

Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
 Minutes
 September 10, 2019

I) CALL TO ORDER

Adrian Rincones, Cameron County RMA called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. The RGV TAC Meeting was held at the Ken Jones Boardroom located at 301 West Railroad, Weslaco, Texas

II) ROLL CALL

RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
Cameron County RMA	Adrian Rincones
City of Mission	Robert Salinas, P.E.
City of Brownsville	Mark Lund
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
City of Harlingen	Gabriel Gonzalez
City of McAllen	Patrizia Longoria
City of Pharr	Com. Eleazar Guajardo
City of San Benito	Arturo Garza, III
Cameron County	Frank Gudino
Hidalgo County	Anthony Garza
TxDOT Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo
Brownsville Metro	Norma Zamora
McAllen Metro	Jon Ray Bocanegra
Port of Brownsville	ABSENT
Port of Harlingen	Neil Haman
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Hidalgo County RMA	Eric Davila
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	ABSENT
NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
LRGVDC	Ron Garza
Harlingen/San Benito MPO	J. Joel Garza
Hidalgo County MPO	Andrew A. Canon
Federal Highways Administration	
Federal Transportation Administration	

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IV) PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Ron Garza noted that he would like to discuss an item out of order "RGVTAC Meetings". At the last RGVTPB meeting it was voted by the Policy Members to hold the RGV TAC Meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 10:00 AM. After carefully considering that day (Tuesday), it seems it coincide with other meetings, especially with the Commissioners' Court for both Hidalgo and Cameron County. Mr. Garza would like to recommend to the RGVTPB, to hold the RGV TAC Meetings every second Thursday of the month at 10:00, at the Ken Jones Boardroom. **After some discussion on this item, The City of Pharr made motion to recommend to the RGVTPB, to move the RGV TAC Meetings to the Second Thursday of the month, at 10:00 AM; at the Ken Jones Boardroom, for consideration and approval. The motion was seconded by the City of Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Garza noted if any TAC member still not receiving the distribution email for the upcoming RGV TAC and RGVTPB meetings, please contact staff. Also, effective October 1, 2019, all RGV TAC and RGV Policy (Packets and links) will be posted on the new RGV MPO Webpage.

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of July 25, 2019

- Mr. Rincones asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of July 25, 2019 as presented by staff. Mark Lund had a correction remove “~~NOT~~” from his following statement. “Mr. Mark Lund noted that FY 2020-21 UPWP document for RGVMPPO does ~~not~~ list B Metro’s 5307 transit activities. Mr. Lund also noted BMPO and B Metro staff did ~~not~~ pursue having the 5307 activities incorporated into the RGVMPPO UPWP on an arbitrary basis, which staff was instructed to do so by FTA”. Melba Schaus, TxDOT had a correction... “~~Schaus~~” should read as... “Schaus”. **No further discussion took place regarding the Minutes of July 25, 2019, the City of Harlingen made a motion approve the Minute of July 25, 2019 with corrections noted. The motion was seconded by Cameron County; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Consideration and Action on MOU Regarding Performance Based Planning for RGVMPPO Transit Providers (Brownsville-McAllen-Valley Metro)

- Andrew Canon provided to the RGVTAC Committee members present the updated RGVMPPO MOU Performance Based Planning for (Brownsville-McAllen-Valley Metro) Transit Providers. The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to make provision for cooperative mutual responsibilities in carrying out the Metropolitan Planning Process and Performance Based Planning and Programming in the Rio Grande Valley MPA and to provide a single agreement between the State of Texas acting through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Rio Grande Valley MPO (RGVMPO), Brownsville Metro, Metro McAllen, and Valley Metro in accordance with current Federal Legislation and as required by 23 CFR 450.314. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Pharr made a motion to recommend the MOU Performance Based Planning for RGVMPPO Transit Providers (Brownsville-McAllen-Valley Metro) as presented by staff to the RGVTPB Committee for their consideration and approval. The City of Edinburg seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

C. Consideration and Action on RFP for Region Wide Congestion Management (CMP) Process

- Mr. Andrew Canon informed the RGVTAC Committee members present that a Letter from the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) was issued to advertise and solicit “Request for Proposals (RFP)” for a Region Wide Congestion Management Process (CMP). The LRGVDC received one (1) submittal from CoPlan for consideration. CoPlan has performed CMP studies for all 3 regions of the RGV, Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito and Hidalgo County in previous years. Although the RFP references the HCMPO, as you will recall we were given guidance and approval by TxDOT and FHWA to expand the contract to incorporate the region for a true Regional CMP. In compliance with the LRGVDC procurement procedures, staff is requesting approval to request for a cost break down from CoPlan and begin a cost analysis for possible approval to enter into contract at the October 2019 meeting.

Andrew Canon noted that TTI Consultants will be contracted to come and do an assessment to determine the staffing need for the new RGVMPPO. Ron Garza noted the other two entities staffing vacancies are (Brownsville MPO is (4) and Harlingen MPO is (2), recommendation would be to have at least 10 – 12 employees for the new RGVMPPO.

After some discussion on this item, the City of Pharr made a motion to approve the RFP for the Region Wide Congestion Management (CMP) Process as presented by staff to the RGVTPB Committee for their consideration and approval. The City of Mission seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Consideration and Action on the Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- J. Joel Garza provided to the RGVTAC Committee present the final Public Participation Plan and was made part of the packet. The Public Participation Plan includes the process of how to advertise for PPP, MTP and UPWP. The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is intended to provide direction for public involvement activities to be conducted by the RGVMPPO. The PPP includes descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of the RGVMPPO and other agencies in the Public Involvement Process. The PPP also lists public involvement techniques that could be used by the RGVMPPO to encourage the public to engage in the planning process. As a part of the 45-day public involvement process, the RGVMPPO is giving notice of the new RGVMPPO Public Participation Plan. Also listed in the PPP are how /where Public Meetings will be held in each respective region (Hidalgo, Harlingen and Brownsville). This information was made available for public review and comment from July 26th - Sept 8, 2019. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend the Public Participation Plan (PPP) presented by staff to the RGVTPB Committee for their consideration and approval. The City of Pharr seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

E. Discussion and Action on Performance Measures for PM1, PM2, and PM3

- Andrew Canon provided to the RGVTAC Committee present Resolutions to adopt State Performance Targets (PM1), Infrastructure Condition, Asset Management (PM2) and System Performance, Freight and CMAQ (PM3) as set forth by the Texas Department of Transportation. Andrew Canon concluded by letting RGVTAC members know that all three MPO’s agree with these Performance Measures. **No discussion took place on this item, Cameron County made a motion to recommend the Performance Measures for PM1, PM2, and PM3 as presented by staff to the RGVTPB Committee for their consideration and approval. The City of Harlingen seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously**

F. Consideration and Action Request to Begin Cost Negotiations on MTP RFP Submittals

- Mr. Canon provided an update on the MTP RFP and stated that only one proposal has been received to-date for the Long-Range Plan. *Staff is asking RGVTAC members, if no other proposals are submitted prior to the deadline, can staff move forward with cost negotiations. Should there be other proposals submitted, than staff would present those to RGVTAC for their consideration and approval at the October meeting. After some discussion on this item, Hidalgo County made motion to move forward with staff recommendation, if; other proposals are received prior to the deadline, they will be presented to RGVTAC for their consideration and approval at their October meeting. The City of Pharr seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

G. Consideration and Action on the 2020-2021 UPWP (Staff Budget)

- J. Joel Garza provided to RGVTAC members present a brief update on the Final 2020-2021 UPWP, staff will be seeking RGVTAC approval at their September 25, 2019 Board meeting. J. Joel Garza noted that in the current 2020-2021 UPWP document B Metro's 5307 transit is listed and highlighted in "Red. *No discussion took place on this item, the City of Harlingen made a motion to recommend the 2020-2021 UPWP as presented by staff to the RGVTAC Committee for their consideration and approval. The City of Edinburg seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously*

H. Consideration and Action on the RGVMPO Draft Bicycle Plan

- J, Joel Garza gave a brief update and noted that all three MPOs' Bicycle Plans were incorporated in the RGVMPO Bicycle Plan and will also be part of the PPP, MTP and UPWP documents. A Bicycle (BPAC) Planning Committee will also be selected at later date, which will also include representatives from all three regions (Hidalgo, Brownsville and Harlingen). *No further discussion took place on this item, the City of Pharr made a motion to recommend the RGVMPO Bicycle Plan as presented by staff to the RGVTAC Committee for their consideration and approval. The City of Harlingen seconded the motion; and upon a vote the motion passed.*
- Ron Garza made an announcement to the RGVTAC members present that the LRGVDC received a Supplemental Award in the amount of \$115,989 from Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation for 16 Trail Counters. Valley Baptist Legacy Foundation also funded part Regional Bike Share Program. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

V) RGVMPO STAFF REPORT AND UPDATES

* MTP/TIP Update

RGVMPO FY2019-22 Transit TIP and Financial Summary

Andrew Canon noted that staff has been working collectively with Harlingen and Brownsville to update the MTP/TIP and Long-Range Plan and provided the Financial Summaries for their review. Andrew noted that Federal Highway and TxDOT and were pleased to know that the three MPO's Staffing work in collaboration on all these documents and were completed prior to the deadline.

Mr. Lund noted that staff would like clarification on projects that did not Lett Fiscal Year End 2019, when will they be moved over into Fiscal Year 2020. When these projects are moved, RGVMPO would than do an Administrative TIP Modification? Melba Schaus with TxDOT noted because of the current situation with the Merger, these projects will not be moved in the next few months Administratively, mostly because the portal might not be up and running from MPO to RG. These projects however are in the TIP and will not jeopardized the projects from Letting. TxDOT will be contacting TP&P for guidance and contact RGVTAC with a response as soon as possible.

MTP - J Joel Garza noted that the consultant has been working on the various chapters for the current Draft MTP and it is currently being reviewed by staff and will be brought forth at the next RGVTAC meeting for approval.

VI) STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Reports

Melba A. Schaus with TxDOT provided an updated report on projects within the RGVMPO area. Monthly Letting Projects listed was two projects in October 2019 and one Project in August 2020, which were added capacity projects. TxDOT Monthly Letting Report is filed with the September 10, 2019 RGVTAC packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

B. Cameron County RMA

- Adrian Rincones, Cameron County RMA provided a presentation on projects that are currently within the Cameron County RMA. All projects are moving forward as scheduled and Cameron County RMA monthly report is filed with the September 10, 2019 RGVTAC Packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

C. Hidalgo County RMA

- Eric Davila, Chief Development Engineer with Hidalgo County RMA provided an overview on the following projects: 1) 365 Toll Project; 2) IBTC Project; 3) Overweight Permit Summary; and 4) Construction Economic Update. All projects are currently with in the Hidalgo County RMA and all projects continue to move forward. Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the September 10, 2019 RGVTAC Packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

D. McAllen Metro

- Jon Ray Bocanegra provided a brief update to RGVTAC Members present and noted that Ridership Report covers from October 2018 to July 2019. McAllen Metro monthly report is filed with the September 10, 2019 RGVTAC Packet. *Report only, no action taken at this time.*

E. Brownsville Metro

- Norma Zamora provided an updated Brownsville Metro Report and informed RGV TAC Members present that Brownsville Metro have applied for Tiger Funds in the amount of \$2.6 Million. Ms. Zamora concluded by letting RGV TAC Members know that Brownsville Metro will also be applying for Rider 38 funds. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

F. Valley Metro

- Frank Jaramillo provided a brief update to RGV TAC Members present and noted that Ridership continues to be study, aside the from school being out for the summer. Valley Metro Report is filed with the September 10, 2019 RGV TAC Packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rider 38 – Mrs. Schaus shared some information regarding Rider 38 Application, stated in the document, there is 20MIL allotted for each fiscal year of the biennium. A few things to remember about the Rider 38 program:

- Deadline to turn in application(s) is December 3, 2019, no exceptions.
- All applicants must work with their local TxDOT District office regarding the project(s) they wish to nominate.
- There are a couple of sections you will need to get the information from your TxDOT District office in order to complete.
- All applications will need to be turned in to the respective TxDOT District office and a copy sent to the Maritime Division (Stephanie.cribbs@txdot.gov). The district office will then forward their ranking of all applications in their district area to the Maritime Division.
- TxDOT District staff will be providing scoring criteria at a later date in order to rank the projects for their district area.
- Please complete one application per project.
- Please feel free to duplicate the application.
- All applications must be sent electronically.

Ms. Schaus concluded by letting RGV TAC Members know that she will be sending the Rider 38 application to MPO Staff for them to email to all RGV TAC Members.

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

- ***There being no further business to come before the RGV TAC, Adrian Rincones called for a motion to adjourn. The City of Pharr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 AM. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***