

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
March 19, 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, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmhurst, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: None.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **February 26, 2015**

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 26, 2015. *No corrections or additions were made to the minutes of February 26, 2016. The City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the February 26, 2016 minutes as presented. The City of San Juan seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

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

- Mr. Toribio Garza, Jr. P.E., TxDOT, stated that there were no updates at this time. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

C) Discussion and Approval of Change of Fiscal Agent to Hidalgo County

- Andrew A. Canon noted that after speaking with TxDOT, some concerns were address regarding a Re-Designation Agreement that was in effect twenty-five years ago with LRGVDC. The executed agreement designates the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) as the agency responsible for performing the administrative, technical and fiscal management activities required and needed for the area. TxDOT stated that the current agreement between LRGVDC and HCMPO may be renegotiated as necessary to meet changing conditions or terminated by either party upon 30 days' notice. TxDOT is recommending that this item be tabled and be address at the next LRGVDC Board meeting, so that proper measures are taking, once that is done it can come back to the Policy Committee for final action and approval. *After some discussion on this item, the City of Palmhurst made a motion to table the "Approval of Change of Fiscal Agent to Hidalgo County" as recommended by staff and TxDOT. The motion was seconded by the City of San Juan and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

D) Discussion and Action for Staff Out of State Travel

- Andrew A. Canon noted that he would like the Policy Committee's approval to send Sarah Hardage, GIS Specialist to attend the Travel Demand Modeling with TransCAD Training in Newton, MA. Dates of travel are April 26-May 2, 2015 and estimated total cost is \$4,147.00. *No discussion took place on this item; Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the Staff Out of State Travel to Newton, MA as requested by staff. The City of Palmview seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

E) Discussion and Action of FY2014-2015 UPWP Amendment #2

- Linda De La Fuente noted the FY2014-2015 UPWP Amendment #2 is un-obligating \$43,685.00 under several subtasks as well as transferring funds between subtasks in order to balance the budget in preparation for planned expenses during the rest of FY2015. The transfer of funds refers mostly to staff hour expenditures as well as adjustment in travel expenses. Linda De La Fuente concluded by stating that the TAC Committee is recommending approval. *After some discussion on these items; Hidalgo County RMA made a motion to approve the FY2014-2015 UPWP Amendment #2 as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by TxDOT and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

F) Discussion and Action of March Out of Cycle Highway and Transit TIP And MTP Amendments

- Linda De La Fuente reported that the Out of Cycle revision will reflect consistency with/between the 2015-2018 TIP and 2040 MTP update as follows: 1) The Edinburg Hike & Bike Trail project let in February of 2015; 2) Adoption of Proposition #1 Projects of La Joya Relief Route, FM1925 and SH364; 3) Category 7 Funding Projects - Taylor Road and Veterans Road; 4) Earmark funding for Liberty Blvd moved from the County Section to the City of Penitas Section; 5) North Alamo Road Extension moved from FY 2018 to FY 2016; and 6) The construction estimate for Taylor Road from US 83 to Business 83 in FY 2026 changed to \$6,598,982. Linda De La Fuente noted that the TAC Committee is recommending approval.
- Maria Champine reported that Transit revised funding sources on some of the projects and McAllen removed three projects in order to add three new projects. Transit TIP projects removed were: 1) Design for Bus Terminal Expansion; 2) Downtown Multimodal Improvements; and 3) Rolling Stock. Transit TIP Projects added were: 1) Bus Shelters; 2) Pedestrian Access Walkways and Technology; and 3) Computer Hardware and Radio System upgrades. Maria Champine noted that the TAC Committee is recommending approval of this item. *After some discussion on these two items a motion was made by City of Palmview to approve the March Out of Cycle Highway and Transit TIP and MTP Amendment as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County RMA and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

G) Discussion and Action on the 5310 Application Submittals

➤ Maria Champine noted that staff is seeking approval for the recommended applicants for the 5310 Program Call. The 5310 Program was presented to the TAC Committee and they are recommending approval as presented. There were 3 applications submitted from the City of Weslaco, City of Pharr and Valley Metro. Listed below is a brief description of the applications:

- City of Weslaco – Connectivity of residential areas of high transit dependent population to regional public transit with approximately 1,650 linear feet of new and rehabilitated sidewalks that will ADA compliant. The location of the ADA compliant sidewalks are:
 - a. 2nd Street from Illinois Ave to Airport Drive
 - b. Airport Drive from 2nd Street to Business 83
- City of Pharr - Improvement of sidewalks along Cage Blvd and Helmer Street by making ADA compliant with ramps and crosswalks.
- Valley Metro - Mobility Manager Position specifically targeting seniors and persons with disabilities, and the agencies that service them, to increase mobility, coordination, and utilization of the transit systems in the urbanized area.

Maria Champine concluded by notifying the Policy Committee Members present that the applications total to the amount of \$473,498.68 of federal funds. Total Funds \$843,966, minus \$473,498.68 for the three applicants, with a balance of \$370,467 to carry over for next year. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the 5310 Applications submittals as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the TxDOT and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

H) Discussion and Action on BPAC Applications

➤ Andrew Canon noted that the BPAC Committee presented to the TAC Committee three applications for consideration and approval: Armando Garza, Jr.; German Madrazo; and Richard W. Cavin. TAC committee is recommending approval of the three (3) applicants as presented by staff. **After some discussion on this item, City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the three (3) new applicants as submitted by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Penitas and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

I) Discussion and Action on Continuous Illumination

➤ Toribio Garza, Jr. P.E. with TxDOT provided to members present with a Draft of the cost for cities listed and roadways where LED Light would be placed as follows:

Entity	Roadway	From	To	Length Miles	Participation Percentage	Asset Amount	Yearly Maintenance Cost
Hidalgo Co. Pct 3	US83	Showers	FM492	1.5	3.11%	\$92,889.37	\$9,288.94
Palmview	US83	FM 492	Bentsen Palm RD	1.5	3.11%	\$92,889.37	\$9,288.94
TxDOT (Safety Lighting)	US83	Bentsen Palm	Edinburg Main Canal	1.16	2.41%	\$71,834.45	\$7,183.44
Under construction	US83	Edinburg Main Canal	Los Ebanos Rd		0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission	US83	Los Ebanos Rd	Bentsen Rd	5.4	11.21%	\$334,401.74	\$33,440.17
McAllen	US83	Bentsen Rd	FM2061(Jackson)Rd	4.7	9.75%	\$291,053.37	\$29,105.34
Pharr	US83	FM2061(Jackson) Rd	Egly Ave	0.47	0.98%	\$29,105.34	\$2,910.35
Pharr	US281	SH 495	Dwassa	2.5	5.19%	\$154,815.62	\$15,481.56
San Juan	US83	"I"Rd/Veterans	Cesar Chavez	2.16	4.48%	\$133,760.70	\$13,376.07
Alamo	US83	Cesar Chavez	Whalen Rd	2.8	5.81%	\$173,393.49	\$17,339.35
Donna	US83	Whalen Rd	Victoria Rd	4.25	8.82%	\$263,186.55	\$26,318.66
Weslaco	US83	Victoria Rd	Mile 2.5 W	5.25	10.89%	\$325,112.80	\$32,511.28
Mercedes	US83	Mile 2.5 W	Mile 3 E	5.6	11.62%	\$346,789.99	\$34,648.70
Edinburg	US281	Dwassa	0.8 mile N. of FM2812	10.9	22.62%	\$674,996.11	\$67,499.61
				48.19	100.00%	\$2,984,225.90	\$298,422.59
							Totals
				➤ 43.49	90.25%	\$2,893,172.53	\$289,317.25

Several discussions took place among the TPC members present on how the above project can be resolved and make it feasible for the cities listed on the table as provided by TxDOT. The City of San Juan recommended approaching TxDOT or whoever is in charge of the Lighting to pay for some of the bill, just wanting to make sure that every rock is turned before moving forward. Hidalgo County recommended using Category 7 to pay for the "continuous illumination project" and replace it with Prop Funding throughout the coming years. City of McAllen noted that they paid for their lighting through a grant and would like to get reimbursed in the near future with either Category 7 or Prop Funding. **After some discussion on this item, a motion was made by Hidalgo County RMA to approve the Continuous Illumination Project along the Expressway, contingent upon reimbursement of equity to those cities that have already paid for the lighting out of their own budget; including the City of McAllen and City of Palmview. The motion was seconded by the City of Palmview and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

J) Monthly Letting Update

➤ Mr. Toribio Garza, Jr. P.E., TxDOT provided a hand-out to members present. Hand-out was filed with the March 2015 agenda packet. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB VI STAFF REPORTS

A) Directors Update

➤ **Calendars Report**

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
- Attended Mission Day - March 4, 2015
- Participated in the TxDOT Meeting with Mayor Sanchez

Month of April 2015:

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for April 6, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for April 7, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for April 16, 2015
- Will be attending TEMPO Meeting in Austin – April 1-2, 2015

➤ 5th Annual Rock N Rolla Event Scheduled for – April 25, 2015 in conjunction with the City of Edinburg “Cool City Celebration”

B) HCMPO Budget Report

➤ Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). Budget spent is 66.67%, still below budget.

TAB VI TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

➤ Rene Garza, P.E., TxDOT gave an update and provided a hand-out of completed and pending projects. He also invited members present to participate in their “**Work Zone Awareness Week**”. Every year in April, TxDOT collaborates with the Federal Highway Administration and other transportation partners to observe National Work Zone Awareness Week. Everyone needs to take responsibility for work zone safety, from engineers and planners to drivers and pedestrians. TxDOT is working to educate the public and raise awareness of safety precautions for workers and motorists in work zones. Be safe. Drive smart.

TAB VI HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT (HCCRD)

➤ No reports were given at this time.

TAB VII HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

➤ Randy Sweeten provided a brief update on new grounding breaking with TxDOT.

TAB VIII VALLEY METRO

➤ Gabriel Zuniga noted that year to date they have had a 23% increase. Report filed with TPC Packet.

TAB IX METRO

➤ No reports were given at this time.

TAB X OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- Hidalgo County recommended that the HCMPO Director report to the Policy Committee verse the COG.
- City of Palmhurst would like to see TxDOT start working on Taylor Road project.

TAB XI ADJOURNMENT

➤ *The City of San Juan made a motion to adjourn at 6:38 pm. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary