

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2014

- 1) Roll Call
 - Chairman Joe Califa called the meeting to order at 1:35pm. 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, Donna, Edinburg, McAllen, Mission, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco and Valley Metro: Ex-Officio Members Present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District.
- 2) Adoption of Minutes
 - **November 4, 2014**
Chairman Joe Califa asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of November 4, 2014. **No corrections were noted; City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the minutes of November 4, 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by City of Donna and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**
- 3) Cost Over-Run Projects
 - None given at this time.
- 4) Discussion and Approval of the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)
 - Karina Maldonado provided handouts regarding the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) and briefly explained the Scoring Criteria for each category that the BPAC Committee approved at their meeting of November 24, 2014. The Scoring Criteria form once finalized will be used during the selection process. The BPAC has determined that 90 percent of the funds shall be used towards construction and 10 percent may be used towards planning and design projects; and future TAP funds will be focused on construction projects only. Additionally, the BPAC has identified 7 criteria's for project selection and 5 bonus criteria's. FY 2015 & FY 2016 funds will be combined for project "Totaling \$4.64 million". Match is as follows: TAP (80%) – Local Match (20%). The City of McAllen requested two changes to the criteria as follows: 1) Making County Linkages and Connections... **to read...** Making Linkages and Connections and 2) Serving Disadvantaged (Environmental Justice) Areas... **to read...** Improves access to areas within or adjacent to 50% of households below poverty rate, as defined by Census. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) with changes by the City of McAllen. The motion was seconded by the City of McAllen and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
- 5) Discussion and Approval of the MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040
 - Linda De La Fuente briefly when over the MTP Project Funding Tables, which were also made available to members present. Linda De La Fuente reminded members that at the September 2014, TAC meeting, staff had requested from the cities to submit their projects for consideration and TAC members recommended proceeding with Funding Scenario #2 of the TRENDS Funding Model to be utilized for the additional projects to be selected for the HCMPO's 2040 MTP. A total of thirty-one (29) projects were submitted; 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 29 projects. Linda De La Fuente reported that MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 has been presented to the TAC Committee Members twice; on November 4th and again for November 25th meeting, for final approval. TAC Members' recommendation was to approve the MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 and have staff present this item to the TPC Committee for their final Approval. **No further discussion took place on this item, the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 and present to the TPC Committee for their final approval as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Alton and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
- 6) Discussion and Approval on Functional Classification Amendments
 - Maria Champine reported that HCMPO Staff is seeking approval to submit a written request to TxDOT to functionally classify the following roads as Major Collectors: 1) Alamo Road North of FM 1925 to Davis Road and 2) Davis Road from Doolittle Road to Brushline Road. This will serve as a connectivity and collection of traffic from the populated areas along Davis Road and FM 1925. In addition, by continuing the Major Collector classification of Davis Road from Doolittle Road to Brushline Road, it will serve as "system continuity" in that area. Andrew Canon reported that this request was presented to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for their guidance and consideration, should it be not approved by them, it will be discussed again at the next TAC meeting. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the Functional Classification Amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Donna and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
- 7) Discussion of Operational Improvements
 - Andrew A. Canon reported to TAC members present that he had no update at this time, but more information will be provided at the next TAC meeting scheduled in February 2015, once a meeting has been held with TxDOT. **Presentation only, no action taken.**
- 8) Discussion of Proposition #1 Potential Funding
 - Andrew A. Canon reported and provided handouts on the Conceptual 60/20/20 Distribution and went over the "Important Issues To Keep In Mind for Proposition #1 – Potential Funding" 1) Proposed funding distribution is preliminary, subject to change and only for FY2015; 2) Distributions after FY2015 are dependent on legislative authorization and future oil/gas severance tax revenue; 3) MPOs and Districts should be working together to target potential project opportunities and consider: a) Legislative and public expectation to see funding advance quickly (goal of FY15); b) Projects should reflect strategic priorities on the federal/state highway system; and c) No funding of toll projects, Use off-system and use on non-roadway projects. 4) Desire to: a) Commit to FY2015 Projects; b) Encourage Collaboration across Districts and MPOs; c) Deliver "Meaningful Projects"; and d) Impacts all Counties. **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 November 2014 on Projects within the Hidalgo County MPO Area. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

10) Status Reports

A. Calendar: December 2014 & January 2015

- Andrew A. Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:

Month of December 2014:

- Two Policy Meetings will be scheduled December 4, 2014 this will be a mandatory meeting; therefore a quorum is necessary. December 9, 2014 will be a fall back date.
- Andrew is scheduled to attend the TxDOT Commission Meeting in Austin - December 18, 2014
- **Christmas Holidays** - December 24th and 25th office is closed.

Month of January 2015:

- **TAC Meeting** - Scheduled January 6, 2015
- **TRB Conference – Washington** - Conference is set for January 12-15, Staff members attending Cody Baczewski, Chanel Borrego, Maria Champine and Mr. Canon.
- **New Year's 2015** – January 1, 2015 – Office is Closed
- **Martin Luther King** – January 19, 2015 – Office is Closed
- **Policy Meeting** - Scheduled January 22, 2015

B. HCMPO Budget Report

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

C. Director' Updates

- **Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Submission** – Luis Diaz reported that the final Thoroughfare Plan will be presented to the TAC and Policy Boards' monthly meetings in February 2015 and then to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court at their February 2015 meeting for Final Approval. The current map is posted on the HCMPO Website; advised everyone that the deadline to submit any changes is due December 19th and resolution must be provided.
- **5th Annual Border To Border Conference – Update** – Maria Champine reported that a total of 150 registrants registered for the conference and 20 were from Mexico. Had representation from TxDOT, TTI, local cities and they all were very pleased with the sessions that were held at the conference. Staff will be uploading presentations to the HCMPO Website.

11 Old or New Business

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

12) Adjournment

- **The meeting adjourn at 2:37 pm.**