

**AGENDA**

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Thursday, October 12, 2023 – 10:00 AM**

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO)**

**IN-PERSON**

*The RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting will be held In Person at the LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B, Ken Jones Executive Board Room in Weslaco, TX.*

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Roll Call**

**III. Public Comments** – May be submitted online or may be submitted on a paper form specifying the matter you wish to address.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of Minute(s) for: September 14, 2023**

**Action**                       **Possible Action**                       **Information**

**Presenter:**                      **JP Terrazas, TAC Chairman**

**Item Summary:**                      Approval of the September 14, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes

**2. Discussion and Action on Election of Vice Chairman**

**Action**                       **Possible Action**                       **Information**

**Presenter:**                      **Andrew Canon, RGVMPO Executive Director**

**Summary:**                      Pursuant to the RGVMPO Bylaws Section: 2.03 Term of Office Both the Chair and the Vice Chair shall serve two (2) year terms. In any given term, the Chair shall be from either Cameron County or Hidalgo County with the Vice Chair being from the other county and succeeding the Chair when the Chair's term is complete. No one can serve twice unless all board members have served at least once.

**Background:**                      Time of Election After the initial election of officers, the officer election will be held during the first meeting after the beginning of the defined fiscal year.

**Once new Vice Chairman is elected, existing Vice Chairman will assume Chairman position (Benjamin Worsham, Cameron County).**

### 3. Call for Volunteers: Subcommittee to Evaluate and Score RFP Consultants

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner III

**Summary:** The RGVMPPO is seeking volunteers from the Technical Advisory Committee to form a subcommittee tasked to evaluate and score consultant proposals in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP). Seven members will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis, and the subcommittee will meet on November 2 at 10:00 am in the Weslaco Small Board Room. The RFP submissions will be distributed on October 30 to allow ample time for review before the meeting.

**Background:** In the past, the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization has successfully utilized subcommittees to conduct comprehensive evaluations of various initiatives and proposals. These subcommittees play a crucial role in providing informed recommendations to the Technical Advisory Committee, ensuring a thorough assessment of all pertinent factors. Subsequently, these recommendations proceed to the Transportation Policy Board for final approval. This established process has proven to be an effective mechanism in ensuring that only the most well-considered and beneficial initiatives advance to the implementation stage.

### 4. Discussion and Action on FY 23-24 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment on Amendment #1

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner III

**Summary:** The McAllen Metro staff will conduct a comprehensive study to assess current service levels and explore the viability of implementing high-capacity transit to restore and surpass pre-COVID-19 service standards. The project will be funded through 5307-9A - 5307-Urbanized Area Formula - Discr. Planning (ARPA).

McAllen Metro is seeking \$25,900 in funding for Alliance Transportation Group. ATG will provide technical support services to assist Metro McAllen through the defined transit planning period (October 31 - December 31, 2023) of the service redesign program for fixed-route service, identified for December implementation.

**Background:** A UPWP is a biennial statement of work identifying the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a Rio Grande Valley metropolitan planning area. At a minimum, a UPWP includes a description of the planning work and resulting products, who will perform the work, time frames for completing the work, the cost of the work, and the source(s) of funds.

## 5. Request of Proposal (RFP)

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Fernando Cantu, RGVMPPO Transportation Planner III

**Summary:** The purpose of the RFP is to solicit competitive proposals from qualified vendor to provide:

- **Safe Streets for All (SS4A)**

**Background:** The RGVMPPO selectively outsources tasks that exceed our in-house capabilities or scope. To maintain compliance with the fiscal guidelines and regulations, we adhere to the procurement process established by the LRGVDC, serving as the fiscal agents of our MPO.

## 6. Discussion and Action on the November 2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Revision Cycle

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Rudy Zamora Jr., RGVMPPO Transportation Planner II

**Summary:** RGVMPPO staff are amending our short-range and long-range planning & programming tables: TIP & MTP. A 30-day Public Involvement period was held, and all revisions/modifications will require TAC & TPB members' approval.

**Background:** The Statewide TIP is updated quarterly and RGVMPPO staff is revising the short-range Transportation Improvement Program, and long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (TIP & MTP). Public Involvement, both virtual and in-person, was conducted from September 11<sup>th</sup> and concluded on October 11<sup>th</sup>. All revisions and modifications will require approval by our TAC & TPB during the scheduled October meetings.

## 7. Discussion and presentation on SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis from RGVMPPO Staff

Action       Possible Action       Information

**Presenter:** Javier Dominguez Jr., RGVMPPO Transportation Planner I

**Summary:** The RGVMPPO will be presenting to the Technical Advisory Committee Members a recap of the September SWOT Analysis that was done with the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Board

**Background:** On Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> and later Wednesday September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, RGVMPPO staff prepared and presented an interactive SWOT Analysis to the members of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Board. Staff would like to return to the October Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Board to present the findings from the previous SWOT Analysis.

## 8. Presentation and Discussion regarding Federal Fund Utilization: Category 7

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **RGVMPO/TXDOT Staff**

**Summary:**                      RGVMPO Staff will provide a federal funding overview and then describe how the STIP portal was used to identify Category 7 funded projects and the duration of programming, from initial approval. This exercise assisted staff in calculating the region's obligation rate (utilization) by comparing carryover balance to federal transaction reports.

**Background:**                      The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing revisions to the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) to help optimize the use of federal funds. The Unified Transportation Program (UTP) funding categories 2 and 5 formula allocations to provide additional flexibility and allow the department to redistribute if there is a significant carryover associated with categories 5 and 7.

## 9. Presentation on Congestion and Delay Study Tier 2 Operations

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Steve Taylor**

**Summary:**                      CoPlan will present The Congestion and Delay Tier 2 Operational Study presentation will include an overview of the findings of the traffic signal hardware assessment that was used to support the recent CRP. A subset of those intersections / corridors were then further studied, including the development of coordinated peak period traffic signal timings. The benefits of the signal timing will be presented that shows the substantial reduction in delays for the study corridors.

**Background:**                      The Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a widely recognized and accepted approach for accurately measuring congestion, providing real-time data on multimodal transportation performance, and evaluating various strategies to alleviate congestion that align with state and local requirements. Although a CMP is mandatory in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, our CMP Analysis Tier 2 has been diligently progressing since January 2023. To comprehensively evaluate the impact of our efforts, CoPlan has conducted a comparison between the "after" travel time runs and those representing the "before" period, which were collected during the Spring 2022 CMP initiative. This analysis has been instrumental in determining the effectiveness of our congestion management strategies. CoPlan measured performance indicators such as travel time, delay, control delay, fuel savings, and driver time savings. These performance measures provide valuable insights into the tangible benefits of our congestion mitigation efforts.

**10. Discussion on FC**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **RGVMPO / TxDOT**

**Summary:**                      The RGVMPO is providing update to recent Federal Functional Classification Process and Recommendations.

**Background:**                      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.

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

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      **Andrew A. Canon, RGVMPO Executive Director**

**Summary:**                      1. Budget Update  
2. Discussion-Combining November and December TAC to be done on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. STATUS REPORTS**

**A. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Action                       Possible Action                       Information

**Presenter:**                      TxDOT Area Office Staff

**VII. Other Business (Old or New):** This item provides an opportunity for members to bring items of interest before the group.

**VIII. Next Meeting:** The next RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee is "VIRTUAL" at **10:00 am on November 9, 2023.**