

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
IN-PERSON MEETING**

Minutes

June 8, 2023

I) CALL TO ORDER

Benjamin Worsham, Vice-Chairman (Cameron County) called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:10 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	Abel Bocanegra
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Absent
City of Edinburg	Tomas D. Reyna
City of Harlingen	Ana Hernandez
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Absent
City of San Benito	Mayor Ricardo Guerra
Hidalgo County	Mayor David Suarez
Starr County	Absent
TxDot Pharr District	Dora E. Robles
Valley Metro	Absent
Cameron County RMA	Eric Davila
Hidalgo County RMA	Ramon Navarro
Brownsville Metro	Absent
McAllen Metro	Jon Ray Bocanegra
Port of Brownville	Absent
Port of Harlingen	Amy Lynch
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	Absent
Cameron County Spaceport Dev Corp.	Absent
RGVMPO Executive Director	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO Assistant Director	Luis Diaz
ATG	Ben Magallon

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments

IV) CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes

Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:

- May 11, 2023

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any more corrections to the TAC minutes of May 11, 2023. No corrections or comments were noted to the minutes of May 11, 2023, City of San Benito Mayor Ricardo Guerra made a motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023. The motion was seconded by Tomas D. Reyna with City of Edinburg. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and Action on FY 2022 Annual Project Listing (APL)

Rudy Zamora provided an update on the Annual Project Listing for FY 2022 highlighting that it has been reviewed and public Involvement will conclude on June 11th. He added that staff is asking for approval of the listing so it can also be presented to the Policy Board for final approval. Mr. Zamora added that all documentation is provided within the agenda packet and available on the RGVMPPO's website.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. City of San Benito made a motion to approve, and it was second by Hidalgo County, David Suarez.

3. Discussion and Action on FY 2023-2026 STIP & MTP Amendments – August 2023 Quarterly Revision Cycle

Rudy Zamora provided an update on FY 2023-2026 STIP & MTP Amendments for August 2023 Quarterly Revision Cycle. Mr. Zamora reviewed the list of approved amendments contingent upon any changes that might come up any time before June 28th when presented for final approval to the Policy Board. Mr Zamora presented and reviewed the list of Amendments provided in the Agenda Packet.

Brownsville Area

- SH550 -Proposed Category 12 Reconciliation funding: \$2,440,000 & transfer of CRRSAA funds to Liberty Blvd.
- Southmost Nature Trail – Revising cost and funding: Category 10 CRP funds; \$2,500, 000 in FY 2025
- New Project – Cameron County Signal Improvements – Category 10 CRP funds: \$9,45,000 in FY 2025
- Los Fresnos Hike & Bike Trail – Revising Cost & Funding – Category 10 CRP funds; \$3,000,000.
- Southmost Nature Trail, Ph 3 – Revising Cost & Funding – Category 10 CRP FUNDS: \$1,000,000.

Harlingen-San Benito Area

- New Project – Stenger Rd. – Category 10 CRP funds in FY 2024
- Border Safety Inspection Facility – Move project phase (CONST) to FY 2024 and revise as per TXDOT connect.
- IH-69E – Revise as per TXDOT Connect

Hildago County Area

- Liberty Blvd. – Pending proposed transfer of CRRSAA funds from SH 550 & I Rd. projects to avoid rescinding of federal appointment – CRRSAA funding: \$4.9 Million.
- Liberty Blvd., Ph 2 – Move project phase to FY 2024: ROW completion estimate is 6-9 months.
- Mile 6 W. – Move project phase to FY 2024: ROW completion estimate is 12+ months.
- Taylor Rd – Move project phase to FY 2024: ROW completion estimate is 6-9 months.
- Nolana Loop – Move project phase to FY 2024: ROW completion estimate is 6-9 months.
- 0921-02-405 Cesar Chavez – Move project phase to FY 2024: ROW completion estimate is 12+months.
- 0921-02-423 Cesar Chavez – Move project phase to FY 2024: ROW completion estimate is 12+ months.
- Pharr
- Pharr Bridge Commercial Vehicle Parking Site – Revise limits, description, cost, & funding: Category 10 CRP funds: \$11,439,844.
- I Rd. – Pending transfer of CRRSAA funds to Liberty Blvd. – Swapping Category 7 STP-MM (\$2,413,582).
- Donna International Bridge – Revised cost & local funds as per TXDOT Connect.

Starr County Area

- US 83 Revised cost & funding as per TXDOT
- Southmost Nature Trail Ph. 5 – Category 10 CRP funds: \$4,000,000
- New Project - Bus Curb Cuts (City of Brownsville) – Category 10 CRP funds: \$920,000 in FY 2027.
- Nolana (S4) – Moving CONST phase from FY2030 TO 2032 (\$4,000,000 OF Category 7)
- Las Milpas Rd. East – Moving CONST phase from FY2032 TO 2034-41 grouping.
- Los Ebans Rd. – Pending FC in FY 2026 (locally funded) – Move to FY 2032 once FC is complete (\$4,000,000 of Category 7)

Andrew Canon, RGVMPPO's Executive Director added that staff has done its due diligence before making amendments and recommending approval. Mr. Canon also added that staff had some conversations with CCRMA regarding SH550 project, so they are aware of that, and a formal letter would be sent out. He added that RGVMPPO's staff is working on making presentations to the municipalities regarding Carbon Reduction Funds. Mr. Canon also informed that he had a phone meeting with Commissioner Alvarado regarding Liberty Blvd and the project was ready to let and moving forward but it ran into a funding shortfall. The shift of funding will help with that shortfall. Mr. Canon also reviewed the timeline of the CRRSAA funds and informed the members that he's working on a letter to come out providing all the details of the shift.

Eric Davila commented that on the presentations he sees that there are some spots for the CRP funds for CAT 7 but some other allocations further down the list. What is the impact to the overall balance? And if there is a new breakdown after all the shifts around?

Rodolfo explained that is treated like a swap, since funds are moving from one project to another. Andrew Canon added that no traction was picked up or lost during the swapping of projects.

Rudy informed everyone that the RGVMPPO staff is going to do their best to provide a preliminary draft of the STIP & MTP Amendments for everyone to review prior to the beginning of public involvement.

Andrew Canon clarified that the reason the request is being done at this time is because at the beginning of the year the Policy board approved not to have a meeting on July.

Ramon Navarro commented that during processes like this is imperative to keep everyone abreast. This would be for everything to go smoothly and the efficiency of the organization. It is important the list goes out early because the attendees of the meeting get the message but there is a domino effect. And it is important to implement and orchestrate why, the how comes, and what's going to happen. And besides doing a public meeting inform each entity individually.

Rudy reviewed the process for the process for each STIP & MTP amendment. He highlighted that the MTP can be done through meetings like this, but the STIP with federal funds on the project must go thru official supervision, thru public involvement, requires approval from the district, a team in Austin as well as federal approval. Mr. Zamora clarified that for now, only locally funded projects and federal funds or state funds would not be affected.

Ana Hernandez from the City of Harlingen asked how the shifting of funds affects the TASA funds, obligation, and the expenditure deadlines.

Basically, is just a transition of funds, and the projects can move ahead as scheduled or if they need to move from one year to another there is a 3-year obligation.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any more questions. After no more questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. Hidalgo County made a motion to approve, and it was second by Cameron County RMA.

4. Presentation of Preliminary CAT 7 Unified Transportation Program (UTP TxDOT 10 Year Plan) Off System Project Scores

Andrew Canon provided a presentation of the Preliminary CAT 7 Unified Transportation Program (UTP TxDOT 10 Year plan) Off System Project Scores. He highlighted that within the agenda packet are included the project scores for the projects for the TIP years 2023-2024, 2025-2026. Everything is based on the information that the RGVMPPO sees as part of the project readiness workshop.

Mr. Canon confirmed that the presentation is for informational purposes only, and the RGVMPPO is asking for

a yearly review of the projects listed. He underlined that he would like to call out a couple of projects that information has not been received. Mile 6 west for Fiscal Year 2023 no information received. For FY 2024 pending Functional Classification for Russell Rd. FY 2025 East loop pending FC. FY 2026 South Parallel Corridor and Inspiration Rd is also pending FC. There is some pending information on the Southmost Nature Trail Phase III, but the RGVMPPO is getting together with the city of Brownsville for that.

Mr. Canon clarified that Miguel Arispe is handling updates on ROW, utilities and PE & construction and Eva Garcia is handling safety and BikePed.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Chairman confirmed that the item was for information and proceeded to move to Item 5.

5. FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Fernando Cantu provided an overview of the Unified Planning Work Program. He reviewed the funding summary for FY 2024-2025.

Mr. Cantu highlighted that the RGVMPPO staff is asking for approval from the Policy Board for the proposed FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. Hidalgo County made a motion to approve, and it was second by the City of San Benito.

6. SWOT Analysis Virtual SWOT Analysis Workshop Proposal

Javier Dominguez presented the proposal to host a follow-up virtual SWOT Analysis Workshop for the RGVMPPO Resiliency & Sustainability Study during the allocated timeframe for the July TAC Meeting. Mr. Dominguez introduced Ben Magallon from ATG to briefly talk about the workshop and provide ideas of what can be done during the time and provide a summary of the last workshop.

Ben Magallon provided the board with an overview of the last workshop. He highlighted that some municipalities representatives were not able to make it, but they showed some interest, therefore a virtual workshop is being proposed to get feedback from these municipalities within Cameron County. He added that at this point the preliminary draft recommendations can be discussed and start receiving feedback.

Mr. Magallon closed by stating that it would be a valuable exercise to have that virtual SWOP workshop in July.

Andrew Canon asked Javier to confirm that date for the proposed workshop and if it was virtual. Mr. Dominguez confirmed that it would be for July 6, 2023, and yes virtual.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. City of San Benito made a motion to approve, and it was second by TxDOT Pharr District.

7. Contract Extension of CoPlan – Congestion Management Process Planning Level Operations Study

Fernando Cantu informed the board or RGVMPPO's staff request for approval of a one-month extension and an additional \$10,000 to further enhance the Congestion Management Process Planning Level Operations Study. Andrew Canon chimed in to provide more details about the request. He highlighted that once the congestion study was done, and a synchronization recommendation was done while working closely with the city. Some of the synchronization was done along 107. Unfortunately, the week after the timings were implemented there was done work along the corridors that negatively impacted the timings that were done. Consequently, there is a necessity to come back and redo the project of the implementations of the timings that were previously done.

Benjamin Worsham asked if the timing must be done including the timing and the offsets and Andrew Canon confirmed. Mr. Worsham followed up by asking how the system is currently working and Mr. Cantu confirmed that is currently working on default. Tomas Reyna, Andrew Canon, Ramon Navarro, and Ben Worsham discussed how issues like this can be prevented in the future, the details of the additional charges and the timeline for the work to be done.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if the city of Edinburg was in accord with the new work being done and the timeframe for it. Tomas Reyna confirmed that they agree.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. City of Edinburg made a motion to approve, and it was second by City of San Benito.

8. Update on the Performance Management Framework Project

Ben Magallon provided an update on the Performance Management Framework project. He highlighted the summary of the RGMPOs plan and process review memo. He provided information on Pavement and bridge Condition (PM2), Pavement Condition, Bridge Condition, Measuring Anticipated Performance, System Performance, Freight, & CMAQ (PM3), Interstate LOTTR, Non-Interstate LOTTR and Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR).

Eric Davila asked if there is an idea when the threshold for borderline nonpayment would be complete. Mr. Magallon stated that he hopes not to hit that threshold and Andrew Canon chimed in citing air quality but added that he thinks that threshold would not be hit.

Ramon Navarro asked if any of the bridges mentioned in the presentation are on System projects or included on any of the TIP or UTP years. Mr. Canon confirmed that he does not believe that any of them, but Ben Magallon confirmed that there are at list 2.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to acknowledge the report. Cameron County RMA made a motion to acknowledge, and it was second by Cameron County RMA.

9. Discussion and Action on Adoption of PM2/PM3 (Pavement/Bridge condition and System Reliability) Targets

Andrew Canon informed the board about the RGVMPPO staff's request to approve the adoption of PM2/PM3 (Pavement/Bridge condition and System Reliability Targets).

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. Hidalgo County made a motion to approve, and it was second by City of San Benito.

10. Action on the RGVMPPO Complete Streets Policy

Andrew Canon informed the board of the recommendation of staff to adopt the RGVMPPO Complete Streets Policy. He underlined that public involvement went from May 11th to June 11th and the RGVMPPO received one comment and it was implemented into the policy as discussed at the Policy Board under the Complete Streets document. Jon Ray Bocanegra from McAllen Metro has provided some good feedback.

He added that the main goal of the policy is to ultimately work with each local municipality that does not have a policy in place, which is a good opportunity to take advantage of the funds available that require a Complete Streets Policy in place.

Dora Robles from TxDOT asked if this was for on system and off system projects and Andrew Canon confirmed that that is correct is both for engagement purposes.

Jon Ray Bocanegra chimed in to add that the City of McAllen just finished their comprehensive plan and the findings seemed to be heavily towards wanting to be less car focused, which is extremely difficulty given the environment in the area. Mr. Bocanegra then went ahead and reviewed and explained the comment submitted by him. Overall, he provided good feedback and thinks that overall, the Policy is moving towards a good direction.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to approve. City of Edinburg made a motion to approve, and it was second by City of San Benito.

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA; also known as Category 9) Projects

Eva Garcia provided a status update regarding FY2019-2020 projects (to obligate funds in FY2023). She highlighted that FY2019-2020 Call for projects is 100% ready to Let.

Ms. Garcia provided a review of the projects programmed with the FY2019-2020 federally appointed funds. She highlighted that the RVMPO has received news from the City of Brownsville about terminating their

project; Brownsville to Los Fresnos Connect, Phase III, therefore \$512,000 would be lost. This dissolution is due to some ROW issuer. Ms. Garcia advised the board that TxDOT is aware, and it would be presented at the Policy meeting and a Brownsville Representative would be present at that point to answer any questions. Ms. Garcia also informed about the project, Cameron County Olmito Sidewalks. For the project there have been some design requirements and design manual discussions and based on these designs Cameron County is proceeding to the next set of plans, which will be reviewed and see if they can continue to the obligation of the funds.

Ms. Garcia finalized by stating that aside from those two previously mentioned projects, everything is on track to obligate these federal funds.

Andrew Canon chimed in to point out that the Brownsville Project that has been terminated is one of the projects carried over from the Brownsville MPO days.

Ms. Garcia confirmed and added that all the 2019-2020 projects are inherited projects from the Brownsville MPO and the Hidalgo County MPO.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked to confirm if the City of Brownsville have lost their funding and how many other projects have lost funds as well for sidewalks.

Ms. Garcia stated that the last round was the City of Donna in the 2017-2018 FY.

Mr. Worsham asked for clarification on the City of Donna's reasoning behind the loss of funds. Ms. Garcia advised that it was due to railroad coordination not happening quickly so that significantly increased their project cost.

Andrew Canon, Vice-Chairman, Eva Garica, and Eric Davila went into a discussion about ways to prevent loss of funds for future projects because at the end of the day the most affected is the community.

Ms. Garcia proceeded to review the Projects programmed with the FY2021-2022 federally apportioned funds, which are projects that need to obligate funds by 2025. Elsa Getting Connected, Edinburg-Freddy Gonzalez Trail, Harlingen-Arroyo Colorado Phase III Study, Brownsville- West Rail Trail -Amenities, Port Isabel-Bejarano-McFarland-Gonzalez Trail Ext.

Ms. Garcia continued with the review of the RGVMP TASA FY2023-2024 Funding Summary, the FY2023-2024 TASA Funding Request Summary for Planning Projects, the FY2023-2024 TASA Funding Request Summary for Construction Projects, RGVMP TASA FY2023-2024 TASA Funding Request Summary, and the Timeline of the TASA call for Projects process.

Vice Chairman Benjamin Worsham asked if there were any questions. After no questions or comments were presented, Vice Chairman asked for a motion to acknowledge the report. City of San Benito made a motion to acknowledge, and it was second by Hidalgo County RMA.

V) RGVMP Executive Director's Report and Updates

Andrew Canon reviewed the RGVMP budget and reminded everyone about the MPO101 workshop.

Vice-Chairman Benjamin Worsham he called for a motion to acknowledge the Executive Director's report. Mayor from San Benito Ricardo Guerra made a motion to acknowledge and Ana from the City of Harlingen second the motion.

VI) Status Reports

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Dora Robles provided a brief update for TxDOT Projects.

No questions were posed after the presentation.

B. Cameron County RMA

Eric Davila (Cameron County RMA) provided a brief updated presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. Mr. Davila highlighted some of the projects in his slide presentation.

- Veterans POV Expansion active construction project.
- SH 550 GAP 2 Project CSJ: 0684-01-068
- East Loop CSJ:0921-06-315
- Old Alice Rd CSJ: 0921-06-290
- Dana Road CSJ: 0921-06-33

Mr. Davila closed by stating that everything else can be found on the report included within the agenda packet. No questions were posed after the presentation.

C. Hidalgo County RMA

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

- 365 Toll Project

- IBTC Project Over
- Overweight Permit Summary
- Construction Economics Update

No questions were posed after the presentation.

D. Transit Report

Jon Ray Bocanegra with McAllen Metro provided an update on the RGVMPPO Regional Transit Report.

No questions were posed after the presentation.

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Andrew Canon Reminded the board that there would not be any meeting for the month of July as approved by the Policy Board.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Chairman called for a motion to adjourn. City of San Benito mayor Ricardo Guerra made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40am. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County RMA, Ramon Navarro, meeting was adjourned.