

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2015

1) Roll Call

- Chairman Joe Califa called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. The Technical Advisory 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, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mission, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Valley Metro, Hidalgo County RMA: Ex-Officio Members Present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District and Metro.

2) Adoption of Minutes

➤ **March 3, 2015**

Chairman Joe Califa asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of March 3, 2015. **No corrections were noted to the minutes; the City of Alamo made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Pharr and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- None given at this time.

4) Discussion and Action on the Transit TIP Amendment #4

- Maria Champine reported that the Hidalgo County MPO Staff is seeking TAC member's approval on amending the Transit TIP #4 to the Transit section of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Both Transit Providers have reviewed every project listed in FY 2015, and has made this document fiscally constraint by apportionment year, and are also adding the three projects approved last month for the 5310 Program Call. Federal Transit Administration has provided us with the funding balances for each apportionment year which has made it easier to clean up the transit section of the TIP. **After some discussion on this item; the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve Transit TIP Amendment #4 and recommend to TPC members for their approval as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Penitas and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

5) Discussion and Action on Freight Plan Rankings

- Linda De La Fuente reported that several MPOs have voiced the desire to take their Texas Freight Mobility Plan project list to their Technical Advisory committees and Policy Boards in April 2015, prior to submittal to TxDOT. Homer Bazan, TxDOT noted that there were two different lists that needs to be submitted: 1) Freight Needs Projects, which will be identified on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority; and 2) Restricted Bridges List which is intended to only list the bridges themselves which have clearance, load, or condition restrictions and the ranking is identified by "small, medium and large". The list that needs to be submitted is a "Project Prioritization List". **After some discussion on this item, the City of Edinburg made a motion to adopt the Freight Plan Rankings contingent to TxDOT preparing the list of prioritization projects and presenting the ranking list to the TPC members for their approval. The motion was seconded by the City of San Juan and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Joe Califa, Chairman recommended that a list of priority ranking be sent/email to each of the TAC Members respective cities, either by TxDOT or HCMPO staff. Andrew Canon noted that he would like a confirmation email response, once members received the priority listing, to assure that the information was received.**

6) Discussion on the MPO Merger Study Committee

Andrew Canon reported that TxDOT has sent out a letter to the three MPOs' (Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito and Hidalgo County) regarding forming a MPO Merger Study Committee. The letter will also be provided to the TPC Members at their next meeting. The plan is to form an MPO Mergers Study Committee which will guide the development of the study. The committee will be composed of MPO members and a TxDOT representative. Each MPO will assign three Policy Committee members; and the three MPO Directors would also be included. The study committee would be composed of 13 official members (4 from each MPO, plus the TxDOT representative). Members need to be assigned by April 17, 2015. Homer Bazan, TxDOT is recommending each MPO assign a member from a larger city above 50,000 in population, one from a smaller city and a county representative. The initial kickoff meeting of the study committee is planned for late April 2015. Pete Sepulveda, TxDOT stated that the Study Committee would simply guide the development of the study; the individual MPOs will be making the final determination on whether a merger is approved. Pete Sepulveda, TxDOT concluded by stating that the TAC Committee would also provide concerns or recommendations to the TPC Committee, that will be discussed at the Study Committee. The Study Committee would meet monthly, and reports/updates would be provided to all three MPOs' "TPC Committees" on a monthly basis.

7 Discussion regarding the Re-Designation Agreement

- Andrew Canon reported that at the last TPC meeting it was determined that a Re-Designation Agreement was in effect twenty-five years ago with LRGVDC. The current agreement between LRGVDC and HCMPO may be renegotiated as necessary to meet changing conditions or terminated by either party, which the COG has no problem moving forward with terminating the agreement. At the last TPC meeting it was approved that the Transportation Director contact members of the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and one of the larger local government by sending letters to the following cities (Edinburg, McAllen, Mission, Pharr and Hidalgo County) asking that they support this Re-Designation by approving Resolutions to comply with new federal regulations, in attempt to meet Federal requirements. The Hidalgo County MPO (HCMPO) is seeking a re-designation from TxDOT to bring the HCMPO compliant with 23 USC 134 which defines the MPO as, 'metropolitan planning organization' means the policy board of an organization established as a result of the designation process under subsection (d). 23 CFR 450.310 states that an existing MPO may be re-designated only by agreement between the Governor and units of general purpose local government that together represent at least 75 percent of the existing metropolitan planning area, including the largest incorporated city, based on population, as named by the Bureau of Census. Andrew Canon concluded and stated that once all resolutions are approved they will be presented to TxDOT Transportation Commission to Re-Designate the Transportation Policy Committee of the HCMPO as the MPO. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

