

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 5, 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. Chairman Joe Califa asked that members present introduce themselves and the organization they represent, present were representatives from the Cities of: Alamo, Alton, Donna, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, McAllen, McAllen Airport, Mission, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, San Juan EDC, Sullivan, TxDOT, Weslaco, and Hidalgo County RMA: Ex-Officio Members Present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District and Metro.

2) Adoption of Minutes from:

- July 1, 2014
Chairman Joe Califa noted that there was a minor amendment to item fifteen (15) and the updated minutes were re-sent to all members prior to the meeting for their review. No other corrections were noted to the minutes. *The City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the minutes of July 1, 2014, as presented. The City of Penitas seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- Mr. Homer Bazan gave a brief update and stated that two (2) projects were let, in July 2014, City of Mission and County of Hidalgo. **No Action Required.**

4) Discussion & Approval of MPO Merger

- Mr. Canon informed the members present that this item is up for a vote at the next Policy Meeting. Mr. Alvarez 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. Mr. Canon noted that his goal is to work on the voting structure and on how the funding will be divided among the three MPO's. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Donna made a motion to move forward with the recommendation of merging the MPO's. The City of Penitas seconded the motion. City of McAllen was opposed. The motion passed.**

5) Election of Secretary

- Chairman Joe Califa stated that the position for Secretary needs to be filled and ask for nominations from the members present. Two nominations were made Jeremy Santoscoy, McAllen Airport and Xavier Cervantes, City of San Juan. **After some discussion, the vote was as follows: Jeremy Santoscoy, (5) five votes and Xavier Cervantes (7) seven votes. No further discussion took place, Xavier Cervantes; City of San Juan was elected as Secretary.**

6) Discussion of Operational Improvements Contract

- Mr. Canon stated that a very productive meeting was held between TxDOT 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; and 4) waiting on finalizing what is best in hiring a program manager. Mr. Canon concluded and noted that this item will be placed as an action item next month. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

7) Discussion of Proposition #1 Potential Funding

- Mr. Canon noted that Senator Nichols is scheduled to be in the valley in August and again in September 2014 to discuss Proposition #1. Staff will be making presentations to local Rotary Clubs and Chamber of Commerce prior to November 1, 2014 election. Mr. Canon noted that Proposition 1 is a statewide ballot proposition and constitutional amendment authorized by SJR 1, which legislators approved last year. 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. Mr. Canon noted that he will be continue providing updates on this Proposition until November 1, 2014 elections'. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

8) Discussion of TAP Selection Criteria

- 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. Now the HCMPO is asking TAC members for their assistance in continuing a subcommittee for the TAP. **After some discussion on this item, the following members agreed to be representatives from the Cities of: Alton, Pharr, Weslaco, Mission, San Juan, McAllen, McAllen Airport, and TxDOT.**
- 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). Members can serve one or two year's terms. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

9) Discussion of Thoroughfare Plan

- Luis Diaz when over the process for the 2014 Thoroughfare Plan Amendment: 1) Local entity representatives will review their designated area's existing thoroughfare plan map to recommend the needed thoroughfare plan emendations to the network; 2) The process will include a series of meetings, the first meeting scheduled for August 21, 2014; 3) All amendments to the Hidalgo County Thoroughfare plan map must be accompanied by a signed approved resolution from the entities governing body. The deadline for Thoroughfare Plan Amendments is December 19, 2014; and 4) Thoroughfare Plan submissions will be presented in January 2015, as an action item first to the TAC, then CAC and then final approval to TPC. Once approved by the TPC, it will be presented in February 2015, to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for approval at the county level. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

10) Discussion of TRENDS Financial Forecast

- Linda De La Fuente, provided a brief presentation on the technical and structure on how TRENDS Financial Forecast is expected to work, after some discussion on this item, Mr. Canon noted that this item, "TRENDS" needs to be adopted by December 2014, and would like to proposed two possible variables: 1) Proposition #1 with conservative TRENDS; 2) TRENDS standalone less conservatory; and 3) Have public meetings to discuss both options. Chairman Califa recommended having TAC members sit with Mr. Canon and Linda De La Fuente during this process. Ed Taylor, City of McAllen agreed to sit in during these meetings.

11) Monthly Letting Report

- Mr. Homer Bazan provided an update and a hand-out of projects within Hidalgo County MPO Area.

12) Status Reports

- A. Calendar: August & September 2014
 - Mr. Canon stated that the calendars were provided for everyone to review. Transportation Hearing dates will be sent out by staff to TAC Members, should they wish to attend.
- B. HCMPO Budget Report
 - Mrs. Linda de la Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget.
- D. HCMPO Project Update
 - None at this time.
- E. 5th Bi-Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference
 - Mr. Canon informed everyone present that online registration for the conference is up and running. Conference is scheduled for November 18-20, 2014.
- F. Director's Update
 - Mr. Canon provided the following updates: 1) a new GIS/Planner, expected to start August 18, 2014; 2) Audit from TxDOT still pending ; and 3) Still looking for a new office location for HCMPO.

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

- Mr. Jim Edge gave a brief update.

17) Old or New Business

- Mr. Canon reminded members present that TIP projects need to be turned in prior to November 2014.

18) Adjournment

- *The City of Alamo made a motion to adjourn at 3:15 pm. The City of McAllen seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*