

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

May 13, 2021

I) CALL TO ORDER

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

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	ABSENT
City of Harlingen	Carlos Sanchez
City of McAllen	Yvette Barrera
City of Pharr	Omar Anzaldua
City of San Benito	Rick Guerra (Mayor)
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	Jon Bocanegra
Port of Brownsville	Ariel Chavez, III
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates / Crystal Gonzalez
GUEST	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz, Executive Director
STAFF	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

IV) PRESENTATION, ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of April 8, 2021

Pete Sepulveda (Cameron County RMA) Chairman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of April 8, 2021.

No corrections were noted to the minutes of April 8, 2021, and the City of McAllen made a motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSENT AGENDAS

2.1 Discussion and Possible Action on FY 2022-2023 United Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Andrew is asking TAC members to consider and approve where appropriate the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is the office budget used to meet the daily needs of RGVMP staff. This budget provides funding for salaries, fringe, and indirect fees as well as funding for contract services as needed, replacement and upgrading of office equipment and staff travel when needed. The UPWP also provides funding for planning partners such as transit providers and local governments when appropriate. TxDOT has identified an approximate budget of \$2.2M annually not including any carryover amounts from unexpended funds of previous years. The City of Harlingen did reach out to staff regarding two (2) Corridor Studies US 77 and FM 509 (Sunshine Strip in Cameron County. These corridors are identified in this UPWP and will be presented to the Policy Board for their consideration and approval. Once approved, Staff will be working on a scope and a budget for these two studies to discuss and present to the City of Harlingen, again once it is approved by the Policy Board.

Cameron County had one correction to the UPWP, under “TAC Members Committee”, Paolina Vega is not the Representative for Cameron County, please change to ... read... “Benjamin Worsham”.

No further discussion took place on this item, the City of Harlingen made a motion to recommend approval of the FY2022-2023 UPWP to the Policy Board with correction by Cameron County. The motion was seconded by Port of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Discussion and Possible Action on “Trade Fair” Partnership with NCTCOG

Andrew provided a brief overview slide presentation on how the proposed RGVMP “Trade Fair” Partnership Plan is process with other MPOs’. Staff noted that he approached NCTCOG with a proposal of creating a trade of Cat. 7, Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds. The Rio Grande Valley MPO is requesting to borrow cash flow/allocation authority from RTC/NCTCOG for a total of \$14,578,845 of STBG funds in FY2022. In turn, the RGVMP would repay the full \$14,578,845 of STBG funds back to NCTCOG in FY2026. The purpose of the request is to advance the Veterans International Bridge project, CSJ # 0921-06-313 which is presently identified in FY 2026 but is capable of being let to construction in FY 2022 should the funding be identified and approved. The term of the repayment is as follows:

Overview of “Trade Fair” Partnership Plan

Fiscal Year	NCTCOG	RGVMPO Cat. 7 Cameron County Sub-Region
2022	(\$14,578,845)	\$14,578,845
2023	\$10,500,000	-
2025	\$10,500,000	-
2026	\$14,578,845	(\$14,578,845)
2028	\$6,903,818	-
2029	\$6,994,465	-
2030	\$7,101,717	-

Requested Action:

- Of a “Trade Fair” Partnership with the Rio Grande Valley MPO of transferring:
- Receipt of \$14,578,845 in STBG/Cat. 7 cash flow/allocation in FY 2022
- Distribution of \$14,578,845 back in FY 2026
- Directing staff to enter interlocal agreements with the NCTCOG that outlined the terms of agreement.
- Directing staff to monitor the funds transfer agreement process at TxDOT to ensure that the terms of agreements are honored over time.

City of McAllen asked what Category the funding is being identified. Staff noted Cat 7 for FY2026, just the amount/funding Year for the project. Staff will provide slide before Policy Meeting for clarity.

No further discussion took place on this item, Cameron County made a motion to recommend approval of the “Trade Fair” Partnership with NCTCOG to the Policy Board as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.3 Discussion and Possible Action of Re-Designation Amendment

Staff noted that A Re-designation Agreement is required by law to effectuate the consolidation of MPOs. The amended Re-Designation is needed to define the Composition of the Policy Board and needs to be executed by the Governor, documents will be revised as per the Policy Board to include Starr County and presented to the TAC Committee again with corrections at the June TAC Meeting. **Staff recommends tabling this item.**

No discussion took place on this item, City of Harlingen made a motion to Table the “Re-Designation Amendment” as presented by Staff. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2.4 Discussion on 2021-2024 STIP Timeline Update

Staff provided additional information on the STIP Timeline and MTP/TIP amendment process. The STIP was approved by James Bass and forwarded to FHWA. Staff is seeking an update from TxDOT on the next steps in the process and how this will impact the TIP/MTP update/amendment timeline.

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

IV. RGVMPPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND UPDATES

New Office Location – Staff noted that no final date is confirmed, still waiting on TxDOT and FHWA for final approval.

FY2021-2022 TASA Program Call for Projects - The FY2021-2022 TASA Call for Projects opens today!

The RGVMPPO Website has been updated with a [FY 2021-2022 TASA webpage](#). Here you may access the application form (via Microsoft Form) and relevant resources. Please feel free to reach out to staff directly if you experience any issues or have questions regarding the application. As a reminder – Application Deadline is Friday, July 30th at 5:00 p.m., which the application form will automatically close.

June – July TAC/Policy Meeting Update – Staff will be sending an email to TAC members, letting them know if Policy members will be combing the June / July Meetings for both TAC and Policy.

Financial Update

Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. **Report filed with the May 13, 2021, RGV TAC Packet.**

V. STATUS REPORTS

A. TxDOT Project Status Report

Melba (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPPO 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 as things go through the project development and can be accelerated; some projects will be moved to September or October 2021. **TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the May 13, 2021, RGV TAC 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 May 13, 2021, RGV TAC 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 May 13, 2021, RGV TAC 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 **May 13, 2021, RGV TAC 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 May 13, 2021, RGV TAC 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 May 13, 2021, RGVTAC Packet. (Report on, no action taken at this time).**

VI. NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Staff noted that TAC meetings are still being held virtual, asking for direction on whether to continue virtual or start holding TAC meetings in person or both.

Next TAC Meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Chairman Sepulveda called for a motion to adjourn. Port of Brownsville made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.