

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2014

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairman Norberto Salinas called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm. The Transportation Policy Committee Meeting was held at the Hidalgo County MPO Office at 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas. Present were representatives from the Cities of: Alamo, Alton, Donna, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Pharr, TxDOT, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: None.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **August 21, 2014**

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of August 21, 2014. No corrections or additions were made to the minutes of August 21, 2014, **The City of Donna made a motion to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes as presented. TxDOT seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

B) Election of Secretary of (TPC) Policy Committee

- Chairman Norberto Salinas asked for nominations for Secretary to the Policy Committee. **No discussion took place on this item; City of Mercedes nominated, Mayor Simmons with the City of Donna as Secretary to the Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

C) Cost Over-Run Project(s) (If Needed)

- Mr. Toribio Garza, Jr. P.E., TxDOT, stated that there were no updates at this time.

D) Discussion & Approval of FY 2015-2018 TIP & MTP (Highway & Transit) Amendments

- Linda De La Fuente reported on the FY 2015-2018 TIP (Highway) Amendments as follows: 1) In September the TAC Committee reviewed the FY2015-2018 (TIP & Highway) Amendments and it is being presented to the Policy Committee for discussion and final approval; 2) Provided a list of projects that have already Lett, within the last months; 3) RMA Projects are listed on MTP; 4) City Limits wording from 494 (1926 to Mile 6) have been updated and reflected on the MTP; and 5) Donna Int'l Bridge CBI will reflect in FY 2017. Mayor Simmons informed the TPC Committee members that the City of Donna is prepared to pay its share of the match required by TxDOT. The City of Donna has already selected the engineers and architects for the project for design and construction phase services of the Commercial Inspection Facility and Roadway Improvements. Andrew A. Canon also reported that this is a "shovel read project" and as per TPC Committees' policy, this is the norm to fund projects that are ready to go. Andrew A. Canon reminded the City of Pharr, that the "Bridge Interchange" project won't be ready until FY 2017, and again the City of Donna is a "Shovel Ready Project", and is ready to move forward. **After some discussion, the City of Pharr made a motion to wait on the City of Donna request for funding, for about 60 days, due to the funding that was to be allocated for the "Bridge Interchange" for Pharr. After much discussion on this item, Chairman Norberto Salinas ask for a second to the City of Pharr's motion. The motion died for a lack of a second. A motion was then made by the City of Mercedes to Approve FY2015-2018 TIP & MTP (Highway & Transit) Amendments (Resolutions 2014-09), which includes the request by the City of Donnas as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Alamo, and upon a vote the motion passed. The City of Pharr voted against.**

E) Discussion & Approval of 2010-2035 MTP Amendments

- Mr. Canon reported that this is the long range plan, essentially adopting all of the action taken on the four (4) Year TIP; and has gone through the required public comments period. Policy Committee members were provided with handouts for their review. **No discussion took place on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the FY2010-2035 MTP Amendments #16 (Resolution 2014-14) as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Mercedes, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

F) Discussion & Approval on Resolution 2014-13-Final Functional Classification Amendments

Mr. Canon reported that the Final Functional Classification Amendments -Resolution 2014-13 has been reviewed by the TAC Committee and they are recommending approval of the Final Functional Classification Amendments as presented. The required procedures have been discussed and gone through the required public comment period. The amendments have been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), after several meetings were held regarding the Minor/Major Collectors and Minor/Principal Arterials. Maps were also made available to members present. **No discussion took place on this item; the City of Mercedes made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-13-Final Functional Classification Amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

G) Discussion of MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 – Update

- Linda De La Fuente, reported that two Funding Scenarios, on the technical and structure on how TRENDS Financial forecast is expected to work were presented to the TAC Committee in September for their recommendation to TPC Committee. Linda De La Fuente briefly explained both "Scenario Funding Breakdowns" (which includes Scenarios 1 & 2) as well as the MTP spreadsheet that identifies the amount of additional funding per year and band that will be available with the TRENDS Funding, which will include Proposition #1, should it be approved. A total of 31 projects were submitted and are reflected in "Yellow"; these are either new projects or revisions of existence projects that were not funded. Only one project did not get funded "SH 107 w/ Overpass @ Schunior", out of 31 projects. After some discussion on this item, Andrew A. Canon concluded by stating that MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 will be presented twice in November to the TAC Committee and in December 2014 to the Policy Committee for their final Approval. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

