

# MINUTES

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

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

At

1:30 pm

Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

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

**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Eddie Trevino, Jr. noted that Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez was running a little late, and he would be conducting the Policy Meeting, until he calls in. Vice Chairman Eddie Trevino 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 Microsoft Teams 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) Com. Eleazar Guajardo – Alternate
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman) Com. David A. Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Com. Eddie Cantu (Designee) Com. David Fuentes (Alternate)
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez (Designee) Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Jim Darling (Designee) Roy Rodriguez (City Manager) Alternate
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ricard Molina (Designee) Comm. David White (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña (Designee) Comm. Jessica Ortega-Ochoa (Alternate)
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell (Designee) Dan Serna (City Manager) Alternate
City of San Benito	Mayor Benjamin Gomez - Designee Manuel De La Rosa (Alternate)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr. (Designee) Arturo A. Nelson (Alternate)
Hidalgo County RMA	S. David Deanda, Jr. (Designee) Ramon Navarro, V (Proxyc)
Valley Metro	Tom Logan (Designee) Frank Jaramillo (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez (Designee) Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras (Designee)
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz

**III. Public Comment**  
NONE

**IV. Presentation, Discussion and Action Items:**

**A. Adoption of Minutes From:**

*June 24, 2020*

*Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of June 24, 2020. No corrections were noted to the minutes of June 24, 2020. Mayor Armando O’Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the minutes as presented by staff. Mayor Richard Molina (City of Edinburg) seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

**Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez asked Andrew Canon to take over presentation of items.**

**B. Consideration and Action on Resolution 2020-08 Regarding Category 7 Projects (TABLED)**

Andrew Canon and Judge Trevino discussed the tabling of this item and the need to send back to TAC for a re-evaluation and possible scheduling of a workshop.

**Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez (City of Pharr) made a motion to have 2020-08 Resolution CAT 7 Project presented to the TAC members once again for further consideration. The motion was seconded by Mayor Richard Molina (City of Edinburg); and upon a vote, the motion passed.**

**C. Consideration and Action to Approve TASA Funding for UTRGV**

Andrew Canon addressed TASA funding that was rescinded by the City of Elsa and potential awarding of such funds to UTRGV. The University is ready to move forward with their respective project and match any additional funds as needed. The BPAC and TAC have approved the awarding of these funds to UTRGV and approval is needed by the Policy Board today.

**Mayor Molina from the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve and the City of Brownsville seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2020-13 Functional Classification Projects**

Staff noted that CCRMA have submitted projects to be Functionally Classified as Principal Arterial and Major Collector **(Resolution Provided for Approval).**

Andrew Canon described the Cameron County projects seeking functional classification and noted that staff is seeking approval for recommendation of such projects to TXDOT.

**Judge Eddie Trevino motioned to approve the recommendations and Mayor Cris Bosswell seconded that motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. Discussion and Review on the Updated Federal Functional Classification Material**

Staff provided MTP Amendment #3 for review and approval.

Andrew Canon described how staff is working with TXDOT to update federal classification material. Staff is asking for any recommendations and will continue to share updates with TAC and Policy Board Members.

**The discussion was acknowledged.**

**F. Consideration and Action on TTI Case Study Update**

Bill Frawley shared information through a detailed presentation regarding the RGV MPO staffing study conducted by TTI. Through an inter-agency agreement with TXDOT, federal agencies fund projects like this as a service for MPOs. This is routinely conducted for other MPOs and after the merging of previously existing MPOs in the RGV area, a staffing study was recommended.

Mayor Boswell asked a question pertaining to the current staffing scenario and the budget availability. Andrew Canon answered with an explanation of the existing staff situation and budget availability for hiring of new employees. Pete Alvarez from TXDOT Pharr District asked a question regarding the demand of staff size within larger MPOs vs. smaller MPOs. Bill Frawley addressed the needs and workloads covered by larger MPOs and the necessary structure and staffing recommendation for such organizations. Pete Alvarez explained the functionality of larger MPOs with the appropriate amount of staff and key points regarding projects in the region.

Mayor Molina asked a question regarding the amount of personnel operating within previous existing MPOs within the region. Andrew Canon responded with staffing totals from all 3 previously existing MPOs.

Andrew Canon described praise given by FHWA regarding the tasks performed through the merger process and how staff continues to work with guidance from the Policy Board and TTI in preparation for federal certification.

**Frank Parker (CCRMA) motioned for acknowledgement and that was seconded by Pete Alvarez. The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. Discussion and Review on the Need Assessment Memos - ATG**

Andrew Canon described the memos provided by ATG included in the Policy Board packet. These memos serve as guidance through the development of the RGVMPPO long range transportation plan.

Mayor Boswell noted the current comment period referencing these memos is currently open and board members can still submit suggestions if necessary. Andrew Canon exclaimed how ATG is doing a great job in keeping track of all comments and will continue to do so. Mayor Boswell added that the City of Harlingen will be submitting comments.

**Mayor Molina motioned to acknowledge the discussion and that was seconded by Pete Alvarez. The motion carried unanimously.**

**H. Discussion and Review of National Highway System (NHS) Modification Recommendations**

An update will be presented to the TAC and staff is reviewing projects and criteria pertaining to the NHS system. He added that this process is something that staff is very familiar with and has completed this process over previous years. Updates will be brought to the Policy Board once staff has completed the exercise.

Pete Alvarez commented on TXDOT's review of such projects and how limitations are present when addressing roadways being placed on the NHS.

**Motion to acknowledge was made by Pete Alvarez and seconded by Ramon Navarro. The motion carried unanimously.**

\*Andrew Canon announced combined upcoming Policy and TAC meetings: November 19 for TAC and December 10 for Policy Board if approved. Transportation plans will be up for approval during those meetings.

**Motion to approve by Armando Ocana and seconded by Mayor Boswell for approval of calendar dates. The motion carried unanimously.**

\*Announcement was made by Andrew Canon regarding interviews with Policy Board members required for Federal Certification during the month of December.

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

**A. Financial Update - (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

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

**C. Staff Updates – NONE**

**VI. Status Report**

**A. TxDOT Project Status Report (Action Taken as Required) - (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

**B. Cameron County RMA - (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

**C. Hidalgo County RMA - (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

**D. Regional Transit (Metro) - (Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)**

**VII. New or Unfinished Business**


- Andrew Canon recognized an over budgeted amount of over \$52 million in CAT 7 has been programmed into the 10-year horizon of the UTP. Staff will be working to rearrange projects in the meantime, until further updates are received regarding future funding availability. Pete Alvarez commented about the current COVID 19 situation and budget cuts due to taxes & revenue and referenced previous years' financial differences. He continued to reference budgets at the local level, relating the current situation with transportation funding.

**Judge Trevino acknowledged the suggestions.**

**VIII. Adjournment**

*There being no further business to come before the Policy Board, Vice Chairman Judge Eddie Trevino called for a motion to adjourn the WebEx Meeting. HCRMA made a motion to adjourn and Pete Alvarez seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

  
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**RGVMPO POLICY BOARD  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN**