

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2022**

**I) CALL TO ORDER**

JP Terrazas (City of Mission) Chairman called the TAC Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The TAC Meeting was held “Virtual”.

**II) ROLL CALL**

**RGVTAC Representatives in attendance were as follows:**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	
<b>ENTITY</b>	<b>VOTING MEMBERS</b>
City of Mission	JP Terrazas, Chairman
Cameron County	Benjamin Worsham, Vice Chairman
City of Brownsville	Joel Garza
City of Edinburg	Tom Reyna
City of Harlingen	Anna Hernandez
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Omar Anzaldua
City of San Benito	Manny De La Rosa
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr.
TxDOT Pharr District	Melba Schaus
Valley Metro	Nancy Sanchez
Cameron County RMA	Pete Sepulveda
Hidalgo County RMA	Eric Davila
Brownsville Metro	Antonio Zubieta
Port of Brownsville	<b>ABSENT</b>
Port of Harlingen	<b>ABSENT</b>
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	<b>ABSENT</b>
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
<b>GUEST</b>	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
<b>STAFF</b>	
RGVMPO	Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO	Luis Diaz
RGVMPO	Staff

**III) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**IV) CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of:**

- December 2, 2021
- January 16, 2022 – No Meeting Held

**Mr. Terrazas, Chairman (City Mission) asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of December 2, 2021.**

**No other corrections were noted to the minutes of December 2, 2021, City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 2, 2021, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

## **2. Discussion and Update on the RGVMPPO BikePed Program**

Eva Garcia, reported on the current status and upcoming activities of various BikePed projects and programs. The annual update will include information regarding: CAT 9 (TASA) Project Developments; RGVMPPO BPAC Working Groups; RGV Traffic Safety Initiative; RGV Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter Data Program; RGV Transportation Alternatives Facility Inventory; and RGV B-Cycle (BikeShare) Program. To ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation professionals, RGVMPPO Staff will report on the status of all active transportation alternatives project funded through the RGVMPPO's Category 9 (TASA) funds/apportionment. Additionally, the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Board approved/adopted the RGVMPPO Active Transportation Plan (ATP) in December 2020. In the last year, since its adoption, several initiatives recommended for implementation within the ATP have been progressing, and new initiatives are kicking-off.

City of McAllen requested exploring Bike counters setup in the McAllen Area. Staff will be working with TTI on how /what options can be explored in the McAllen Area.

**After some discussion on this item, Chairman Terrazas moved on to the next item on the agenda, being this item was only for informational purposes and discussion.**

## **3. Discussion and Action on the FY2019-2020 TASA Program**

RGVMPPO Staff continues to review and monitor projects that have been awarded TASA funds. To ensure regional FY 2019 funds are obligated by September 2022, staff has been working with local government agencies to collect project updates. This presentation will highlight project challenges and potential changes that may be considered to amend AFAs, or otherwise provide clarification on how to proceed. Through the project development process, some challenges and changes have been discussed. RGVMPPO Staff, and our TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation professionals. After the presentation, staff will be seeking feedback and guidance from TAC members.

City Pharr gave a brief update on the TRI -City Pedestrian Safety Improvement Program.

TxDOT advise TAC members on the importance of updating prior to the Amendment to avoid delays on Letting Projects.

Staff and TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with the RGVMPPO's policymakers and transportation professionals.

**After some discussion on this item, Chairman Terrazas moved on to the next item on the agenda, since this item was only for discussion and review**

## **4 Discussion and Action on 2021 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments**

Staff presented the 2021 Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment for approval. Staff noted that there were (7) request received and are supported by a Resolution contained in the packet. Staff performs an annual amendment process towards the Rio Grande Valley Thorough Fare Plan Map. The RGV Thoroughfare Map serves a collection of all ROW designations and reservation of facilities of a ROW of 80' or above.

**No further discussion took place on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the 2021 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Edinburg and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Discussion and Action on Federal Functional Classification Requests**

Luis Diaz noted that staff is seeking approval for the Federal Functional Classification of East Loop CSJ. 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.

**No further discussion took place on this item, HCRMA made a motion to approve the Federal Functional Classification Request as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**6. Discussion and Action on Adopting Safety Targets Established by the Texas Department of Transportation**

Miguel Arispe noted that Staff is seeking approval to support the 2022 Safety Targets as adopted by TXDOT. Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act requires the implementation of Performance Measures to assist in the transportation planning process. TXDOT has adopted its Strategic Highway Safety Plan and has established targets for 5 Safety Performance measures. The RGVMPPO TPB has chosen to support the State's safety performance previously for 2018 through 2021. Staff is seeking approval to continue to do so for the 2022 TXDOT Safety Performance Targets.

**No discussion took place on this item, HCRMA made a motion to Adopt the Safety Targets Established by the Texas Department of Transportation as submitted by staff. The motion was seconded by the Cameron County and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**7. Discussion and Action on the Draft 2023 UTP CAT 2 Projects**

Melba Schaus provided an update on a Table for the Cat 2 Projects in the 2022 UTP, projects have shifted out a year due to fiscal constraint and/or project development. These changes are represented by the red text on the table provided. (See Attachment).

The Funding used was based off the 2022 UTP since 2023 UTP funding targets have not yet been provided. Updated information may be available mid to late February. If any changes are needed, they will be brought back to Policy for approval and recommendation.

**After some discussion on this item, City of Harlingen a motion to approve the Draft 2023 UTP CAT 2 Projects as presented by the Texas Department of Transportation. The motion was seconded by HCRMA and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Discussion on GIS Data Requests**

Fernando Cantu noted that staff is looking into updating City Limits and ETJ Boundary Data. Staff would like to take this opportunity to request from all planning partners to please provide the most up to date data preferably in GIS Format; if not available, please provide in PDF format. Deadline to submit: March 4th, 2022

Staff concluded by letting TAC Members know that these vital data sets will allow the MPO to plan for the RGV's future transportation needs. Please take a moment to visit our online interactive mapping tool RGVMPPO UMAP and please keep in mind that if any data discrepancies are identified; please notify our office to allow us to work amending data to reflect most accurately.

**No action on this item required.**

**9. Discussion on Updates for the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6 – Scheduling a Project Update Workshop**

Rudy Zamora informed TAC members present those updates on the FY 2023-2026 Highway & Transit TIP tables will undergo development prior to submitting to TXDOT TP&P for review. All projects selected for inclusion within the new TIP will require an update. The RGVMPO MTP will also need project updates and must be adjusted to account for inflation.

Existing projects (whether programmed into TIP or MTP years) and new projects will require submission of an update. The RGVMPO Project Update Form can be found on our website and a link will be provided via the TAC meeting packet. If TAC members approve a date and time for conducting a workshop, the following material may be covered: Project Update Form, Letting Year vs. Current Construction Cost, Advance Funding Agreements, Funding Projects as they Advance into TIP, and a timetable for the FY 2023-2026 TIP approval.

Staff is recommending a workshop to address concerns and provide guidance regarding project updates. Proposed workshop date and time will be either for February 17, 2022, or March 17, 2022, at 2PM-4PM and the Workshop be held Virtual. (Via Microsoft Teams). Staff did make aware to TAC members that a Doodle Poll was sent out, but if a date is decided on at today's TAC meeting, please disregard any notification from the Doodle Poll sent out.

After much discussion on this item, it was the consensus of the TAC members present to hold the "Workshop March 17, 2022, at 2PM – (Via Microsoft Teams)".

Just a reminder...the TIP/MTP Project Update form can be found on our website, as well as the Category 7 Scoring Form. We kindly ask our entities to submit all Project Update forms by February 28, 2022. For Construction phases seeking Category 7 funding, and programming into TIP fiscal years 2023-2026, please submit a Category 7 scoring form as well. The deadline for Cat. 7 scoring forms is February 28, 2022.

Both forms can be found on our website at: Rio Grande Valley MPO - Call for Projects ([rgvmpo.org](http://rgvmpo.org)).

**No Action on this item required.**

**10. Discussion on Updates from Federal Highway Administration for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Javier Dominguez provided an overview of Highway, Transit, and Other. Staff noted that this is the first of many updates from RGVMPO Staff regarding the newly signed Infrastructure BIL and the verbiage from FHWA and dollar amounts (Grants) that are allocated on the national and state level to each of the new, expanded, and existing programs.**

**On August 10th, 2021, the Senate passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, and it was later passed by the House of Representatives on November 5th, 2021. Ten Days later President Biden signed the BIL into Law and this is the first update from the Federal Highway Administration with numbers on the national and state level.**

**Staff concluded its presentation by letting TAC members present know that a Link will be provided on the information presented with the list of "Competitive Grant Programs in the (BIL) to launch over the course of the next year.**

**No Action on this item required.**

**11. Discussion on a Regional Complete Streets Policy**

Chris Nelson noted that staff is seeking feedback on a prospective Regional Complete Streets Policy. The Regional Complete Streets Policy is intended to focus on the incorporation of Complete Streets language into MPO planning documents, including the MTP and TIP. Project scoring criteria related to Complete Streets can be developed and incorporated into the scoring system for proposed projects, thus ensuring projects are more equitable to all users of the transportation network.

According to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), SEC. 11206, MPO's must use "not less than 2.5% of the amounts made available to the metropolitan planning organization under Section 104(d) of Title 23, United States Code" to carry out Complete Streets planning activities. Complete Streets Policies have shown to decrease the number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities, increase the number of bicycle and pedestrian users on streets, and increase connectivity to key destinations for all users.

City of Brownsville also recommended that staff investigate Vision Zero.

Staff concluded by letting TAC members know that staff will be working with local municipalities on drafting the "Complete Street Policies" to be adopted by both the TAC and Policy Committees.

**12. Discussion on MPO Resources for Municipal Complete Streets Policies**

RGVMPO Staff is also seeking feedback on providing resources to municipal partners to assist with the development of their own Municipal Complete Streets Policies. Municipal Complete Streets Policies directly contribute to the safety of all transportation system users by improving the design of streets within the city's limits and ETJ.

As previously mentioned, MPO's are required to participate in Complete Streets planning activities. Thus far in the region, only two municipalities have adopted Complete Streets Policies, with a third municipality currently working towards doing so. Providing resources, such as a Complete Streets Handbook, can facilitate the adoption of Municipal Complete Streets Policies.

Staff noted that the City of Edinburg currently have their "Complete Street Policies" and will be reaching out to the city for request of their Policy. Staff will work on a draft and bring back to the TAC members for review and approval.

**13. Discussion on Critical Urban Freight Corridor (CUFC) Re-Designations**

Staff noted that in coordination with TxDOT the RGVMPO is reviewing designated Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC). CUFC listing is included in meeting packet. Re-designations of current CUFC have a deadline of March 15th to TxDOT.

As part of the 2023 Texas Freight Mobility Plan development, an opportunity to update the Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFC) which become part of the National Highway Freight Network. For the 2018 freight plan, Hidalgo submitted a total of 30.61 miles; in addition, Brownsville was selected for 9.15 miles. The combined mileage figure for the RGVMPO is 39.76 miles. (Attachment part of the Packet).

Staff concluded by letting TAC members know that this item will be provided to Policy Board for their review and approval.

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

**Financial Update**

Mr. Canon provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the February 2, 2022, RGVTAC Packet.

- **CAT 7 Project Scoring Item Summary** – Staff will be working on the Scoring Project process for Cat 7 and updated information will be shared with TAC Members respectively.
- **Texas Transportation Forum - February 6-8, 2022, San Antonio** – Staff attended Texas Transportation Forum, in San Antonio. Several sessions took place and some of the discussion included autonomous delivery, groceries, food and more to your front door, electric vehicles, economic impacts of transportation system, Samsung's Big Move, and updates from state demographer and etc.
- **2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference** – Staff will be attending the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference scheduled May 2-6, 2022, at the Omni in Houston.
- **Functional Classification** – Staff continue to work on current Functional Classifications and will be sharing updates as provided with TAC Members.

VI) **STATUS REPORTS**

**A. TxDOT Project Status Report**

Melba Schaus, (TxDOT) provided an updated TxDOT Project Status Report within the RGVMPO area, Via Microsoft Teams. The Monthly Letting Projects provided did indicate that No Projects to be Let in January, February & March 2022. Project to be Let are from (April 2022 – December 2022). R.O.W. 2022 Expenditures deadline approaching very soon. *TxDOT Project Status Report is filed with the February 10, 2022, 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. South Port Connector is 100% completed, Ribbon cutting to be scheduled soon. All projects are moving forward as scheduled. Cameron County RMA report is filed with the February 10, 2022, 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. IBTC & 365 Projects Groundbreaking scheduled in March 2022. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the February 10, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report only, no action taken at this time).**

**D. McAllen Metro**

Jon Ray Bocanegra provided an updated report Via Microsoft Teams for McAllen Metro. This report includes ongoing ridership. The report is filed with the February 10, 2022, 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 February 10, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. *( Report only, no action taken at this time).*

**F. Valley Metro**

Nancy Sanchez 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 February 10, 2022, 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 Terrazas called for a motion to adjourn. Cameron County made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 AM. The motion was seconded by City of Harlingen; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*