

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

January 12, 2023

I) CALL TO ORDER

JP Terrazas, Chairman (City of Mission) 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
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Absent
City of Edinburg	Absent
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	Absent
TxDot Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro
Brownsville Metro	Simon Ortiz
McAllen Metro	Absent
Port of Brownville	Absent
Port of Harlingen	Absent
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	Absent
Cameron County Spaceport Dev Corp.	Absent
GUEST	
TxDOT SIB Program Lead	Dallas Teston
RGVMPO Executive Director	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO Assistant Director	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:

- December 8, 2022

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any more corrections to the TAC minutes of December 8, 2022.

City of Harlingen Craig Cook informed that his name was showing under Port of Harlingen.

No further corrections or comments were noted to the minutes of December 8, 2022, City of Harlingen Craig Cook made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 8, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Cameron County RMA and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: February 9, 2023

2. GIS Data Request

Fernando Cantu presented the form that will be used to request GIS data from all municipalities. He informed the board that the data is one more tool for TAC and Policy meeting reports and presentations. Mr. Cantu went over the form, reviewing the main points and the reference materials.

(Information item only, no action required.)

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented Chairman JP Terrazas confirmed that the item was for information only and proceeded to move to item 3.

3. CMP Workshop Tier 2 Follow Up

Luis Diaz gave an update on the CMP Congestion Management Process Tier II. He highlighted that the current stage of the process is collection of data and synchronization. Data collection will be completed in January and during April and May, CoPlan will be providing guidance on signalized intersection timing plans. By September the plan will wrap up and final data will be received as well as comparisons with the previous study. He also highlighted that this moment is crucial for detention systems should be looked at and repaired in time for April when the guidance will be provided for the timing plans. It's important to consider this to make sure that the timing plans are accurate.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Diaz provided the contact information for Steve with CoPlan.

Mr. Diaz open the floor for questions and once no questions were brought up, Chairman confirmed that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was required. Then he proceeded to move to Item 4.

4. 2022 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process Update

Luis Diaz reviewed the Thoroughfare Plan Amendment plan process. He confirmed that the process has wrapped up and that the RGVMPPO has received 11 amendments. The item will be presented for approval in front of the TAC and Policy board by next month. Final approval will be done at county commissioners and then in April all the amendments received will be applied. And starting in August 2023 the whole process will start again. Mr. Diaz pinpoint that after the approval in April is a good time for all local governments to start reviewing all thoroughfare plan data when all amendments will be applied.

Mr. Diaz open the floor for questions and once no questions were brought up, Chairman confirmed that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was required. Then he proceeded to move to Item 5.

5. Presentation and Discussion on TxDOT's State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Loan Program

Informational item was introduced by RGVMPPO's executive director, Andrew Canon. Mr. Canon reviewed the information within the packet prepared by RGVMPPO's staff Christopher Nelson. Mr. Canon also addressed the analysis of projects delays in comparison to taking out an SIB loan. He informed that the analysis by taking in consideration the transportation Chairman Terry Canales speech during December's Policy meeting. Mr. Canon introduced presenter Dallas Teston with TxDOT SIB Program encouraged everyone to be at the next Policy meeting where Mr. Teston will also be presenting.

Dallas Teston presented the basic of the low-cost transportation financial tool. He gave an overview of the background of SIB loan program, the benefits, and the process to obtaining a loan. He made emphasis on seeing this type of loan as a low-cost transportation financial tool to have in your toolbox. Mr. Teston also informed that the loans are from a revolving fund, and it uses non-federal dollars, therefore using the loan does not have additional state requirements. He also reviewed statistics of the program and facts. Through the presentation Mr. Teston highlighted the type of borrowers they have as well as statistics of borrowers around the state.

He also reviewed the eligible uses of the dollars of the loan and examples of local matches to the program. Mr Teston reviewed the advantages of borrowing from the Texas SIB, highlighting low cost, prepayment flexibility, rate set at application time at a point below market rate, and EDC adjustment discount. Presenter reviewed in detail the process of the loan application and after approval process.

Mr. Teston open the floor for questions and once no questions were brought up, Chairman confirmed that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was required. Then he proceeded to

move to Item 6.

6. Discussion on TASA

Eva Garcia reported on the status of FY2019-2020 and FY2021-2022 TASA projects. The main highlights of the status of the projects are that we still pending the final execution of two AFA Amendments, Los Fresno's, and McAllen. She added that we continue to push the August 2022 obligation of funds. Final project certifications might be obtained by June to signal the project's RTL status. The deadline for funding/project changes will be December 2022. Projects currently pending an AFA Amendment must be fully execute by November 2022.

Mrs. Garcia also review the status of 0921-02-430 LRGVDC Hidalgo Co. Mobility Plan, with currents status as pending approval.

For 0921-02-431 McAllen Jackson Rd. H&B Trail Phase II, regardless of some route changes, everything is going smooth. McAllen and Edinburg are working together on the railroad agreement and there is an upcoming meeting to discuss the design.

For 0921-02-432 Pharr Tri-City Ped. Safety Improvements II, everything going smoothly, will be reaching out to staff to continue meeting and discuss the project.

For the Brownsville Los Fresno's connect a resolution will be presented in the policy meeting to have the a reroute approved. The reroute will include TxDOT's ROW. Two upcoming meetings with TxDOT to discuss the projects status.

For Los Fresnos North HS Park Connection, pending AFA Amendment at commission next month and everything else is running smoothly.

For Cameron Co. Olmito Sidewalks, a resolution will be presented at policy. They are requesting the reduction of scope due to inflation cost and materials along other things.

UTRGV project is probably the first project to let, meetings are being held weekly and if not by-weekly for sure.

Mrs. Garcia also reviewed the 2021-2022 TASA projects update, out of the six projects programed 3 of them have fully executed the AFA. A discussion has started about developing a similar program(schedule of activities) just to ensure the obligation of funds on time. The pending programs have a deadline of April 2023 to fully execute their AFA.

Mrs. Garcia also added that we do not anticipate any project changes because we try to work very hard since the time of application and programing to develop AFA's that are accurate to project fund needs.

Mrs. Garcia made emphasis on the 2-year requirement to obligate the funds. Funds will expire by September 2025.

Finally, Mrs. Garcia informed of coming soon of FY2023-2024 call for projects, she gave an overview of the working work meetings and the schedule. Additional information about the working work and updates will be mailed out to everyone after the meeting.

Mrs. Garcia open the floor for questions and Mrs. Melba Schaus commented about the project's updates, deadlines and monitoring of project monitoring. Discussion about the process, deadlines, funds, and project status was done between Presenter and Mrs. Garcia. They will be meeting with Mr. Canon to discuss recommendations and presentation at policy.

Ramon Navarro with HRMA asked if there was a standing committee for the BPAC meeting. Mrs. Garcia clarified that BPAC meets monthly and that she used the BPAC for most of the update. But a working work was created out of there for the upcoming program call, nevertheless this project go thru the standing monthly meeting with BPAC. Mr. Navarro also asked if the project sponsors are actively members of the BPAC community, to which Mrs. Garcia confirmed that not all of them. She added that she is participating in all project update meetings. Mr. Canon added that all sponsors have been invited, confirming that Mrs. Garcia has send out invites but no commitment has been received from the local governments.

Mrs. Garcia closed sharing being shortlisted for the Texas Federal Lands Access Program Project Application. The application is for funds for the full design and environmental compliance of 6 segments for Bajia Grande Trail connecting four communities.

After no more questions, Chairman confirmed that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was required. Then he proceeded to move to Item 7.

7. Template for new reports

Andrew Canon presented the driving factor behind the template for new reports. He reviewed the project readiness workgroup for category 7 and 9 projects. The intention of the group is to meet on a quarterly basis

Approved: February 9, 2023

the month before TAC quarterly update. First meeting is projected to be held in February for presentation to TAC and Policy board in March. Additional information will be emailed after the meeting. Melany Rodriguez went over the template for reporting updates for CAT 7 and 9 projects.

After the review of the template, Mr. Canon open the floor for questions, and Armando Garza from Hidalgo County asked if the template was only for CAT 7, and Mr. Garza confirmed that is for CAT 7 updates.

Melba Schaus suggested that the members of the workgroup need to primarily include those individuals directly involved with each project.

Chairman JP Terrazas asked if representative consultants can be invited to the meetings, Mr. Canon suggested that it's best to invite the individuals leading the projects, but he is certain that he's not telling any local governments who to send to the meetings. Melba Schaus confirmed that consultants can be invited but committed will only be our pick.

Once no questions were brought up, Chairman confirmed that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was required. Then he proceeded to move to Item 8.

8. Local Transportation Plan Project

Fernando Cantu reviewed the call for planning projects form and informed that in case multiple submittals, they will be scored and put to a process to determine which one is the best to select. Mr. Canon added that we do ask for local contributions on that study.

Once no questions were brought up, Chairman confirmed that this item was for informational purposes only and no action was required. Then he proceeded to move to the next item.

V) RGVMPPO Executive Director's Report and Updates

Andrew Canon provided the financial update and updates.

1. Survey to all members for subcommittees for the Performance Measures Contract, Resilience Contract and the FM509 study.

(Report only, no action taken at this time.)

VI) Status Reports

A. TXDOT Project Status Report

Melba Schaus, (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report (Virtually) within the RGVMPPO area. She asked if the current report is useful otherwise it can be discontinued. Mr. Navarro with HCRMA confirmed that the report is useful. Chariman JP Terrazas asked to continue using the reports because they are a useful tool.

She presented the monthly letting update and asked if there were any questions.

After no questions presenter moved on to an overview Monthly Project letting Update. Mrs. Schaus also gave a review of the Projects to be let in August 2023, September 2023, and October 2023.

No questions were posed after presentation.

B. Cameron County RMA

Eric Davila (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation (Virtually) on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA.

No questions were posed after presentation.

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Ramon Navarro (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation (Virtually) on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA.

No questions were posed after presentation.

(Report only, no action taken at this time.)

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Andrew Canon clarified that the Next meeting will be held virtually on January 12, 2023, and not in person as noted on the agenda.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVMTAC Members, Vice Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. Hidalgo County RMA made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15am the motion was seconded by Cameron County; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Approved: February 9, 2023