

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2015

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairman Norberto Salinas called the meeting to order at 5:30 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, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Granjeno, Hidalgo County, La Villa, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmhurst, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, Sullivan, TxDOT, Weslaco, and Hidalgo County RMA. Ex-Offio Members Present: None

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **July 16, 2015**

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of July 16 2015. **No corrections were noted to the minutes of July 16, 2015; Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2015 as presented by staff. The City of Pharr seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Toribio Garza, Jr. P.E., TxDOT, stated that there were no updates at this time. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C) MPO Merger Committee Meeting – Update

- Vice Chair San Juanita Sanchez provided a summary of the MPO Merger Meeting that took place August 19, 2015 as follows: 1) The first MPO Merger Meeting was held August 19, 2015, at the Pharr TxDOT Office 2) Representatives from all three (3) MPO's were present; 3) Toribio Garza with TxDOT suggested a 6-month timeline for the study, so as to not drag it out too long; 4) Would the Policy Committee have a vote in the [TTC] process if we merge? Mark Williams's response was, this would be the 5th largest MPO and that would be a significant voice. The top MPOs control 75-80% of the funding; and 5) the next MPO Merger Meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2015, at which time Mayor Sanchez will continue to provide updates to the Policy Committee.

D) Discussion and Action of the Transit Plan

- Maria Champine provided the final Transit Plan, to include surveys and maps that apply to the Transit Plan to members present. **No discussion took place regarding the Final Transit Plan as submitted by staff. City of Mercedes made a motion to approve the Transit Plan as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

E) Discussion and Action of Proposition #1 Projects Selection

- Andrew Canon presented the following: 1) The preliminary funding levels for the FY2016 and FY2017 Proposition 1 distribution have been released by TxDOT and Proposition 1 funding for FY2015 is estimated to be \$15,812,000 and \$15,565,500 for FY2017; 2) The estimate for FY2017 is an estimate, as per the Comptroller Office, and any shortfall in 2017 Prop. 1 funding that may result from a decrease in funding to Prop. 1 will result in the need to identify additional funds for 2017 to advance the identified projects. Staff noted that as requested by members of the TAC and TPC Committees, Staff has prepared the following project funding recommendations for Proposition #1. It is important to mention that Staff is recommending the Proposition 1 funding be used ONLY for construction and utilizing the 2015 Construction cost estimates WITHOUT the inflation element. Staff reminded members present that Proposition #1 is only for on-system and non-toll roads projects.

Staff Recommendations are as follows:

2016 Proposition 1 Funding Recommendation

Estimated Available Funding	\$15,812,000
Hidalgo County Illumination Project	(\$ 2,600,000)
FM 2220 from Mile 3 to Mile 5	(\$ 4,860,000)
FM 676 from SH 364 to SH 107	(\$ 8,652,800)
Ending Balance	(\$ 300,800)

2017 Proposition 1 Funding Recommendation

Estimated Available Funding	\$15,565,500
FM 907 from Nolana to US 83	(\$ 6,362,973)
FM 494 from FM 676 to SH 107	(\$ 7,107,966)
FM 1925 Sharp Rd Realignment	(\$ 1,870,000)

After some discussion on these items, Hidalgo County made a motion to approve Staff recommendations for Proposition #1 as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Alamo and upon a vote; the motion did not pass (25 YES to 27 NO). City of McAllen Abstained.

Chairman Norberto Salinas, reminded members present that 2016 Proposition #1 Funding as recommended by staff should be consider very closely, since these funds would be allocated to more projects vs just funding two projects. City of Alamo also reminded members present that their project was shovel ready. After much discussion on this item, City of Pharr made a motion to approve HCRMA projects since they are shovel ready, as well as; the Illumination Project as presented by staff and have Staff re-examine the 2017 Projects for recommendation.

FY2016 Proposition 1 Funding Recommendation

Hidalgo County Illumination Project	(\$ 2,600,000)
SH 365 Segment 2 – US 281 Overpass Project	(\$ 12,700,000)

This motion was seconded by the City of Mercedes and upon a vote the motion passed (28 YES and 26 NO), City of McAllen Abstained.

F. Discussion and Action of Transit Program of Projects FY 2016

- Maria Champion provided to members present the final “Program of Projects for Urbanized Area FY 2016” (Section 5307) for their review and approval. **No discussion took place on this item. Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the final Transit Program of Project for FY 2016 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Pharr and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

G. Discussion on the Levels of Additional TxDOT Programming Authority (Beyond UTP)

- Andrew Canon provided to members present a letter from Commissioner Flores regarding Levels of Additional TxDOT Programming Authority (Beyond UTP). Commissioner Flores’ understanding as per his letter dated August 10, 2015, that the \$372 Million is allocated to the Pharr District for “Develop” Programming Authority and District Plan Programming Authority/Preliminary Engineering Authority (PA/PE) to be voted on by the HCMPO and to be equally distributed between on-system and off-system projects. After some discussion on this item, Toribio Garza, TxDOT clarified to members present that the \$372 Million in additional programming authority is for the entire 8-county districts, which included Hidalgo, Starr, Kenedy and Cameron Counties which are for on-system projects. Hidalgo County proposed to TxDOT, if each of the members “cities” that currently represent HCMPO were to approve a Resolution with their respective City Commissioners, requesting that \$70 million from TxDOT be allocated to HCMPO Project for off-system project; would TxDOT consider such request? TxDOT response was this would be discussed and TxDOT would have to get back on the \$70 million request to the Policy Committee at later date. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

H. Discussion of MTP, Highway/Transit Tips Amendments for Beginning Public Involvement

- Andrew Canon stated that staff will be organizing several Public Involvement meetings for the MTP, Highway/Transit Tips Amendments. Staff stated that three (3) Public meetings are scheduled in September, and one in October, with the final adoption to take in place at the Policy Meeting scheduled in October 2015. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

I) Monthly Letting Update

- Toribio Garza, P.E., TxDOT provided the Monthly Letting Report to members present. The Monthly Letting Report is filed with the September 2015 agenda packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB IV STAFF REPORTS

A) Directors Update

➤ **Calendars Report**

Month of September 2015:

- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for September 1, 2015
- Labor Day Holiday – September 7, 2015 – Office Closed
- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for September 8, 2015 - Canceled
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for September 17, 2015
- Catogory #7 Workshop – Scheduled for September 21, 2015

➤ **Month of October 2015:**

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for October 5, 2015 - Canceled
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for October 6, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for October 15, 2015
- AMPO Conference – Scheduled for October 19-23, 2015 (Andrew/Linda/Lillian) attending

➤ **Legislative Update 7/015:**

Staff provided a hand-out on the current Legislative Updates to members present. No discussion took place on this item.

B) HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). Budget spent is 87.50%, still below budget.

TAB V TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- TxDOT gave an update and provided a report of completed and pending projects.

TAB VI HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VII VALLEY METRO

- No reports were given at this time. Report filed in TPC Packet.

TAB VIII METRO

- No reports were given at this time. Report filed in TPC Packet.

TAB IX OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- No Old or New Business were discussed.

TAB X ADJOURNMENT

- *No other items were discussed; the City of Mercedes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm. The City of San Juan seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary