended the Off-System Project Scoring Form. The Revised form was presented to the Technical Advisory Committee and Alliance for final tool preparation. Staff is seeking final approval to adopt the revised form for future Off System Project Scoring by the Policy Committee.

No further discussion took place on the Off-System Project Evaluation Form as presented by staff, Frank Parker, Jr. (Cameron County RMA) made a motion to approve the Off-System Project Evaluation Form as recommended by the TAC Committee. Mr. Pete Alvarez (TxDOT) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration and Action to Approve Functionally Classification Projects

Andrew Canon noted that staff received two projects request from Hidalgo County Pct.#1 to be Functionally Classified as follows:

SH 495 Extension Sections

Section One:

From: FM 1423

To: FM 493

Section Two:

From: FM 493

To: Mile 6 Rd

FM 1925 Extension Sections

Section One:

From: FM 2221

To: 3.1 Miles North

Section Two:

From: Jarachina Rd.

To: 8.6 Miles East (New Location)

After some discussion on this item, Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) made motion to approve the two Functionally Classifying Projects as submitted by Hidalgo County Pct#1, contingent upon receiving the two new Classifications as recommended by staff. Mayor Amos Hernandez (City of Pharr) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2020-07 Functional Classification Projects

This item was covered under Item "C" and approved contingent upon receiving the two new Classification as recommended by staff. No discussion took place on this item.

E. Discussion Regarding the 2021-2024 TIP Development and Project Reviews

Andrew Canon provided a Draft of the 2021-2024 TIP Timeline 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), TAC Members revisited the projects on the list through several meetings and workshops in hopes to finalize their recommended ranking and funding allocations. CAT 7 has no further additional funding and total 2021-2024 MTP funding is approximately \$25 million vs. 300 Million being requested. The list will be further evaluated with consideration of project scope and readiness, funding policy and TAC members' technical and professional judgement related to the projects. Staff concluded by letting Policy Members know, staff will be working closely with the TAC Committee to revisit the projects on the list to finalize their recommended ranking and funding allocation. Staff concluded by informing Policy Members that Public Involvement to start in June 2020.

TxDOT reminded Policy Members present that there is "NO" additional CAT 7 Funding available and total 2021-2024 MTP funding is approximately \$25 million with no further funding. Entities need to recognize that it is imperative that updated estimates and schedules on project status are available; 2) Update the first (4) four Years of the TIP Projects identified to determine whether its fully funded and ready to move forward; 3) Possible having projects swap depending on the status of the projects and; 4) Finally it is imperative that Project Development be communicated with RGVMPPO and with TxDOT from each entity.

Chairman Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez noted that CAT 7 "Construction" only projects need to start moving forward and discuss at the next Policy Meeting and see what the status is for each city's' projects.

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

F. Discussion on the 2021-2024 TIP Development Workshop

No discussion took place on this item.

V. **RGVMPO Executive Directors Reports and Updates**

A. **Financial Update**

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

B. **Consultant Update (As Needed)**

2020 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Signal Optimization Intersections-Update

Andrew Canon noted that CoPlan Representative is conducting Signal Optimization throughout the Region, however; its being slow due to the COVID19. Staff noted that the contract will probably be extended due to the COVID 19, but no additional money will be requested, only to extend time frame. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

C. **Staff Updates**

RGVMPO Staff - Andrew Canon informed Policy Members that both the LRGVDC and RGVMPO Staff continue to work from home. RGVMPO have two Groups A and B which alternate until further notice.

ATG Consultant – Second meeting was held with Bill Frawley with ATG regarding Staff Matrix. Final presentation will be provided to the Policy Board in July 2020. Valley Metro to investigate expansion of the current Transit building, which will allow for additional office space, for additional RGVMPO Staff.

VI. **Status Report**

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

Ms. Nayely Parra and Mr. Hector Sillier with (TxDOT) were recognized Via WebEx and both individuals provided an update on TxDOT’s current projects and activities in the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

B. **Cameron County RMA**

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via WebEx on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

C. **Hidalgo County RMA**

Ramon Navarro provided an updated presentation Via WebEx on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. All projects are continuing to move forward. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

D. **Regional Transit (Metro)**

Jon Ray Bocanegra provided a brief updated report Via WebEx and noted, combined Ridership for (B-Metro, Island Metro, McAllen Metro and Valley Metro) was at 213,080 for the month of March 2020. B-Metro purchased (5) Hybrid Diesel-Electric Transit Buses which rolled out and placed in service on March 30, 2020. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

Jon Ran Bocanegra also informed Policy members that Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15) announced a \$9,572,032 Federal Grant Award for the City of McAllen Transit System. Metro McAllen received \$9 million in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds through the CARES Act. The grant funds will pay for operating, administrative, and preventive maintenance costs to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenses will include salaries, fuel, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, project administration costs.

FTA has allocated \$25 billion to recipients of urbanized area and rural area formula funds, with \$22.7 billion to large and small urban areas and \$2.2 billion to rural areas. Funding will be provided at a 100-percent federal share, with no local match required, and will be available to support capital, operating, and other expenses generally eligible under those programs to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked the other two (Valley Metro, B-Metro, and Island Metro) to apply as well for this Federal Grant Award. Both B-Metro and Valley Metro acknowledged request from the Chairman.

VII. **New or Unfinished Business**

LRGVDC Executive Director – Congratulation Manuel Cruz, new LRGVDC Executive Director

Liberty Road – Mayor Armando O’Caña (City of Mission) requested an update on Liberty Road on behalf of the City of Penitas. TxDOT noted that a full update will be provided at the next Policy Meeting.

VIII. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn at 2:14 PM. WebEx Meeting. Pedro Alvarez (TxDOT) made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Jim Darling (City of McAllen) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN