

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2014

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Mr. Canon advised the Committee members that a quorum was present however; Chairman Norberto Salinas was running a little late, and therefore; Secretary Scott Crane will be conducting the meeting until the Chairman arrived. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm by Secretary Scott Crane. 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, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Phar, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco and Hidalgo County RMA, Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: Fish & Wildlife and Rio Grande Valley Partnership.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **July 17, 2014**

Secretary Scott Crane asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of July 17, 2014. City of Penitas made one correction, Palmview is not eligible to vote, and motions were made by City of Penitas. No further corrections or additions were made to the minutes of July 17, 2014, **The City of Penitas made a motion to approve the July 17, 2014 minutes with the corrections stated. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Canon noted that the agenda would be moved around, until Chairman Salinas arrived. Secretary Crane preceded on the agenda items as follows:

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

Mr. Toribio Garza, Jr. P.E., TxDOT, stated that one project let for the month of August 2014 – Train Depot (City of Edinburg). **Presentation only, no action taken.**

D) Discussion & Approval of HCMPO Staff Out of Town Travel – Annual TRB Conference – Washington, DC – January 11 – 15, 2015

- Mr. Canon stated that several staff members will be attending the Annual TRB Conference in Washington, DC –January 11-15, 2015. He stated that Maria Champine, Chanel Borrego and Cody Baczewski and he will be attending. Mr. Canon stated that the cost breakdown was provided for everyone to review. **No discussion took place on this item; Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the HCMPO Staff out of Town Travel – Annual TRB Conference – January 11-15, 2015 as presented. The City of Penitas seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

F) Review of Selection Criteria for Transportation Alternatives Funding

- Linda De La Fuente noted that in previous years a subcommittee was formed to address the technical aspects of developing criteria, reviewing submittals and awarding TE projects. 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 approximately \$3.6 million is anticipated to be available to fund TAP Projects within the Hidalgo County MPO's urbanized area for fiscal years 2014-12015. Furthermore, contingent upon the availability of federal funding, approximately \$1 million is anticipated to be available for fiscal year 2016. The Federal share for TAP projects is as follows, 80% Federal/20% local cash match.

Linda De La Fuente noted that the first BPAC meeting is scheduled and Ms. Maldonado will be reporting on it as follows: Karina Maldonado noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will be created; this committee will be a sub-committee of the Hidalgo County MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), citizens and Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Members can serve one or two year's terms and the first meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2014. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

Chairman Norberto Salinas arrived and took over the meeting @ 5:50 p.m.

E) Discussion of 2015-2040 MTP Update

- Mr. Canon stated that the 2015-2040 MTP spreadsheets were provided for everyone to review and stated that the MTP is updated every five years. Alternate funding will be used to enable projects identified in the funding section of the MTP update. This was used the last time, and FHWA will be reviewing MTP to make sure that the TRENDS funding is reasonable. Mr. Canon noted that the current projects are moving along and the MTP will be approved at the November 2014 meeting. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

C) Discussion & Approval of Resolution 2014-12 in Support MPO Merger

- Mr. Canon stated that Resolution 2014-12 is in support to meeting with the other two MPOs to determine whether they are interested in discussing the need for a collaborative and cooperative planning process. Currently, the HCMPO Staff have been researching other MPOs (i.e. Dallas, Houston, and Forth Worth) Bylaws voting structure, pros and cons and financing. Vice Chairman San Juanita Sanchez recommended that, "as a board", first explorer the possibilities of presenting the Resolution in Support of the MPO Merger to the other two MPOs", just to make sure that the other two MPOs' are on the same page with HCMPO Board members on what they are trying to accomplish, by approving the Resolution. Chairman Norberto Salinas recommended that HCMPO Staff prepare the following and present in two months to the Policy Committee: 1) Pros and Cons of Merging the three MPOs; 2) Traditional funding breakdown; and 3) Provide Bylaws to include voting structure. **After some discussion, The Hidalgo County made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-12 in "Support of MPO Merger" as presented. The City of Mercedes seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

G) Monthly Letting Update

- Mr. Toribio Garza Jr., P.E., TxDOT, gave a brief update. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

A) Directors Update

- Mr. Canon presented his report as follows: 1) Calendars for August and September were provided; 2) Owassa Road will be out for bids in October and will be included in the TIPS; 3) Several cities on the Policy Committee need to designate or re-designate member(s) by proxy (forms were provided to members present); 4) The 5th Annual Border to Border Conference to be held in November 18-20, 2014, registration online is available; 5) Staff will continue to work on all current projects, and will be contacting/ mailing all the cities for feedback, to assure that all projects are listed; 6) Labor Day Holiday – September 1, 2014, office will be closed; 7) Jury Duty for Mr. Canon, September 2, 2014; 8) Networking Opportunity in Frisco, Texas on October 15-18, 2014 for City Officials; 9) Senator Nichols scheduled to be in town and will hold a presentation at Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance on Wednesday, August 27, 2014; 10) Senator Nichols to be honor at a luncheon in Harlingen, September 4, 2014 by Rio Grande Valley Partnership; 11) Andrew scheduled to be in Austin September 15-17, 2014, to attend the Transportation Funding, Expenditure & Finance, Select Committees; and 12) Staff continue to review the listing of several Road Projects, Dicker Road; Mile 6; Hidalgo County Precinct #1; FM 495 (From Mile 10 North to Mile 14) FM 493 (From Mike 14 North to SH 107) and FM 2220 (Ware Rod) Corridor. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

B) HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). She stated that the % of adjust. Budget spent is 37.50%, still below budget. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

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 to the network. The first meeting was scheduled August 21, 2014 and 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. Approval process will be as follows: Thoroughfare Plan submissions will be presented in January 2015 to the TAC, then Citizens Advisory Committee, and then for final approval to the Policy Committee in February 2015. **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. Rene Garza provided a hand-out of completed and pending projects.

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 provided a brief update.

TAB IX VALLEY METRO

- Mr. Tom Logan 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

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

ATTEST:

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary

*To Be Approved
October 16, 2014 Policy Meeting*