

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
VIRTUAL MEETING
MARCH 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:

MEMBERS PRESENT	
ENTITY	VOTING MEMBERS
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	Craig Cook
City of McAllen	Rene Gonzalez
City of Pharr	Omar Anzaldua
City of San Benito	Manny De La Rosa
Hidalgo County	Armando Garza, Jr. (Absent)
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	ABSENT
Port of Harlingen	ABSENT
Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District	ABSENT
Cameron County Spaceport Dev. Corp.	Mark Yates
GUEST	
LRGVDC	Manuel Cruz
STAFF	
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:

- February 10, 2022

Mr. Terrazas, Chairman (City Mission) asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 10, 2022.

No other corrections were noted to the minutes of February 10, 2022, City of Brownsville made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 10, 2022, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of San Benito; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion and Action to approve the Federal Functional Classification of Russel Road CSJ: 0921-02-362.

Luis informed TAC members present that Precinct 4 is seeking approval of the Federal Functional Classification of Russel Road CSJ: 0921-02-362, as an Urban Minor Collector. This request will also be presented to Policy members for their consideration and approval at their next Policy Meeting.

The 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.

After some discussion on this item, City of Edinburg moved to approve the Federal Functional Classification of Russel Road CSJ:0921-02-362 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Brownsville; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion and Action on the FY2022 Spring CMP

Luis informed TAC member present that in the past, the RGVMPPO has been responsible for gathering the traffic congestion data on its own. The RGVMPPO has examined the network of roads and highways in the urbanized areas of Cameron and Hidalgo Counties, which is approximately 500 miles of roadways. The scope of this project is to gather data on congestion levels in the urbanized areas of Cameron and Hidalgo County. This CMP network consists of roadways within the RGVMPPO MAB area that are either FHWA functionally classified or identified as a transit route. The information to be gathered, include but is not limited to, the travel times and delays for each identified road segment in the network.

Staff will be recommending to the Policy Board to approve CoPlan as the consultant for managing and overseeing the CMP that will provide accurate, up-to-date information on multimodal transportation performance and assesses alternative strategies. CoPlan and staff will be heading up a workshop on March 31st, at Valley Metro Conference from 10AM-12(Noon) in the next couple weeks once Contract with CMP is approved by TAC and Policy Boards.

Luis recommended that three (3) Representative from each Region attend the workshop accordingly. The Representatives are as follows:

Hidalgo County	Cameron County	Staff County
Armando Garza	Ben Worsham	Rose Benavidez
Rene Gonzalez	Lucio Gutierrez / Craig Cook	
Tomas Reyna	Ana Hernandez	

After some discussion on this item, City of San Benito made a motion to recommend approval to the Policy Board the FY2022 Spring CMP as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Edinburg; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

4 Discussion and Action on 2021 Annual Project Listing (APL) for both Highway and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects

Luis Diaz noted that the Annual Project List (APL) set forth by TxDOT has been reviewed, which outlines how funds have been obligated in the preceding year, for all Highway and Bicycle / Pedestrian Projects. Staff is seeking approval for continuing the process for overall submittal to TxDOT. Staff concluded that the listing will be presented to the Policy Board for review as recommended by the TAC Committee.

As required by the new transportation bill passed on December 4th, 2015, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act outlines the requirement for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to publish an annual listing of projects for which funds have been obligated in the preceding year including a listing of pedestrian and bicycle projects. From FAST-Act, 23 U.S.C. 134(j)(7)(B), 23 U.S.C. 135(g)(5)(B), 49U.S.C.5303(j)(7)(B), and 49U.S.C.5304(g)(5)(B).

The Annual Listing of projects, including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, for which Federal funds have been obligated in the preceding year shall be published or otherwise made available by the cooperative effort of the State, transit operator, and metropolitan planning organization for public review. The listing shall be consistent with the funding categories identified in each metropolitan transportation improvement program (TIP).”

This provision is intended to increase the transparency of government spending on transportation projects and strategies in metropolitan areas to State and local officials, and to the public at large. Realizing this objective involves promoting accuracy and responsiveness in financial planning and adoption of a proactive approach to sharing information with the public in a meaningful way, at an appropriate time, and in a user-friendly format.

The RGVMPPO has reviewed the Annual Project List (APL) set forth by TxDOT which outlines how funds have been obligated in the preceding year, for all Highway and Bicycle / Pedestrian Projects. Staff is seeking approval for continuing the process for overall submittal to TxDOT.

Hidalgo County had one request, and that was the Liberty Road was part and included the APL being presented to both TAC and Policy committee for approval. Staff response was, Liberty Road is part of the APL being presented for approval.

No further discussion took place on this item, City of San Benito made a motion to approve the 2021 Annual Project Listing (APL) for both Highway and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Edinburg and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion on Updates for the FY 2023-2026 TIP Tables & 2045 MTP Amendment # 6

Rudy noted that the FY 2023-2026 Highway & Transit TIP tables are undergoing development prior to submitting to TxDOT TP&P for review. All project updates submitted have been reviewed and a draft Summary Sheet has been provided within the TAC meeting packet. Further discussion regarding approval of the MTP and TIP tables will continue during the workshop scheduled for March 17th.

Existing projects (whether programmed into TIP or MTP years) and new projects required submission of an update. A timetable for completion of the FY 2023-2026 STIP is also included within the meeting packet. After conducting a 30-day Public Involvement, final approval of MTP & TIP tables will be needed from both TAC & TPB during the month of May.

As discussed, the FY 2023-2026 TIP & 2045 MTP Amendment #6 Workshop will be held virtually on March 17th @ 2:00 PM. A presentation and Microsoft Teams meeting invite will be sent out prior.

Just a reminder...the TIP/MTP Project Update form can be found on our website, as well as the Category 7 Scoring Form. A deadline of February 28, 2022, to entities was provided to submit all Project Update forms. 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 was set for February 28, 2022, as well.

Both forms can be found on our website: Rio Grande Valley MPO - Call for Projects (rgvmppo.org)

TxDOT reminded TAC members present, several new projects are not FC, therefore, please review before submitting to both TxDOT and MPO Staff. Also, if projects are not "Shovel Ready" TxDOT will not be providing CSJ until projects are officially ready to move forward.

Staff noted that CSJ will be addressed with LG's that attend the Workshop for clarification and questions that still need clarification.

No further discussion took place on this item, Chairman moved on to the next item on the agenda.

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

Financial Update

Luis provided the financial update and noted that the current budget continues with a positive trend. Report filed with the March 10, 2022, RGVTAC Packet.

- **CAT 7 Project Scoring Item Summary – Discussed under Item 5 by Rudy Zamora, Planner II updated information will be shared with TAC Members respectively.**
- **2022 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference – Staff will be attending the TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference scheduled May 2-5, 2022, at the Omni in Houston.**
The focus of the 2022 planning conference is to connect you with **Texas planning: sharing knowledge and experience** and provide other updated information about planning and programming processes, procedures, and tools used to coordinate the development of transportation projects. Transportation workshops and presentations will showcase various topics such as environmental affairs, federal and state legislation, sustainability, public involvement, freight, and multi-modal planning.
- **2022 AMPO Planning Tools & Training Symposium - May 16-19 – Riverside Hotel – Fort Lauderdale, FL**
The symposium takes place over the course of two and a half days and consists of multiple roundtable workshops. The workshops are divided into two tracks: Core Functions and Hot Topics. The Core Functions track is developed with junior staff in mind and seeks to provide practical training by topic area (i.e., MPO process and products, public involvement/environmental justice/Title XI, performance management, etc.). The Hot Topics track is developed with senior-level staff in mind and provides peer-to-peer exchange and training opportunities to discuss the state of the practice, innovation, and identify efficiencies.

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 March 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 March 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. The Hidalgo County RMA monthly report is filed with the March 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 March 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 March 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 March 10, 2022, RGVTAC Packet. **(Report on, no action taken at this time).**

VII) NEW OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CMP Workshop – Survey link was sent out to TAC members – Workshop is scheduled for March 31st, at Valley Metro Conference in Weslaco from 10AM-12(Noon)

VIII) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the RGVTAC Members, Chairman Terrazas called for a motion to adjourn. City of San Benito made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 AM. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

DRAFT