

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

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, At 1:30 pm

MINUTES

Presiding: Chairman Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Cameron County)

I. Call to Order

Chairman Eddie Treviño, Jr. 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:

Members Present:	
Entity	Individual
Cameron County	Judge Eddie Treviño, Jr. (Chairman) Com. David Garza (Alternate)
Hidalgo County	Comm. David L. Fuentes (Vice-Chairman) Comm. Ellie Torres (Alternate)
Starr County	Judge Eloy Vera (Designee) (ABSENT) Comm. Raul Pena, III (Alternate)
City of Brownsville	Mayor Trey Mendez (Designee) Nurith Galonsky-Pinana (Alternate)
City of Edinburg	Mayor Ramiro Garza (Designee) Comm. Daniel "Dan" Diaz (Alternate)
City of Harlingen	Mayor Chris Boswell (Designee) Gabriel Gonzalez (Alternate)
City of McAllen	Mayor Javier Villalobos (Designee) CM Roy Rodriguez (Alternate)
City of Mission	Mayor Armando O'Caña (Designee) Comm. Jessica Ortega- Ochoa (Alternate)
City of Pharr	Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez (Designee) (ABSENT) Comm. Daniel Chavez (Alternate)
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo "Rick" Guerra (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. (Proxy)
Valley Metro	Maribel Contreras (Designee) Jose Luis Silva (Alternate)
TxDOT Pharr District	Pedro "Pete" Alvarez (Designee) Rex A. Costley (Alternate)
EX-OFFICIO	
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
GUEST	
Others Present:	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes From: *January 19, 2022*

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 19, 2022. No corrections were noted to the minutes of January 19, 2022. Mayor O’Caña (City of Mission) made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman – Comm. David Fuentes (Hidalgo County); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion and Action on Adopting Safety Targets Established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) and Resolution 2022-03

Staff is seeking approval to support the 2022 Safety Targets as adopted by TXDOT. Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act requires the implementation of Performance Measures to assist in the transportation planning process. TxDOT has adopted its Strategic Highway Safety Plan and has established targets for 5 Safety Performance measures. The RGVMPO TPB had chosen to support the State’s safety performance previously for 2018 through 2021. Staff is seeking approval of the 2022 TxDOT Safety Performance Targets with a Resolution 2022-03 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff.

No discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA); to approve Adopting the Safety Targets Established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and Resolution 2022-03 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Garza (City of Edinburg), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion and Action on 2021 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments and Resolution 2022-04

Luis noted that the RGVMPO performs an Annual Amendment process towards the Rio Grande Valley Thorough Fare Plan Map. The RGV Thoroughfare Map serves a collection of all ROW designations and reservation of facilities of a ROW of 80’ or above. Staff presented the revised 2021 Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment, supported by Resolution 2022-04, and noted that this item was present to the TAC Committee, and they are recommending approval to the Policy Board.

No discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Vice Chairman – Comm. David Fuentes (Hidalgo County); to approve the 2021 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment and Resolution 2022-04 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Garza (City of Edinburg), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and Action on Federal Functional Classification Requests and Resolution 2022-05

Staff provided and presented projects requesting Federal Functional Classification of East Loop CSJ. Federal legislation continues to use Functional Classification in determining eligibility for funding under the Federal-Aid Program. Transportation agencies describe roadway system performance, benchmarks, and targets by functional classification. As agencies continue to move towards a more performance-based management approach, functional classification will be an increasingly important consideration in setting expectations and measuring outcomes for preservation, mobility, and safety. Staff is seeking approval of the Federal Functional Classification request and Resolution 2022-05 as presented by staff and recommended by TAC Committee.

No discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA) to approve the Federal Classification Request and Resolution 2022-05 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action on the FY2019-2020 TASA Program and Resolution 2022-06 to Approve Amendments to PSLA Tri-City Pedestrian Safety Improvements Phase II (CSJ 0921-02-432).

Staff informed Policy Members present that staff continues to review and monitor projects that have been awarded TASA funds. Through the project development process, some challenges and changes have been discussed. Staff and TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with the RGVMPO's policymakers and transportation professionals.

