

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2014

1) Roll Call

- Chairman Joe Califa called the meeting to order at 1:33pm. 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: Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mission, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, and Weslaco: Ex-Officio Members Present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District, Metro and San Juan EDC.

2) Adoption of Minutes

- August 5, 2014
Chairman Joe Califa asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of August 5, 2014. **No corrections were noted; Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District made a motion to approve the minutes of August 5, 2014 as presented. The City of Penitas seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- None given at this time.

4) Discussion & Approval of Donna Int'l Bridge CBI Request 08/18/2014

- Linda De La Fuente reported that the City of Donna has submitted a formal written request to the MPO Policy Committee, to consider allocating \$9,000,000 of Category 10, Coordinate Border Infrastructure Program Funds for the Donna Rio Bravo International Bridge Commercial Inspection Facilities and roadway improvements. Mr. Flores, Interim City Manager reported to TAC Members present the following: 1) 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. 2) The City of Donna will be paying approximately \$1.1 million for the services. 3) The proposed project was included in the original Environmental and FONSI is on file for the project. 4) The proposed project will help prepare our region for the future influx of commercial traffic to be generated by produce trucks coming from Mexico and a result of the improvements of the Mazatlán-Durango Highway by the Mexican Government; 5) The City of Donna is prepared to pay its share of the match required by TxDOT, but would request for the project to be designated as a project in an Economically Distressed County (EDC); and 6) Asking that this formal written request be recommended for approval to the Policy Committee at their next Policy Meeting. TAC members recommended that TxDOT look into the exact amount that is available (\$5.2 million or is it \$2.5 million) just for clarification. City of Pharr ask for clarification, "are funds only going to be from CBI Funds", Staff reaffirmed that these funds were from CBI Funds. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Penitas made a motion to approve the City of Donna Int'l Bridge CBI Request as presented. The City of San Juan seconded the motion. The City of Pharr was against. The motion passed.**

5) Discussion of Operational Improvements

- Linda De La Fuente reported that Mr. Canon and herself had a conference call with H&HC out of Galveston and the following was discussed: 1) total money set aside was \$1 million of Category 7; 2) finalizing the operational improvement projects that was identified through the CMP; 3) identifying and setting a plan in place; 4) a scoring process will be implemented; and 5) Will be having a conference call with both TxDOT (Houston) at their end and TxDOT with our region to go over some of the criteria. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

6) Discussion of MPO Merger Voting Structure & Funding Distribution

- Maria Champine reported that this item was recommended for approval by the Policy Committee at their last meeting. Maria Champine briefly explained the importance of merging the three MPO's and the benefits; 1) a stronger voice w/ one Region MPO; 2) more funding designated; and 3) out of 25 District, we are the only one with 3 (three) MPO's, by urbanizing this would benefit this area as well. Maria concluded by reporting that the Policy Committees' goal is to have TAC Members and HCMPO Staff work on the voting structure and on how the funding will be divided among the three MPO's. After some discussion on this item, it was the consensus of the TAC Members to move forward, as long as the other two MPOs are receptive with discussions as recommended by staff and as stated in the Resolution. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

7) Discussion of Proposition #1 Potential Funding (Shovel Ready Projects)

- Linda De La Fuente reported that Senator Nichols and Representative Pickett held an open forum, Wednesday, August 27, 2014 at Edinburg Conference Center at Renaissance to update the community and stakeholder on this critical constitutional amendment on November 2014 Statewide Ballot. Linda De La Fuente reported that Proposition 1 would amend the Texas Constitution's Transportation Funding Amendment. The amendment would divert an estimated \$1.4 billion per year in oil and gas severance taxes from the State's multibillion-dollar Rainy Day Fund to provide money for Texas Department of Transportation to update and maintain infrastructure around the state. Linda De La Fuente informed the members present that Mr. Canon has requested for the TAC Members to submit a list of "Shovel Ready Projects", that are ready now, so that when Proposition #1 passes, funds can be utilized for those projects. Estimated time would be around March 2015. The Shovel Ready Projects were as follows: 1) Freddy Gonzalez to McColl; 2) Cannon to Alamo Road (907); 499 to Roger Road – San Juan; and 3) La Homa Project, no formal request has been submitted (ready in January 2016). After some discussion, it was recommended to have TAC members' mail or email their projects to the HCMPO Staff. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

8) Discussion of 2013-16/2015-18 TIP and MTP (Highway & Transit) Amendments

- Linda De La Fuente reported on the Highway MTP as follows: 1) The Public Involvement period for the Highway MTP will begin on 9-3-2014 (day after September TAC Meeting) and end on 10-15-2014 (day before October Policy). 2) Final amendments will be presented to Policy Members for their approval. 3) Provided a list of projects that have already let, within the last months. 4) Donna Int'l Bridge CBI will reflect in Year 2017; 5) RMA Projects are listed on MTP; and 6) City Limits from 494 (1926 to Mile 6) have been updated and reflected on the MTP. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

- Maria Champine reported on the Transit TIP Providers as follows: 1) Currently working with Valley Metro and McAllen Metro on “Program of Project” for Fiscal Year 2015; 2) Met with both Valley and McAllen Metro to finalize projects that did not Let for 2014 and will be providing any amendments; and 3) Both Valley and McAllen Metro will be providing a “Wish List” of projects for the next ten (10) years and will be part of the MTP for the first time. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

9) Discussion of 2015-2040 MTP (TRENDS) Update

- Linda De La Fuente, provided two Funding Scenarios, on the technical and structure on how TRENDS Financial forecast is expected to work. An attachment for both “Scenario Funding Breakdowns” (which includes Scenarios 1 & 2) was explained 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. After some discussion on this item, TAC members present recommended to proceed 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 Update. TAC members recommended the following: 1) an e-mail will be sent to Linda and Andrew Canon where each of the TAC members will identify the additional projects they wish to select for funding; 2) The deadline for submitting selected projects by e-mail was established as **Wednesday September 17th**; and 3) Goal is to have a finalized project selection table for the 2040 MTP update ready to present to the TPC in October for final approval. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

11) Monthly Letting Report

- Mr. Homer Bazan provided an update and a hand-out of projects that are scheduled to be let in the next couple of months within Hidalgo County MPO Area.

12) Status Reports

A. Calendar: September & October 2014

- Maria Champine reported on the following: 1) Calendars were provided for everyone to review, 2) Mr. Canon has Jury Duty September 2, 2014; 3) Policy Committee Meeting set for September 18, 2014, will most likely be canceled; and 4) The public involvement period for the MTP/Highway & Transit TIPS will begin on 9-3-2014 (day after September TAC) and end on 10-15-2014 (day before October Policy Meeting).

B. HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda De La Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget.

C. HCMPO Project Update

- None at this time.

D. 5th Bi-Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference

- Maria Champine reported that online registration for the conference is up and running. Conference is scheduled for November 18-20, 2014. Two different Tours are scheduled: A) Pharr International Bridge Tour. This tour will only be able to handle a small group of people so it will be at first to sign up, first to get seating; and B) How to Include Rail/Freight In to Commerce. There will be 2 scheduled group tour times.

E. Bike Ped Advisory Committee Meeting (BPAC) – Update (Meeting held September 2, 2014)

- Karina Maldonado reported that the First BPAC Meeting was held Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 10:00a.m, present were five (5) members from the TAC Committee and five (5) citizens from the community. Karina Maldonado did advice the members present that, Bylaws for the BPAC committee needs to be created and approved by the TAC Members, before the next BPAC Meeting. Would recommend having representation from TxDOT on the BPAC committee. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

13) HCRMA Update

- George Ramon gave a brief update on the RMA.

14) Valley Metro

- No reports were given at this time.

15) Metro

- Mrs. Sandra Gama gave a brief update.

16) Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District

- No reports were given at this time.

17) Old or New Business

- Mr. Bazan notified members present that a Public Meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2014 at Donna ISD (North High School) regarding Inter State 68.

18) Adjournment

- **The City of Penitas made a motion to adjourn at 3:35 pm. The City of McAllen seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**