

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)  
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 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, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: None.

**TAB II EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- The HCMPO Transportation Policy Committee Members were in consensus to go into Executive Session, Pursuant to Ex. Gov. Code 551.072 (Deliberation on Real Property) at 5:35p.m. **Motion was made by City of Mercedes to go into Executive Session and seconded by the City of Alamo and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**
  - HCMPO In Direct Rate

**TAB III RECOVENE – 6:02 p.m.**

- **Motion was made by the City of McAllen to reconvene into Open Session to take necessary action if any, in accordance with Chapter 551, Open Meetings, Subchapter E, and Procedures Relating to Closed Meeting 551.072(Deliberation on Real Property). The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**
- Chairman Norberto Salinas stated that after some discussion regarding the HCMPO In Direct Rate, the members have come to a recommendation. **The City of McAllen made a motion to allow Andrew A. Canon, Transportation Director to move forward with the preparation of transferring fiscal agent from LRGVDC to Hidalgo County and bring back final transaction at the next TPC Meeting for final approval. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**
- **Building Options - Motion was also made by the City of McAllen to allow Andrew A. Canon, Transportation Director to look at all of the multiple buildings options /recommendations that have been submitted and bring back in two months for the TPC's final action on where HCMPO Office will be located. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**TAB IV CITIZEN INPUT**

- None at this time.

**TAB V PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A) Adoption of Minutes from:**

**➤ January 22, 2015**

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of January 22, 2015. TxDOT had the following corrections: Item C – Election of Secretary of Policy Committee – **should read... After some discussion on this item Hidalgo County nominated, Randy Sweeten, Chairman with the Hidalgo County Mobility RMA as Secretary to the Policy Committee. Item K - Discussion of Continuous Illumination – should read... After some discussion on this item, it was the recommendation of the TPC Members to further review this item for consideration. No other corrections or additions were made to the minutes of January 22, 2015. The City of San Juan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22, 2015 with corrections noted. TxDOT seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Pete Alvarez, with TxDOT, stated that there was no action needed at this time. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

**C) Discussion & Action of Proposed Projects for Proposition #1 Funding**

- Andrew A. Canon reported that \$1.74 billion of Proposition #1 was approved by all 254 Counties in the state and all funding was appropriated. Based upon this allocation the Hidalgo County MPO will receive \$20 million in funding for this fiscal year. There are three projects which will receive Prop #1 funding. 1) US 83 La Joya Relief Route; 2) SH 364 (La Homa); and 3) FM 1925 (Monte Cristo Rd). Staff is also requesting that the CAT 7 and CAT 11 allocation that will be freed up by the additional Prop #1 funding to be assigned to 2 other corridor expansions Taylor Road and Veterans Road (SH 495) Expansions. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Mercedes made a motion to approve Proposed Projects for Proposition #1 as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of McAllen and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.** TxDOT reminded members present that these projects were made possible because they were "Ready Shovel Projects", cities need to continue working on their projects for future funding.

**D) Discussion & Action of TAP Application Process**

- Andrew A. Canon reported that both BPAC and TAC Committees have reviewed the TAP Application and are recommending approval. HCMPO has approximately \$4.6 million in Transportation Alternative (Category 9) funding. The TAP Call for Projects open on February 20, 2015 and will close on May 8, 2015 and applications will be evaluated, presented to TAC and TPC and up for action in May, June, and July. Linda De La Fuente reported that FY15-16 TAP Call for Projects Workshop was held February 17, 2015 at the TxDOT Conference Center, with several entities participating. Andrew A. Canon concluded by letting members know that Mr. Steve Walker with TxDOT did an amazing job in assisting with the workshop **No discussion took place on this item; the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the TAP Application Process as presented. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**E) Discussion and Action to approve 2014 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments**

- Andrew A. Canon reported that this will be the final update on the 2014 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments, once approved by the TPC's Committee; it will be presented in February 2015 to Hidalgo County Commissioner Court for final approval at the County Level. Luis Diaz, GIS Specialist/Transportation Planner reported that the final map included all the changes from the following cities: Alton, McAllen, Pharr, Precincts 1, 3, and 4; HCRMA and TxDOT. Luis Diaz concluded by informing the members present that approval will also include the Plan Guide for the Thoroughfare Plan. These items have been presented to the TAC Committee and they were in consensus to approve the 2014 Thoroughfare Plan as presented by staff. **No discussion took place on these items; Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the 2014 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments and Plan Guide as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Palmview and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**F) Monthly Letting Update**

- Mr. Pete Alvarez, P.E., TxDOT, noted that there were no Projects Let for the month of January 2015 and provided a hand-out to members present. Hand-out was filed with the February 2015 agenda packet. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

**TAB VI STAFF REPORTS**

**A) Directors Update**

➤ **Legislative Update**

- Two new TxDOT Commissioners – Tryon Lewes from Odessa and J. Bruce Bugg from San Antonio, nominations are subject to Senate confirmation.
- Will make it a point to meet with J. Bruce Bugg from San Antonio and make him aware of the needs and desires for the Lower Rio Grande Region.
- Funds from vehicle sales tax collected each year would go to the State General Fund, to be used for the states highway fund. At present we do not generate those funds from vehicle sales, so this will be a bill that would generate funds on annual basis back to the State General Fund.
- City of McAllen informed members present that Senator Nichols "Senate Bill 5 and Senate Joint Resolution 5 passed the Senate Transportation Committee regarding vehicle sales tax and reads as follows: 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. Andrew A. Canon stated that he will monitor this bill closely.

➤ **Calendars Report**

Andrew Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:

**Month of February 2015:**

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for February 2, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for February 3, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for February 26, 2015
- TxDOT Commission Meeting Re: Proposition #1 – February 25-26, 2015

**Month of March 2015:**

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for March 2, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for March 3, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for March 19, 2015

➤ **Capitol Report**

- Attended Mid Valley Day – February 10, 2015
- Will be attending Mission Day - March 4, 2015
- Participated in the TxDOT Meeting with Mayor Sanchez

**B) HCMPO Budget Report**

- Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). Budget spent is 62.0%, still below budget.

**TAB VII TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT**

- Rene Garza, P.E., TxDOT gave an update and provided a hand-out of completed and pending projects.

**TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT (HCCRD)**

- No reports were given at this time.

**TAB IX HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)**

- Jorge Ramon provided a brief update.

**TAB X VALLEY METRO**

- Tom Logan reported that they have had a Year-To-Date 28% Ridership increase and will be purchasing between 12-18 new buses by the end of the year.

**TAB XI METRO**

- No reports were given at this time.

**TAB XII OLD OR NEW BUSINESS**

- No reports were given at this time.

**TAB XIII ADJOURNMENT**

- *The City of Alamo made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)  
Secretary