8) Discussion on the Transit Plan

- Maria Champine provided a Draft of the Transit Plan, to include surveys and maps that apply to the Transit Plan to members present. The HCMPO Staff has been working on the Public Transportation Plan as one of the elements of the Multi-Modal Plan. The Public Transportation Plan will be presented again at the May 5, 2015 TAC Meeting for approval. Once it is approved by the TPC Committee, it will become one of the elements of the Multi-Modal Plan and an essential component of the transportation system. Maria Champine concluded by thanking the Public Transit Providers for their assistance and efforts in gathering and/or collecting some of the data for this plan. Andrew Canon noted that if any of the TAC members have any comments or suggestions to the Transit Plan, please submit them to Maria Champine. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

9) Monthly Letting Report

- Mr. Homer Bazan provided to TAC Members present with handouts of the TxDOT Monthly Letting Update for April 2015 on Projects within the Hidalgo County MPO Area. Mr. Bazan advised members present that several projects will be letting earlier throughout the year than originally scheduled. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

10) Status Reports

A. Calendar: April & May 2015

- Andrew Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:

Month of April 2015:

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for April 6, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for April 7, 2015
- CAC Meeting – Scheduled for April 8, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for April 16, 2015
- 5th Annual Walk N Rolla Event/Cool City Event to be held in Edinburg – April 25, 2015
- TxDOT Commission Mtg – April 29-30 (Andrew Attended in Austin)
- TEMPO Meeting – Scheduled for April 1 & 2, 2015 (Andrew Attended in Austin)

Month of May 2015:

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for May 4, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for May 5, 2015
- CAC Meeting – Scheduled for May 6, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for May 21, 2015
- Office Closed – Memorial Holiday – May 25, 2015

B. HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda de la Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget.

C. Director' Updates

- Legislative Update
 - Regional Transit Authority Bill Testimony In Austin – Andrew Canon Attended
 - Consistent with the administrative rules for TxDOT UTP, allocation of FY 2016-2017 is \$1.2 Billion of Proposition #1 - \$15 Million will be allocated to Hidalgo County Transportation for Off System
 - Double Nickels Bill - This bill authorizes that each fiscal year, the first \$2.5 billion in vehicle sales tax revenue to be put into the state's general fund. The next \$2.5 billion collected would go to the State Highway Fund, to be used for the states highway infrastructure. Any revenue collected beyond \$5 billion a year would be split with 50 percent going to the State Highway Fund, 20 percent to education and 30 percent to the general fund.
 - HB2612 (Pickett) Bill – Related to a report to the legislature regarding the elimination of toll roads.
 - Politics – For the Record will not get involved with either political party.
- Expressway 83/281 TxDOT Street Lights Improvement Project – Approved at the last TPC Meeting, Category 7 will be used towards replacing street lighting along both sides of the expressway. TPC Committee recommended using Category 7 to pay for the “continuous illumination project” and replace Category 7 projects with Prop #1 funding as they are left throughout the coming years.
- TAC Committee Recommendations to TPC Members – A concern was voiced that in the near future, a cover letter be included in the TPC Committee's Agenda Packet; with TAC Committee's recommendation/approval on action items covered during the meeting on behalf of Transportation Director.
- Announcement of the next TIGER Competitive Funds – TIGER 7 – Maria Champine reminded TAC Members present that the next round of TIGER competitive funds available is for \$500 million for DOT's 2015 TIGER grants supporting innovative transportation project across the country. Pre-Application are due May 4, 2015, and final applications are due June 5, 2015. For more information, please visit www.dot.gov/TIGER.

11) HCRMA Update

- George Ramon with Hidalgo County RMA provided a brief update.

12) Valley Metro

- Gabriel Zuniga, Mobility Manager gave a brief update on Valley Metro. He also informed the members that Assistant Director is no longer employed with Valley Metro.

13) Metro

- Magaly Bernal gave a brief update on the Metro Report.

14) Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District

- No update was given at this time.

15) Old or New Business

- UPWP for Planning Project for 2016, if anyone has any projects; please submit to Linda De La Fuente.
- TxDOT Public Hearing scheduled for April 28, 2015 at Homer J. Morris Middle School to discuss proposed improvements to SH 336 (10th Street) between Trenton Road and SH 107.

16) Adjournment

- **The meeting adjourn at 3:05 pm.**