

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

April 8, 2021

I) CALL TO ORDER

Pete Sepulveda, (Cameron County RMA) Chairman called the TAC Microsoft Teams Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The RGV TAC Microsoft Teams Meeting was held remotely with the following TAC Members.

II) ROLL CALL

RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda, Chairman
City of Mission	JP Terrazas, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of Edinburg	Mardequero Hinojosa, P.E.
City of Harlingen	Ana Hernandez
City of McAllen	Yvette Barrera
City of Pharr	Omar Anzaldua
City of San Benito	Rick Guerra
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
TxDOT Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Frank Jaramillo
Hidalgo County RMA	Eric Davila
Brownsville Metro	Antonio Zubieta
McAllen Metro	Robert De Leon
Port of Brownsville	Ariel Chavez, III
Port of Harlingen	Neil Haman / Alan Johnson
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates / Crystal Gonzalez
GUEST	
STAFF	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IV) PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of March 18, 2021

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of March 18, 2021.

No corrections were noted to the minutes of March 18, 2021, City of Brownsville made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County RMA; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion and Possible Action on Starr County Merger

Andrew is asking TAC members to consider and approve where appropriate several Resolutions from the Starr County which included (Starr County, City of Rio Grande, City of La Grulla, City of Roma, and City of Escobares) the Annexation area into the Rio Grande Valley MPO. Previous discussion had been held with Mayor O’Caña, County Starr Judge Eloy Vera and staff regarding possible merger. Staff did informed TAC Members that **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING** would be available for these areas. This proposed MAB Expansion is based on the smooth of the current UAB following census blocks and block group (MAB Map Attached).

After some discussion on this item, the City of Brownsville made a motion to recommend approval of the Starr County Merger and the updated MAB Map to the Policy Board as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Discussion and Possible Action on Revising the RGVMPPO Bylaws

Andrew informed TAC members present that with the action taken on Item “B”, regarding Annexation of Starr County, the RGVMPPO Bylaws will be updated in Red. Weighed votes after including Starr County, will be 31 to 32 as revised on Page 2 of the Bylaws. (See Table Below). Also, under Section 1.06 of the Technical Advisory Committee, Starr County will have TAC Representation on this Committee (TAC).

Table 1. Transportation Policy Board			
	2010 Population by City	Members	Weighted Votes
Hidalgo County	240,273	1	7
City of Brownsville	175,023	1	4
Cameron County	136,486	1	4
City of McAllen	129,877	1	3
City of Edinburg	77,100	1	2
City of Mission	77,058	1	2
City of Pharr	70,400	1	2
City of Harlingen	64,849	1	2
City of San Benito (*reference section 1.05, e.)	24,250	1	1
Cameron County RMA		1	1
Hidalgo County RMA		1	1
Starr County	60,968	1	1
Valley Metro		1	1
TxDOT Pharr District		1	1
Additional cities (N=number of cities that reach the 50,000-population threshold)			
Total		13 14	34 32

No discussion took place on this item, City of Harlingen made a motion to recommend approval of the Revised RGVMPPO Bylaws to the Policy Board as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects

RGVMPO Staff noted that as announced at the March 2021 Meeting, collaboration with TxDOT and Staff, are moving forward with the FY2021-2022 TASA Call for Projects. Approximately \$2.3M will be available for projects, with \$2.07M (90%) for construction and ~\$230,000 (10%) for planning. The following Program Timeline was presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee at their April 7, 2021 Meeting. Today, RGVMPPO Staff presents the proposed timeline for your attention, feedback, and potential approval.

- April – BPAC reviews revised Program Call documents and approves activity timeline;
- May – FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects Workshop (date TBD);
- June - July – Call for Projects opens June 1st and closes July 31st at 5:00p.m.;
- August – BPAC reviews, evaluates and scores submitted project applications-
- September – TAC and TPB will review the scored submitted projects and take action to award selected projects with TASA funding;
- October – 30-day public involvement period for November 2021 STIP Revisions; and
- November – Selected projects will be included in the November 2021 STIP Revision

City of Harlingen asked Staff when the final projects are selected, for FY2021-2022, is the spending timeline 12 or 18 months and how does that payout for next year. Staff noted this funding is for FY2021-2022, and in FY2023, there would be another “CALL FOR PROJECTS” and possibly carry-over dollars.

No further discussion took place on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects “Timeline” to the Policy Board as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Discussion on 2021-2024 STIP Timeline Update

2021-2024 STIP Timeline Update

Andrew provided the 2021-2024 STIP Timetable that was updated March 2021 as follows:

- TPP Post 21-24 STIP, begins Public Comment PeriodFebruary 26, 2021
 - Public Hearing Held.....March 18, 2021
 - STIP PUBLIC Comment Period Ends.....March 29, 2021
 - 2021-2024 STIP goes to the Commission for Approval.....April 29, 2021
 - First Day FHWA / FTA can approve the 2021 – 2024 STIP.....*April 30, 2021
Or, once FHWA / FTA receives TxDOT letter of approval.
 - STIP Public Comments period ends.....March 29, 2021
 - Next Potential Revision.....*August 2021
- *This will only be if the initial 21-21 gets approved and amicable time is allotted.

Staff has not heard anything different with the Timeline and are moving forward with those dates. Staff is also currently reviewing those submittals that have been received from last years’ and making sure that there are no more additional opportunities to move projects around as requested or forward and to address any submittals that were received from all the Planning Partners.

Chairman Sepulveda had a question with the “April 29, 2021 Commission for Approval” and the Policy Board meeting on April 28, 2021, is that one day enough time to make a final recommendation to the Commission.

Staff replied, recommendations have been made since the January 2021 meeting. This is just an update, and nothing has change on the way of the projects.

No further discussion took place on this item, City of Harlingen made a motion to acknowledge the 2021-20224 STIP Timeline as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion on the UTP FY2022-2031

Andrew noted that this item would be presented by Melba Schaus with TxDOT. Melba went over the Ranking Criteria as follows:

RANKING CRITERIA:

- I)** Regional Projects (i.e. major corridors; connectivity) {Cat 4/12}
- II)** Mobility/Added Capacity {Cat 2/7} *Based on letting dates; Category 2 then Category 7 within same letting timeframes.*
- III)** CBI/Rider 11 b POE projects {Cat 10/11} *Based on letting dates and development; place in the mix with Cat 2 & 7.*
- IV)** TASA (considering lapsing fund projects) {Cat 9} *Based on letting dates and development.*
- V)** Safety {Cat 8}
- VI)** Preventive Maintenance {Cat 1/11} *Seal coat \$10M, Overlay \$10M, and Rehab \$20M by FY as a whole; groups/packages not listed individually.*
- VII)** Bridge {Cat 6}

Melba noted that the Pharr District had a total of 324 Projects, some project will be group together for ranking (i.e., seal code and overlays) therefore total rank projects were only 183.

On this list for the record, it is only showing projects in Cameron and Hidalgo counties, with the exception of, “Regionally Significant Projects.

The top 16 Projects on the list are “Regional Projects”. As TxDOT went through the ranking, it was done based on the Letting Years, starting with FY2022, and following the criteria as previously discussed, except for the “regionally significant projects”. In FY2022 TxDOT went through the bottom six categories and ranked those projects, FY2023, ranked those projects...etc. However, Projects with CAT 8 (Safety); CAT 1 (Preventive Maintenance) and CAT 6 (Bridge) are not shown on the provided listing and will have gaps in the ranking between the Fiscal Years. The projects for these funding categories are selected based on Program Calls and Funding Allocation and therefore were not added to the listing.

The Project Listing and Ranking is based on the proposed FY2021-2024 TIP, however TxDOT is aware that there might be forthcoming changes that may change the listing, keeping in mind this is only a snapshot in time.

TxDOT concluded by letting TAC members know that, this ranking exercise will be done on a yearly basis and as projects develop and funding becomes available; the ranking will adjust accordingly. Again, working with the MPO, this is the criteria and exercise that was agreed with and a good solid foundation to start to move forward on the listing provided.

After further discussion on the Ranking vs Scoring and how TxDOT/RGVMPO Staff came up with this system, Hidalgo County made a motion to acknowledge the UTP FY2022-2031 as presented by TxDOT. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

G. Discussion on Administrative Modifications & Revisions to 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP

RGVMPO staff has compiled correspondences from our entities regarding potential revisions and administrative modifications to the FY 2021-2024 TIP & FY 2020-2045 MTP. The list of potential updates from the following Entities were received from (TxDOT, Cameron County RMA, City of Pharr and City of McAllen) and has been included in this packet for your review and consideration. Staff is asking if there are other entities that would like to submit additional changes or updates towards their respective projects as soon as possible.

Hidalgo County had several questions: 1) was there not an original deadline set for submittals; and 2) was it not Hidalgo County and the City of Mission the only ones that met that deadline.

Andrew replied yes, there were several deadlines set and yes both Hidalgo County and City of Mission were the only ones that submitted their request and met the deadline.

Hidalgo County asked why those submittals were not part of this listing. Staff noted that most of the items are Admin Revisions Submittals that do not require Policy Board approval. Staff will continue to update TAC members on the status of FY2021-2024 TIP approval accordingly.

Hidalgo County just had a concern, because their projects are not listed on this Administrative Modifications & Revisions, it's presumed that they have no requests. Again, Staff re-emphasized this list is for those projects that do not require Policy Board approval, due to them being only Admin Revisions. Staff has created a list of all projects as they are being received and will be made available to both the TAC and Policy members.

After some discussion on the Administrative Modifications & Revisions to 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP, City of McAllen made a motion to acknowledge the Administrative Modifications & Revisions to 2021-2024 TIP & 2045 MTP as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

H. Discussion on the New Logo for RGVMPO

Staff noted that on February 24, 2021 a one-page informational sheet was sent to the schools' department chairs for dissemination to the Graphic Design Students Department. Through the information sheet, students were invited to create and submit, by April 1st, logo concepts that could be presented and considered by the TAC and Policy Board. The selected design would receive a \$100 gift card. However, to date, no submittals have been received. Staff is asking for guidance on how to proceed with the solicitation of a new RGVMPO Organizational Logo. **No discussion took place on this item.**

I. Discussion on RGV Traffic Safety Initiative

Eva gave a brief background on this Traffic Safety Initiative as follows: On November 6, 2020 the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) posted the FY 2022 Request for Proposals (RFP) notice for projects that support the targets and strategies of its Traffic Safety Program to reduce the number of motor vehicle related crashes, injuries and fatalities in Texas. At the request of the RGVMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), the funding constraints and requirements were presented by RGVMPO Staff and discussed with BPAC Members at the December 2020 BPAC meeting.

Update: Motivated to implement the recommendations from the recently adopted RGVMPO Active Transportation Plan, and to further support the goals of the Texas Highway Safety Plan and the USDOT Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, RGVMPO Staff developed and submitted a grant application on January 6, 2021. The RGV Traffic Safety Initiative proposes a comprehensive approach to addressing traffic safety as a region, and the RGVMPO has been awarded to receive \$41,500.00 to fund the Initiative's objectives and activities by Texas Transportation Commission. **No discussion took place on this item.**

V) **RGVMPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES**

A. Director Update

- **Introduction of New Staff** – The following staff were introduced, Javier Dominguez, Planner I, Christopher Nelson, Planner I, and Juan Pena, GIS and one more Planner, which will be starting on April 26, 2021, given a total of 12 employees currently hired with the RGVMPO.
- **New Office Location** – Staff noted that at the request of the Policy Board, staff has visited with Hidalgo and Cameron County City Officials regarding the new office locations, and City Officials from both Counties had no issues with having two offices in Edinburg and Brownsville. No final date is confirmed, still waiting on TxDOT and FHWA for final approval.
- April 28, 2021 Policy Meeting Update – Staff will be sending an email to both Policy and TAC members, letting them know that Policy Meeting for April 28, 2021 has been moved to 9:30 AM and will be held at the Pharr Event Center. Policy Meeting was moved to facilitate the visit from Secretary of State Hughs. Secretary of State Hughs is hoping to meet with as many of the Policy members as time allows and meeting will be held In-Person. Staff is still working with the Secretary of State and her staff to finalize agenda, once it is done, both the Policy/TAC Board members will be receiving a copy of that agenda.
- Chairman Hernandez has given staff direction to reach out to the cities about the Policy date and time change, one reason why the Policy Meeting was moved, because on that day Mayor Jim Darling will be delivering the State of the City Address in the afternoon, which many city officials will be in attendance. Also, this will be Mayor Darlings' last year as Mayor for the City of McAllen: The City of Harlingen will also be holding a State of the City Address, date still pending.

B. Financial Update

Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. **Report filed with the March 18, 2021 RGVTAC Packet.**

VI) **STATUS REPORTS**

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Melba (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPO area, Via Microsoft Teams. The following report included some of many TxDOT Monthly Letting Projects that has been extended from (November 2020 - December 2021).

Melba explained to TAC members present that due to some items still pending (TIP Approval and Agreements), these projects will be moved to December 2021 Letting, however; as things go through the project development and can be accelerated; these projects will be moved to September or October 2021.

S Parallel Corridor (Phase 2) 0921-06-252	CAM	FM 509 to FM 1577	Construct 2 Lane Rural	\$8,368,925 / \$0.00	CAT 3, 10, 11 & 11B
LL-365 Tollway 0921-02-368	CAM	FM 396 TO US 281	Construct 4 Ln Controlled Access Tolled Facility	\$260,123,640 / \$0.00	CAT 3, 10, 11B & 12

Cameron County did note that this is the first time the County is hearing about the delay and moving these projects to December 2021.

Chairman Sepulveda noted that it would have been nice to have received a phone call from TxDOT before hearing it first during this TAC meeting. Partners have been telling their elected officials of a different schedule, and to find out that is not the case.

Mr. Alvarez did acknowledge Chairman Sepulveda's concern, and noted that TxDOT will work on making sure Partners are kept in the loop of future updates.

Melba concluded by reminding local governments in attendance, to please continue coordinating with their respective TxDOT Project Managers on a regular basis towards letting their local projects. **TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the April 8, 2021 RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).**

B. Cameron County RMA

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via Microsoft Teams 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 April 8, 2021-RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).***

C. Hidalgo County RMA

Eric Davila, PE, (Hidalgo County RMA) provided an updated presentation Via Microsoft Teams on projects that are currently within the Hidalgo County RMA; he discussed the major milestones of each project. ***The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the April 8, 2021-RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).***

D. McAllen Metro

Robert De Leon with McAllen Metro report was provided and is filed with the April 8, 2021-RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

E. Brownsville / Island Metros

Antonio Zubieta provided an updated report Via Microsoft Teams which included the Brownsville Metro and Island Metro. These reports include on-going connecting community projects and combined ridership. **The reports are filed with April 8, 2021 RGVTAC Packet. (Report only, no action taken at this time).**

F. Valley Metro

Frank Jaramillo provided an update report Via Microsoft Team, for both the Rural and Urban areas for the Year-To-Date Report. **The Valley Metro Report was provided and is filed with the April 8, 2021 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, Chairman Sepulveda called for a motion to adjourn. Cameron County made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 AM. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.