H) Discussion of Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaws

- Chanel Borrego reported that the BPAC have held two meeting already, since the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was created; this committee is a sub-committee of the Hidalgo County MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), citizens and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. After the initial meeting on September 2, 2014, it was proposed by BPAC members that the creation and adoption of their own bylaws with approval from TAC and TPC. HCMPO currently runs all committees and subcommittee based on HCMPO's general committee bylaws. While the current bylaws work well for TAC and TPC who provide oversight on the transportation projects, BPAC is requesting permission to adopt their own set of bylaws, which is a slightly edited version of the general bylaws, to better facilitate its unique committee members structure and BPAC's task of evaluating ONLY bicycle and pedestrian oriented project and programs. Andrew A. Canon concluded by stating that the BPAC edited bylaws have already been reviewed by BPAC members, who unanimously supports their adoption and will be presented to the TAC and TPC for approval at their next meeting. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

I) Discussion on Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

- Chanel Borrego reported that approximately \$3.6 million is anticipated to be available to fund TAP Projects within the Hidalgo County MPO's urbanized area for fiscal years 2014-2015. It is due to this update that the HCMPO is encouraging all TAC members to participate in the criteria and application development for the TAP. Mr. Canon stated that, contingent upon the availability of federal funding, approximately \$1 million is anticipated to be available for fiscal year 2016. Mr. Canon concluded and recommended that a representative from each city keep in touch with HCMPO Staff through next year for further information on when deadlines are to be submitted for the TAP application. This item will be presented to the TAC and TPC for approval at their next meeting. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

J) Monthly Letting Update

- Mr. Toribio Garza Jr., P.E., TxDOT, had nothing to report for the month of October 2014. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

A) Directors Update

- Andrew A. Canon reported to members present that Commissioner Scott Crane, representing the City of McAllen will be stepping down as Secretary for the TPC Committee. Commissioner Trey Pebley, will be the representative for the City of McAllen. Also present, was Chairman Randy Sweeten with the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority. **Report only, no action taken.**
- **Calendars Report** – October, November and December calendars were made available to members present.
- **5th Bi- Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference Update** - Andrew A. Canon reminded everyone present that the 5th Annual Border to Border Conference is scheduled for November 18-20, 2014 at the McAllen Convention Center. The awards luncheon is scheduled on November 19, 2014 and the keynote speaker will be Texas State Representative Armando "Mando" Martinez, who will also be honored as the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Leadership for the South Texas Border Area Award, presented by the HCMPO. **Report only, no action taken.**
- **Proposition # 1 Update** – Andrew A. Canon noted that elections are scheduled for November 4, 2014; he has a concern with the County posters because they too read Propositions #1. Once the election is over, and Proposition 1 is approved, no certain date on when the funds will be disbursed. **Report only, no action taken.**
- **Project Update (s)** – Andrew A. Canon reported to members present that staff have several meetings they will be attending in the month of October: 1) Corpus Christi - The "TransCAD Training will be attended by Sarah Hardage, Luis Diaz and Cody Baczewski; 2) Houston, Texas - The Texas Freight Advisory Committee Meeting will be attended by Robert Escobar and Chanel Borrego; and 3) Westin Buckhead, Atlanta – The AMPO Conference will be attended by Andrew A. Canon, Linda De La Fuente and Karina Maldonado. **Reports only, no action taken.**

B) HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). Budget spent is 48.5%, still below budget. **Reports only, no action taken.**

C) Thoroughfare Update

- Luis Diaz, GIS Specialist/Transportation Planner briefly went over the HCMPO Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment process. Asking that local entity representatives review their designated areas' existing Thoroughfare Plan map to recommend the needed thoroughfare plan emendations. A digital copy of the current Thoroughfare Plan map is on the HCMPO website in PDF format for download. All amendments to the Hidalgo County Thoroughfare plan map must be accompanied by an approved resolution from the entities governing body. The deadline for any and all Thoroughfare Plan Amendments submission is December 19, 2014. Luis Diaz concluded by informing the members present that the approval process will be as follows: Thoroughfare Plan submissions will be presented in January 2015 to the TAC, Citizens Advisory Committee, and then for final approval to the Policy Committee. After the TPC's Committee approval, the submissions it will be presented in February 2015 to Hidalgo County Commissioner Court for approval at the County Level. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB V OFF SYSTEM REPORT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VI TxDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- Mr. Toribio Garza Jr., P.E., TxDOT, gave a brief update and provided a hand-out of completed and pending projects. Hand-out was filed with the October 2014 agenda packet.

TAB VII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT (HCCRD)

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

- Pilar Rodriguez, P.E. Executive Director, HCRMA, provided a brief update.

TAB IX VALLEY METRO

- Gabriel Zuniga, Mobility Manager provided a brief update.

TAB X METRO

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XI OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XII ADJOURNMENT

- *Hidalgo County made a motion to adjourn at 6:41 pm. The City of Mercedes seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary