

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

Wednesday, March 30, 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:

<b>Members Present:</b>	
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Individual</b>
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)
<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>	
RGV Partnership	Sergio Contreras
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
<b>GUEST</b>	
<b>Others Present:</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew Canon
RGVMPO	Staff

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

##### 1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes From: *February 23, 2022*

Chairman Judge Trevino asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 23, 2022. No corrections were noted to the minutes of February 23, 2022, Vice Chairman – Comm. David Fuentes (Hidalgo County) made a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Mayor Guerra (City of San Benito); and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

##### 2. Discussion and Action to Approve Resolution 2022-07 for Federal Functional Classification of Russell Road CSJ: 0921-02-362

Staff presented to Policy Members present a request by Resolution 2022-07 of Russell Road CSJ-0921-02-362 to be Federally Functionally Classified. 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 2022-07 of Russell Road CSJ: 0921-02-362 as presented by staff and recommended by TAC Committee.

**No discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Vice Chairman – Com. Fuentes (Hidalgo County); to approve Resolution 2022-07 for Federal Functional Classification of Russell Road CSJ: 0921-02-362 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Judge Vera (Starr County), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**

##### 3. Discussion and Action on Federal Functional Classification Requests and Resolution 2022-08 – Amendment of East Loop CSJ: 0921-06-315

Staff provided and presented a request by Resolution 2022-08 of East Loop CSJ: 0921-06-315 to be Federally Functionally Classified. 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 2022-08 of East Loop CSJ: 0921-06-315 as presented by staff and recommended by TAC Committee.

**No discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Mr. Navarro (Hidalgo County RMA) to approve the Federal Classification Request and Resolution 2022-08 Amending of East Loop CSJ:0921-06-315 as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**

##### 4. Discussion and Action on 2021 Annual Project Listing (APL) for both Highway and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Staff noted that RGVMPPO has reviewed the Annual Project List (APL) set forth by TxDOT which outlines how funds have been obligated in the preceding year, for all Highway and Bicycle / Pedestrian Projects. Staff is seeking approval for continuing the process for overall submittal to TxDOT.

As required by the new transportation bill passed on December 4th, 2015, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act outlines the requirement for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to publish an annual listing of projects for which funds have been obligated in the preceding year including a listing of pedestrian and bicycle projects. From FAST-Act, 23 U.S.C. 134(j)(7)(B), 23 U.S.C. 135(g)(5)(B), 49U.S.C.5303(j)(7)(B), and 49U.S.C.5304(g)(5)(B): "...an Annual Listing of projects, including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, for which Federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year shall be published or otherwise made available by the cooperative effort of the State, transit operator, and metropolitan planning organization for public review.

The listing shall be consistent with the funding categories identified in each metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP).” This provision is intended to increase the transparency of government spending on transportation projects and strategies in metropolitan areas to State and local officials, and to the public at large. Realizing this objective involves promoting accuracy and responsiveness in financial planning and adoption of a proactive approach to sharing information with the public in a meaningful way, at an appropriate time, and in a user-friendly format.

**No discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Vice Chairman Commissioner Fuentes (Hidalgo County) to approve the 2021 Annual Project Listing (APL) for both Highway and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects as recommended by TAC Committee and staff. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA), and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Discussion and Action on the FY2022 Spring CMP**

Staff informed Policy member present that in the past, the RGVMPPO has been responsible for gathering the traffic congestion data on its own. The RGVMPPO has examined the network of roads and highways in the urbanized areas of Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, which is approximately 500 miles of roadways. The scope of this project is to gather data on congestion levels in the urbanized areas of Cameron and Hidalgo County. This CMP network consists of roadways within the RGVMPPO MAB area that are either FHWA functionally classified or identified as a transit route. The information to be gathered, include but is not limited to, the travel times and delays for each identified road segment in the network.

Staff noted that TAC Committee is recommending to the Policy Board to approve CoPlan as the consultant for managing and overseeing the CMP that will provide accurate, up-to-date information on multimodal transportation performance and assesses alternative strategies.

**No further discussion took place on this item, a motion was made by Mayor Mendez (City of Brownsville) to approve the FY2022 Spring CMP 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 Staff Attending the Annual AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium Conference.**

Staff is seeking approval to attend the Out of State Annual AMPO Planning Conference to be held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, on May 16 – 20, 2022. This trip has been approved as part of the 2022-2023 UPWP under TASK 1.5. This annual meeting allow staff an opportunity to coordinate with other Planners and GIS Specialist across the globe on best practices, and innovative initiatives on the horizon. The symposium takes place over the course of two and a half days and consists of multiple roundtable workshops.

**No discussion took place on this item, Mr. Parker (Cameron County RMA) a motion to approve Staff attending the Annual AMPO Planning Tools and Training Symposium Conference as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman – Comm. David Fuentes (Hidalgo County) and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

## **7. Discussion on Updates for the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6**

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 RGVMPPO 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 RGVMPPO 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)”.

Staff did make a request to all entities to submit all their Project Update forms by February 28, 2022. For Construction phases seeking Category 7 funding, and programming into TIP FY’s 2023-2026, the deadline for Cat. 7 scoring forms was also on February 28, 2022.

As a reminder...the TIP/MTP Project Update form were post on our website, as well as the Category 7 Scoring Form. Both forms can be found on our website at: Rio Grande Valley MPO - Call for Projects ([rgvmppo.org](http://rgvmppo.org)).

As a reminder to Policy Member present, staff noted that there is no “ADDITIONAL FUNDING”, however; if other entities wish to swap projects that is an option.

TxDOT did remind Policy member present; please have LG’s reach out to TxDOT Project Managers for assistance on their “Ready to Lett Projects”.

**No Action on this item required.**

## **8. Discussion on Updates from Federal Highway Administration for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Overview of Highway, Transit, and Other**

Javier Dominguez noted that this is the first of many updates from RGVMPPO regarding the newly signed Infrastructure BIL and the verbiage from FHWA and dollar amounts that are allocated on the national and state level to each of the new, expanded, and existing programs.

On August 10th, 2021, the Senate passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, and it was later passed by the House of Representatives on November 5th, 2021. Ten Days later President Biden signed the BIL into Law and this is the first update from the Federal Highway Administration with numbers on the national and state level.

## NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: RAISE

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity
- Deadline: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - This is an annual opportunity FY 22-26
- Award minimum is \$5M in Urban areas
  - This applies to planning grants however there is no minimum award amount for planning grants, therefore planning grants will not be eligible to compete for the full amount of funding available.
- Award Maximum is \$25M and can not exceed this amount
- Projects awarded in 22 have an obligation deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026
  - All funds should be expended by 2031
- Eligible Entities
  - States, a unit of local government, public authority with a transportation function including a port authority, and a transit agency
- Eligible Projects
  - Highway, bridges, public transportation projects, port infrastructure investments, passenger and freight rail transportation projects, intermodal project, certain airport projects, and projects to replace or rehabilitate a culvert or prevent stormwater runoff for the purpose of improving habitat for aquatic species.

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO A RANGE OF RECIPIENTS

Program Examples	State	MPO	Local	Tribe	PA*	Territory	FLMA*
Apportioned Programs (formula)	✓						
Bridge Programs (formula)	✓			✓			
National Electric Vehicle Formula Program	✓		✓				
Safe Streets and Roads for All Program		✓	✓	✓			
PROTECT Grants (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Congestion Relief Program		✓	✓				
Bridge Investment Program (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rural Surface Transportation Grants	✓		✓	✓			
INFRA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
National Infrastructure Project Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Local and Regional Project Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

**After some discussion, Staff concluded its presentation by noting other new and expanded competitive grant programs: Safety, Transit, Climate and Resilience, Bridges, Equity, Raise MPDG, Planning and Project Delivery and Port Infrastructure. Staff are available view phone and emails, if any of the Policy Board members have questions or needs assistance with what was discussed during the meeting.**

### V. RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

- A. **Andrew provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the March 30, 2022, Policy Packet.**
- B. **2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference** – Staff will be attending the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference scheduled May 2-6, 2022, at the Omni in Houston.

- C. **TPB Board Retreat** – RGVMPO Policy Board Retreat is scheduled for Friday, June 3, 2022, Cameron County Amphitheater and Event Center - 53550 Dolphin Cove - SPI  
Andrew noted that the polling is complete and the RGVMPO Policy Board Retreat will be held on Friday, June 3rd at the following facilities. A big “Thank You” to Cameron County for providing this facility to us. Staff is working with Jason Gray, who I know has worked some of our local governments on such retreats. I am attaching some of his materials for your review. As we get closer, we will discuss the menu for lunch and will have that delivered so we can stay focused on our tasks at hand and maximize our time together. I look forward to this, we have wanted to do this since the merger and Covid got in our way. I know nothing but positive paths forward will come from this Board Retreat.

**After some discussion on the Board Retreat invite list, it was the consensus of the Policy Board to also invite the TAC Committee members “Designee and Alternate”.**

**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) was not present to provide his presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. *(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)**

Nancy Sanchez provided an updated report for all (3) Three Transit Providers that are currently within the Hidalgo/Cameron Regions. Ridership’s continue to increase throughout the valley. Details values on ridership could be found within the RGVTPB Packet. *(Report filed with RGVTPB Packet)*

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

**Brownsville Open House & Mixer** – Andrew reminded Policy members of the Open House scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022, between 6PM – 8PM at The Young House located at 500 E. Saint Charles Street – Brownsville.

**VIII. Next Meeting:**

**The next meeting of the RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board Meeting is scheduled “In Person” for April 27, 2022, at 1:30 pm at the Ken Jones Boardroom.**

*No further discussion took place, Chairman Judge Trevino ask for a motion to adjourn. Comm. David Fuentes (Hidalgo County) made a motion to adjourn the Policy Meeting at 2:32 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Costley (TxDOT); and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

  
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RGVMPO POLICY COMMITTEE  
(TPB) VICE CHAIRMAN