

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIRUAL MEETING**

August 11, 2022

I) CALL TO ORDER

Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman (Cameron County) called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The TAC Meeting was held “Virtually”.

II) ROLL CALL

RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
City of Mission	JP Terrazas, Chairman (ABSENT)
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
City of Harlingen	Craig Cook
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Daniel Chavez
City of San Benito	Manny De La Rosa
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
Starr County	Jose Escamilla / Rose Benavidez (ABSENT)
TxDOT Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Jose Luis Silva / Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda / Eric Davila
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro
Brownsville Metro	Simon Ortiz
McAllen Metro	Jon Bocanegra/ Robert De Leon
Port of Brownsville	ABSENT
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
GUEST	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
STAFF	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Emanuel Martinez from the City of Alamo address TAC members present regarding Alternative Transportation “Passenger Train System”. Study shows this kind of transportation will bring additional revenue to the RGV. No discussion took place on this item, Vice Chairman Worsham asked that Staff reach out to Mr. Martinez to provide further information on the status of this Alternative Transportation Passenger Train System Study.

Vice Chairman Worsham, thank Mr. Martinez for sharing this information with the TAC Committee, and moved on to the next item on the agenda as follows.

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:

- June 9, 2022
- July 14, 2022 (Canceled)

Mr. Worsham, Vice Chairman (Cameron County) asked if there were any corrections to the TAC minutes of June 9, 2022.

No other corrections were noted to the minutes of June 9, 2022, TxDOT made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 9, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Pharr and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Presentation on Transportation System Management & Operations (TSMO)

Mr. Samit Deo (Arcadis) with TSMO along with Epi Gonzalez and Gabriel Garcia, provided to TAC member present a short presentation on the strategic approach to proactively improve mobility for all modes of transportation by integrating planning and design with operations and maintenance to holistically manage the transportation network and optimize existing infrastructure.

In recent years, Transportation Systems Management & Operations (TSMO) has played an important role in managing, maintaining, and improving the safety and efficiency of existing roadway infrastructure at both the national and state levels. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has adopted a TSMO vision and mission statement as presented below.

TSMO Vision Statement: Improve safety and mobility for all modes of transportation by integrating planning, design, operations, construction, and maintenance activities and acknowledging all opportunities for innovation.

TSMO Mission Statement: Through innovation, collaboration, and performance-based decision making, transportation facilities are developed, constructed, maintained, and operated cost-effectively, with the end user in mind.

In support of the above TSMO mission and vision statements, the initial “TxDOT Statewide TSMO Strategic Plan” was issued on August 21, 2017, by Michael Chacon (Director, Traffic Operations Safety Division), then revised and released on September 17, 2018. The plan was developed using input from the TxDOT districts and divisions, and a variety of local and regional partner agencies. As a result of the plan, specific objectives and evaluation metrics were defined, at both the Central and District levels, that supports the TSMO mission statement

After some discussion on this item, Vice Chairman Worsham, along with TAC members present acknowledged and thank Mr. Deo’s and his colleagues for their presentation and insight on how to proactively improve mobility for all modes of transportation.

3. Discussion and Action to approve the Federal Functional Classification of International Drive CSJ:0921-26-113 and South Parallel Corridor III – CSJ: 0921-06-257

Luis presented to TAC members present two (2) projects that are requesting Federal Functional Classification as follows:

- **International Drive CSJ: 0921-26-113**
- **South Parallel Corridor III CSJ: 0921-06-257**

As per Federal Legislation, they continue 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 concluded by stating that Resolution 2022-16 will be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration and approval at their upcoming Policy meeting scheduled on August 31, 2022 and will be presented to TP&P and FHWA for their approval as well.

No further discussion took place on this item, City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board the Federal Classification of International CSJ:0921-26-113 and South Parallel Corridor III CSJ:0921-6-257 (Resolution 2022-16) as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County; and upon a vote; the motion passed unanimously.

4 Discussion and Action on the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form

Luis informed TAC members present that the RGVMPPO is presenting amendments to the current Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP 25 Year Plan) Off System Project Evaluation Form with a recommendation for replacement by the Unified Transportation Program (UTP 10 Year Plan) CAT 7 Project Evaluation Form.

Recommendations were also received from the Policy members at their meeting in June to the CAT 7 Scoring/Evaluation Form as follows:

- Scores for Schematic Status, Environmental Status, ROW Status and Utility Status have been adjusted from 5 points max to now be 10 points max per each item.
- Points were adjusted from each of the following from 10 points max to now 5 points max to keep the overall project total as 100 points.
- Access to Transit Facility in Miles
- Access to Existing Pedestrian Facility in Miles (Bicycle/Trail)
- Regionally Significant
- Congestion Reduction
- Access to Pedestrian Facility in Miles (Bicycle/Trail)
- Was modified to now Read Access to Existing Pedestrian Facility in Miles (Bicycle/Trail)
- Contact Name and Email were added to the bottom of the form.

Staff noted that changes were updated accordingly as recommended by Policy Board and sent out for final review to both the TAC and Policy members prior to the monthly meetings.

This scoring process likewise provides a platform to communicate with project sponsors and decision makers about project implications. The process also investigates what conditions a proposed project is improving and asks the sponsor to reflect on why they are submitting the project being reviewed.

The continuity of this process invariably will refine and improve the process by which projects are submitted for consideration as well as the projects themselves. The latest version of the RGVMPPO Off System Project Evaluation Form is reflective of 3 TAC workshops and TPB approval May 27, 2020.

After some discussion on this item, the HCRMA made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board; the Updated CAT 7 Scoring and Evaluation Form with recommendations noted by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of San Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and Action on the RGVMPPO Self- Certification Document – An Administrative Modification

Rudy provided and included RGVMPPO Self-Certification – Administrative Modification document for TAC member's review. Staff noted that TxDOT Planning and Programming reached out to MPO staff requesting modifications to our Self-Certification document. As per all Metropolitan Planning Agencies, concurrent with the submittal of the entire proposed TIP to FHWA and FTA as part of the Statewide TIP approval, the State and the MPO shall certify at least every 4 years that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements. TXDOT TP&P notified all MPO's that revisions within verbiage may need addressing.

This recommendation is regarding compliance with federal regulations and staff is requesting approval of modifications made. Signatures will be required from the TXDOT District Engineer and RGVMPPO Policy Board Chairman. RGVMPPO staff has made the necessary corrections and presented the document within the meeting packet.

TxDOT noted that Starr County if not define in the document, due to it not being an Urbanized Area.

No further discussion took place on this item, City of Harlingen made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board; the Self -Certification – Administrative Modification Document as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of San Benito; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Discussion on Category 7 Funding Requests for Highway Projects

Rudy provided prioritized projects listed within tables combining in the current programming and proposed requests for Category 7 funding. The proposed programming combines annual allocation from the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and carryover funds from FY 2022. RGVMPO staff is seeking discussion on proposed priority project funding for the next amendment to the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) & Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Staff noted that numerous requests were received for additional Category 7 funding for highway projects. The requests included additional funding for Construction, Construction Engineering, Right of Way Acquisition, and Preliminary engineering. Our planning partners prioritized their projects and requests for additional Category 7 funding.

The tables included within the TAC packet list funding requests by fiscal year, current & proposed programming, and a financial breakdown of proposed programming compared to funding availability. The annual allocation allocated to RGVMPO was added to unobligated carryover funds from FY 2022 which produced the available funding amounts for our next programming update.

After proposing the highest priority projects, MPO staff received additional input and recommendations from TxDOT Pharr District staff, incorporating those comments into proposed programming. In addition to the request received, MPO staff is proposing two of the highest scoring and regionally significant projects: Cameron County CCRMA – East Loop - \$20,000,000 and Hidalgo County RMA – IBTC - \$20,000,000

Hidalgo County (Armando Garza) ask who requested IBTC Project, for \$20Million, especially when this project is a \$300 Million project; and requested that a meeting be held with TxDOT, HCRMA and Hidalgo County.

Andrew for the record noted this item is for discussion only with both the TAC and Policy Boards at the next meetings to be held in August.

Vice Chairman Worsham recommended that staff continue this conversation with Hidalgo County on a one-to-one meeting to clarify any misunderstanding regarding IBTC Project/Category 7 fundings.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

7. Discussion and Action on the Adoption of the RGVMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Staff has updated its Public Participation Plan. Significant updates include the addition of Starr County, which is now part of the MPO’s Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB), the updating of the Title VI Complaint form, which is now in English and Spanish, and the inclusion of language solidifying the RGVMPO’s commitment to Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) as an additional method to receive public comments. For the public involvement process for the PPP, a link to the document and a comment card were sent out via email to all TAC members and a notice was posted on the RGVMPO’s social media platforms on July 14th. RGVMPO Staff also contacted ten homeowner’s associations, six apartment complexes, and three manufactured housing parks by July 15th for notification.

Per the Public Participation Plan, adopted on September 25, 2019, the plan is to be reviewed and amended, if necessary, every three years. The document itself is also required to undergo a 45-day public involvement period; to meet this deadline, Staff has updated the plan (to include Starr County) and it will be considered for adoption by the RGVMPO’s Policy Board at the August 31, 2022. Staff concluded that Resolution 2022-17 will also be presented to Policy Committee for Approval on August 31, 2022.

No further discussion took place on this item, City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board; the Public Participation Plan (PPP) as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

8. Discussion on the RGVMPPO Request for Proposal for the FY 2022-2023 Corridor Study of FM509

Staff noted provided a drafted Request for Proposal (RFP) for the FY 2022-2023 Corridor Study of FM509. The RGVMPPO is responsible for gathering the corridor study data on its own. The scope of this project is providing preliminary engineering services for data collection analysis, preliminary drainage analysis, traffic projections, and traffic engineering and operations for FM 509 from US 281 to I-69E in Harlingen, Texas. Items shall include Traffic Data and Projections, Safety Analysis, Traffic and Operational Analysis and Evaluation of Constraints and Feasibility of Implementation.

City Harlingen had a concern regarding the limits within I69 to 77 and requested that those limits be re-evaluated.

Andrew acknowledged City of Harlingen's' request and will be scheduling a meeting with Mr. Cook (City of Harlingen), Mr. Worsham (Cameron County) and TxDOT to clarify limits.

The release date for this RFP is scheduled for Sunday, September 4, 2022. The anticipated award date is Thursday, December 15, 2022. This project is intended to be completed by the end of FY 2023. If the study extends beyond this period, it will require that the obligated funds from the FY 2022-2023 UPWP be carried over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

9. Discussion on the RGVMPPO Request for Proposal for the Performance Management Framework Development and Implementation Study

Staff has drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Performance Management Framework Development and Implementation Study. The RGVMPPO is responsible for developing and establishing a Performance Management framework for its Planning Region.

Staff is seeking to create an effective and efficient framework by contracting with a consultant that should be prepared to perform the following tasks: assessment of current scoring process and program policies, review and synthesis report of regional, state, and federal performance goals and targets, assessment of tools, data, and capacity needed for performance target development and reporting, assessment of eligible funding categories and projects that can be submitted to the RGVMPPO. Develop a report on indicators of expected performance to be used in the development of assessment criteria in support of established goals expertise, develop proposed scoring categories applying to all projects, synthesizing high level goals and data-driven and technical expertise driven inputs – including BIL requirements, and develop recommendations and implementation scheme/toolkit.

The release date for this RFP is scheduled for Sunday, September 4, 2022. The anticipated award date is Thursday, December 15th, 2022. This project is intended to be completed by the end of FY 2023. If the study extends beyond this period, it will require that the obligated funds from the FY 2022-2023 UPWP be carried over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

10. Discussion on the RGVMPPO Request for Proposal for the Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses for MPO's

Staff presented to TAC members present a drafted "Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses" for the RGVMPPO region. The RGVMPPO is responsible for developing and establishing Comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Analyses for the region. The consultant should be prepared to create a resulting report that will outline the methodology used to develop a scalable framework within the MTP update process that allows the MPO to leverage existing processes to analyze sustainability and resilience moving forward.

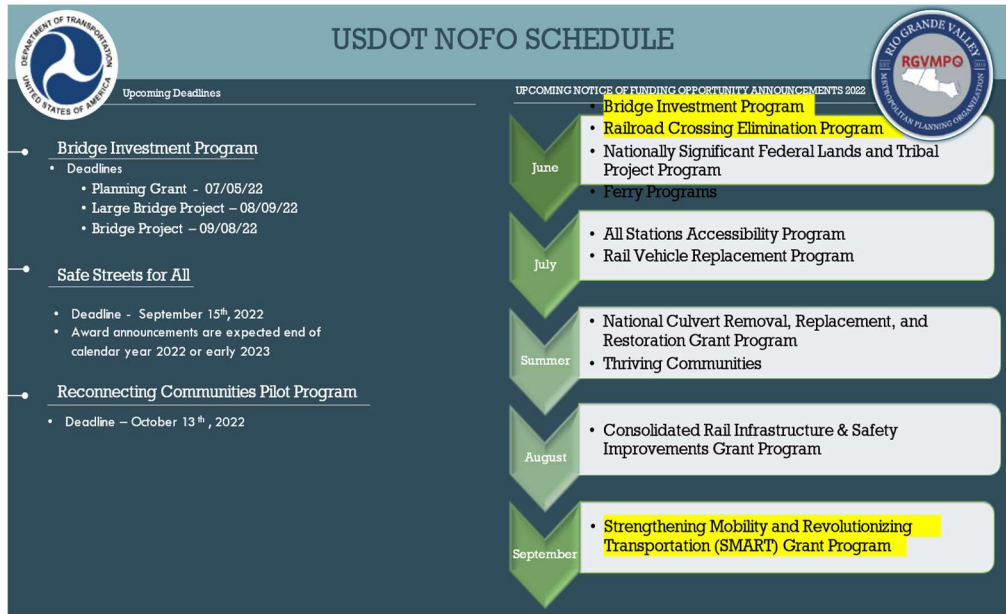
The selected consultant(s) should be prepared to review existing plans to determine how planning and policy driven mechanisms affect the sustainability and resilience of a community, perform a multimodal needs analysis, review recently completed analysis to identify stressors, perform analysis of site conditions to identify external stressors (land use, demographics, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, soil conditions, heat), and host a series of workshops with the general public, stakeholders, and MPO staff to review identified resources, assets, and stressors and solicit input.

The release date for this RFP is scheduled for Sunday, September 4th, 2022. The anticipated award date is Thursday, December 15th, 2022. This project is intended to be completed by the end of FY 2023. If the study extends beyond this period, it will require that the obligated funds from the FY 2022-2023 UPWP be carried over into the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on IIJA Infrastructure BIL, specifically on the Safe Streets for All Grant Program

Javier provided TAC members present a presentation and updates based on the notice of funding opportunities for the Infrastructure BIL and the upcoming application opportunity for Safe Streets for All Grant that is due on September 15, 2022.

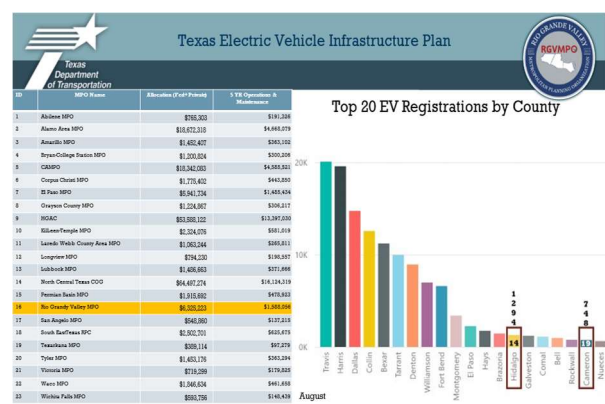
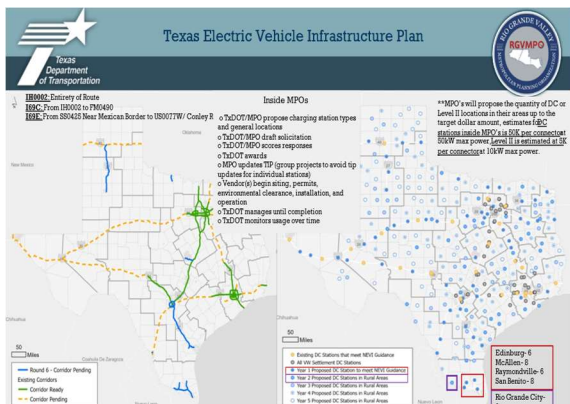


Staff noted that the US Department of Transportation has released a schedule of when the Notice of Funding Opportunities can be expected to be opened for the various program grants under the IIJA Infrastructure BIL. The RGVMP Staff went over updates on these programs and discuss the Safe Street for All Grant application and reminded TAC members that these applications have a deadline of September 15, 2022.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

12. Discussion on the Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan

Javier provided a brief presentation to TAC Members regarding the TxDOT Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan that is going through its approval process with the Federal Highway Administration (See Attachments).



Staff concluded by stating that in partnership with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the State Energy Conservation Office, TxDOT is developing an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan which lays out the next several years of EV charging station infrastructure deployment that will provide charging stations across the state. The RGVMPO will present on a preliminary plan that includes a partnership with TxDOT and the MPO's across the state.

This is an informational item therefore no action is required at this time.

V. RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND UPDATES

Financial Update

Andrew provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a (24.74%) positive trend. Report filed with the August 11, 2022, RGVTAC Packet.

- Item Summary:** Category 7, Metropolitan Mobility (STBG) Funding - for the selection of regionally significant Off-System Projects in consultation with TxDOT - RGVMPO staff are presenting for consideration and possible adoption an updated resolution supporting the long-adhered policy of Category 7 funding being capped at the amounts approved by the TPB upon adoption at the August 31, 2022, Policy Meeting.
- Item Summary:** Policy Meetings November and December 2022 - Staff is recommending to the Policy Board to combine the Policy meetings for (November and December) and that it be held on December 14, 2022.
- Item Summary:** **2023 TxDOT UTP Public Comment** – Staff noted that a letter was mail out on behalf of Chairman – Judge Trevino to Mr. Bugg, Chairman of Tx Department of Transportation on July 25, 2022, regarding the Development of the 2023 TxDOT UTP (See Attachment).
- Item Summary:** **Donna Project - TASA Update:** Staff noted that the RGVMPO and TxDOT have been formally notified in writing by City of Donna, that City Commission have come to decision to terminate their TASA Project, the Donna Sidewalks - South International Boulevard Project. Neither party were prepared for the significant challenges local governments have encountered since the conception of the project in 2017.
- Item Summary:** RGV Traffic Safety Initiative: Staff noted that RGV Traffic Initiative schedule is as follows:
- Law Enforcement Trainings
 - o LRGVDC Ken Jones Boardroom (Weslaco) Tuesday, September 6th from 2:30pm to 4:30pm
 - o Harlingen Cultural Arts Center on Wednesday, September 7th from 2:30pm to 4:30pm
 - Project Manager Trainings
 - o Harlingen Cultural Arts Center on Friday, September 9th from 9:30am to 11:30am
 - o LRGVDC Ken Jones Boardroom (Weslaco) Wednesday, September 14th from 9:30pm to 11:30am

VI) STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Melba Schaus, (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report (Virtually) within the RGVMPO area. The Monthly Letting Projects provided did indicate that Projects have been extended to FY2023. TxDOT also noted that for the months of January & February 2022; August 2022; November 2022; January 2023; March & April, June and July 2023; No Projects are scheduled to be Let; but should there be any status changes on these projects, TAC members will be notified accordingly. Reminder to for LG's to continue moving forward projects with TxDOT. ***TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the August 11, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).***

B. Cameron County RMA

Eric Davila (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation (Virtually) on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled. Cameron County RMA report is filed with the August 11, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Ramon Navarro, (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation (Virtually) on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the August 11, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

D. McAllen Metro

Jon Ray Bocanegra provided an updated report (Virtually) for McAllen Metro. This report includes ongoing ridership. Mr. Bocanegra also shared with TAC members present that the City of McAllen is partnering with STC on a Driver Academy and will be paying for the students to attend classes. Interested participants should apply for the full-time position at McAllen.net under “McAllen Express Admin – Transit Operator”. A Job Fare at McAllen Convention Center is scheduled on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, from 9am to 7pm, where Metro McAllen will have a booth so that our Operations team can offer a better understanding of the job and academy. No further discussion took place on this item, McAllen Metro report is filed with the August 11, 2022, *RGVTAC Packet*. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

E. Brownsville / Island Metros

Simon Ortiz provided an updated report (Virtually) which included the Brownsville Metro and Island Metro. These reports include on-going connecting community projects and combined ridership. The reports are filed with August 11, 2022, *RGVTAC Packet*. (***Report only, no action taken at this time***).

F. Valley Metro

Jose Luis Silva provided an update report (Virtually), for both the Rural and Urban areas for the Year-To-Date Report. The Valley Metro Report was provided and is filed with the August 11, 2022, *RGVTAC Packet*. **(Report on, no action taken at this time).**

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Vice Chairman Worsham called for a motion to adjourn. City of Pharr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 AM. The motion was seconded by Cameron County RMA; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.