To ensure regional FY 2019 funds are obligated by September 2022, Staff recommends the approval of Resolution 2022-06. The City of Pharr, as the project sponsor, has been coordinating with the cities of San Juan and Alamo. Both communities support the changes to the project. Staff is seeking approval of the FY2019-2020 TASA Program and 2022-06 Resolution as recommended by the TAC Committee.

No further discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Mayor O'Caña (City of Mission) to approve the FY2019-2020 TASA Program and Resolution 2022-06 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman – Comm. David Fuentes (Hidalgo County), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and Action on the Draft 2023 UTP CAT 2 Projects

TxDOT provided an update on a Table for the Cat 2 Projects in the 2022 UTP, projects have shifted out a year due to fiscal constraint and/or project development. These changes are represented by the red text on the table provided. (See Attachment).

The Funding used was based off the 2022 UTP since 2023 UTP funding targets have not yet been provided. Updated information was available in mid to late February and the TAC Committee is recommending approval of Draft 2023 UTP CAT 2 Projects to the Policy Board.

After some discussion on this item, Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT) a motion to approve the Draft 2023 UTP CAT 2 Projects as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by HCRMA and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion on GIS Data Requests

Fernando Cantu noted that staff is looking into updating City Limits and ETJ Boundary Data. Staff would like to take this opportunity to request from all planning partners to please provide the most up to date data preferably in GIS Format; if not available, please provide in PDF format. Deadline to submit: March 4th, 2022

Staff concluded by letting Policy Members know that these vital data sets will allow the MPO to plan for the RGV's future transportation needs. Please take a moment to visit our online interactive mapping tool RGVMPO UMAP and please keep in mind that if any data discrepancies are identified; please notify our office to allow us to work amending data to reflect most accurately.

No action on this item required.

8. Discussion on Updates for the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6 – Project Update Workshop

Rudy Zamora informed Policy members present that update on the FY 2023-2026 Highway & Transit TIP tables will undergo development prior to submitting to TXDOT TP&P for review. All projects selected for inclusion within the new TIP will require an update. The RGVMP MTP will also need project updates and must be adjusted to account for inflation.

Existing projects (whether programmed into TIP or MTP years) and new projects will require submission of an update. The RGVMP MTP Project Update Form can be found on our website and a link will be provided via to the TAC meeting packet. Discussion has held with TAC members on approving a date and time for conducting a workshop, the following material may be covered: Project Update Form, Letting Year vs. Current Construction Cost, Advance Funding Agreements, Funding Projects as they Advance into TIP, and a timetable for the FY 2023-2026 TIP approval.

It was the consensus of the TAC Committee to host a workshop to address concerns and provide guidance regarding project updates. Staff did note that a Doodle Poll was sent out, to TAC members and it was the agreed by TAC members to hold the “Workshop March 17, 2022, at 2PM – (Via Microsoft Teams)”.

As a reminder...the TIP/MTP Project Update form can be found on our website, as well as the Category 7 Scoring Form. Staff ask all entities to submit all Project Update forms by February 28, 2022. For Construction phases seeking Category 7 funding, and programming into TIP FY’s 2023-2026, please submit a Category 7 scoring form as well. The deadline for Cat. 7 scoring forms is February 28, 2022.

Both forms can be found on our website at: Rio Grande Valley MPO - Call for Projects (rgvmmpo.org).

No Action on this item required.

9. Discussion on Updates from Federal Highway Administration for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

This item was “TABLED Until the next Policy Meeting.

10. Discussion on a Regional Complete Streets Policy

Chris Nelson noted that staff is seeking feedback on a prospective Regional Complete Streets Policy. The Regional Complete Streets Policy is intended to focus on the incorporation of Complete Streets language into MPO planning documents, including the MTP and TIP. Project scoring criteria related to Complete Streets can be developed and incorporated into the scoring system for proposed projects, thus ensuring projects are more equitable to all users of the transportation network.

According to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), SEC. 11206, MPO’s must use “not less than 2.5% of the amounts made available to the metropolitan planning organization under Section 104(d) of Title 23, United States Code” to carry out Complete Streets planning activities. Complete Streets Policies have shown to decrease the number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities, increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian users on streets, and increase connectivity to key destinations for all users.

Staff concluded by letting Policy members know that staff is currently working with local municipalities on drafting the “Complete Street Policies” to be adopted by both the TAC and Policy Committees.

11. Discussion on MPO Resources for Municipal Complete Streets Policies

Staff is also seeking feedback on providing resources to municipal partners to assist with the development of their own Municipal Complete Streets Policies. Municipal Complete Streets Policies directly contribute to the safety of all transportation system users by improving the design of streets within the city’s limits and ETJ.

As previously mentioned, MPO’s are required to participate in Complete Streets planning activities. Thus far in the region, only two municipalities have adopted Complete Streets Policies, with a third municipality currently working towards doing so. Providing resources, such as a Complete Streets Handbook, can facilitate the adoption of Municipal Complete Streets Policies. Staff noted that the City of Edinburg currently have their “Complete Street Policies” and will be reaching out to the city to request a copy of their Policy.

Commissioner Galonsky-Pinana encouraged Policy Members the importance and benefits of cities adopting and having in place a Complete Street Policy.

Staff concluded by letting Policy members know that Staff will work on a “Complete Street Policy and bring back to the Policy Board for review and approval in the very near future.

No Action on this item required.

12. Discussion on Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) Re-Designations

Staff noted that in coordination with TxDOT the RGVMPPO is reviewing designated Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC). CUFC listing is included in meeting packet. Re-designations of current CUFC have a deadline of March 15th to TxDOT.

As part of the 2023 Texas Freight Mobility Plan development, an opportunity to update the Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC) which become part of the National Highway Freight Network. For the 2018 freight plan, Hidalgo submitted a total of 30.61 miles; in addition, Brownsville was selected for 9.15 miles. The combined mileage figure for the RGVMPPO is 39.76 miles. (Attachment part of the Packet).

Chairman Trevino requested that staff investigate how RGVMPPO (Urbanized Area 1, 2 and 3) can acquire more miles, due to the merger.

Staff will be contacting the appropriate agencies and report back to Policy board on the findings of this request.

No further discussion took place on this item, Chairman Trevino moved on the next item on the agenda.

V. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS’ REPORT AND UPDATES

A. Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the February 2, 2022, Policy Packet.

B. CAT 7 Project Scoring Item Summary – Staff continue to work on the Scoring Project process for Cat 7 and updated information will be shared with Policy Members respectively.

- C. **Texas Transportation Forum - February 6-8, 2022, San Antonio** – Staff attended Texas Transportation Forum, in San Antonio. Several sessions took place and some of the discussion included autonomous delivery, groceries, food and more to your front door, electric vehicles, economic impacts of transportation system, Samsung’s Big Move, and updates from state demographer and etc.
- D. **2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference** – Staff will be attending the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference scheduled May 2-6, 2022, at the Omni in Houston.
- E. **TPB Board Retreat** – Staff will be working on dates; venue and a poll will be sent out to Policy Members on when to host the Board Retreat. More information will be provided at the next Policy meeting.

VI. STATUS REPORT

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

Representative from Hidalgo / Cameron Counties with (TxDOT) provided an updated presentation on current projects and activities within the Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. All projects are continuing to move forward as scheduled. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

B. Cameron County RMA

Mr. Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects continue to move forward as expected. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Mr. Navarro provided an updated presentation 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)

No one from the Regional Transit was available to provide an update. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (OLD OR NEW)

NONE

VIII. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting is scheduled “In Person” for March 30, 2022, at 1:30 pm at the Ken Jones Boardroom.

No further discussion took place, Chairman Judge Trevino ask for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Navarro (HCRMA) made a motion to adjourn the Policy Meeting at 2:10 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:



 RGVMPPO POLICY COMMITTEE
 (TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN