

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

Wednesday, May 26, 2021, At 1:30 pm

## MINUTES

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 Board Meeting was held at the Ken Boardroom located at 301 West Railroad, Weslaco, Texas with members present.

**II. Roll Call**

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

<b>Members Present:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
City of Pharr	Chairman Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Vice Chairman) Comm. David A. Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. Eddie Cantu
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez
City of McAllen	Mayor Jim Darling
City of Edinburg	Mayor Richard Molina
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O’Caña
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo “Rick” Guerra (ABSENT)
Cameron County RMA	Frank Parker, Jr.
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro, V. (Proxy)
Valley Metro	Tom Logan
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro “Pete” Alvarez
<b>GUEST</b>	
<b>Texas Secretary of State</b>	Ruth R. Hughs
<b>City of Roma</b>	Mayor Jaime Escobar, Jr.
<b>City of Roma</b>	Alejandro Barrera
<b>Rio Grande City</b>	Noe Castillo
<b>Rio Grande City</b>	Mayor Joel Villarreal
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

**III. Public Comment**

NONE

**1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes From:  
April 28, 2021**

*Chairman Hernandez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of April 28, 2021. No corrections were noted to the minutes of April 28, 2021. Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the minutes of April 28, 2021; as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Darling (City of McAllen); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) noted that the opportunities (CAT 2 & 7) funding is limited but with the “Trade Fair” there is that possibility. However, Policy Board members should keep in mind the Region should include the following: 1) Projects need to be Shovel Ready; 2) Fiscal Constraint; and 3) Have a Comprehensive Update.

Mr. Alvarez noted that at the time of the Merger, a total of \$29 Million was received for CAT 2 and CAT 7 for the region, however still not enough for all the projects within the RGVMPPO.

Mayor Medina (City of Edinburg) for the record noted as per staff and the Policy Board understanding, the amount to be repaid in FY2026 by RGVMPPO CAT 7 Cameron County Sub-Region is going to be **\$14,578,845**, with no interest accumulated throughout the years.

Staff response was “ABSOLUTELY”, REPAYMENT IN FY2026 TO NCTCOG WILL BE \$14,578,845 without any interest accumulated throughout the years.

**After further discussion on this time, Commissioner Garza (Cameron County) made a motion to approve the “Trade Fair” Partnership with NCTCOG as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cantu (Hidalgo County); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

### **2.3. Discussion and Possible Action of Re-Designation Amendment**

Staff noted that A Re-designation Agreement is required by law to effectuate the consolidation of MPOs and it currently being reviewed. The amended Re-Designation is needed to define the Composition of the Policy Board and needs to be executed by the Governor, documents will be revised as per the Policy Board to include Starr County and presented again to both TAC / Policy Committees at the June TAC Meeting. Staff recommends tabling this item.

Chairman Hernandez thanked Mayor Boswell for his assistance with the Re-Designation Revisions of the documents.

*No discussion took place on this item, Mayor Boswell (City of Harlingen) made a motion to Table the “Re-Designation Amendment” as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

### **2.4. Discussion on 2021-2024 STIP Timeline Update**

Staff provided the STIP Timeline and MTP/TIP amendment to Policy Members present. FHWA is currently reviewing the STIP and should be finalized by May 2021 and will be awaiting word on whether there will be a STIP Revision in August 2021. Staff is seeking an update from TxDOT on the next steps in the process and how this will impact the TIP/MTP update/amendment timeline.

TxDOT reply was that all is moving as scheduled but should there be any revisions, TxDOT will be reaching out to RGVMPPO Staff.

*No further discussion took place on this item, this item was for informational / reporting purposes only.*

### **2.5. Discussion and Update of Federal Certification Review from 2020**

The primary purpose of a certification review is to formalize the continuing oversight and day-to-day evaluation of planning process. The certification review process, which is conducted jointly by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), ensures that the planning requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134(k)(5) and 49 U.S.C. 5303 (k)(5) are being satisfactorily implemented and all major transportation issues are being met.

*Staff noted that this item is not ready to be presented to the Policy Board, due to the final document not been received by FHWA.*

**D. Regional Transit (Metro)**

Jon Ray Bocanegra with McAllen Metro provided an updated report for all (3) Three Transit Providers that are currently within the Hidalgo/Cameron Regions. Details values on ridership could be found within the RGVTPB Packet. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS (OLD OR NEW)**

- Census Numbers how is it going to affect funding for the RGVMPPO
- Mr. Sepulveda offer to join efforts with RGVMPPO Staff on developing a presentation regarding the merger and funding needs.
- TxDOT – Mark Williams, new Executive Director to start June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**VII. Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2021, at 1:30 pm at the Ken Jones Boardroom.**

*No further discussion took place Chairman Hernandez ask for a motion to adjourn. Mayor Darling (City of McAllen) made a motion to adjourn the Policy Meeting at 2:45 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN**