

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)  
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
June 18, 2015

**TAB I ROLL CALL**

- Secretary Randy Sweeten called the meeting to order at 5:34 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, Elsa, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: None

**5:40 PM - Vice Chairman San Juanita Sanchez took over the meeting.**

**TAB II CITIZEN INPUT**

- None at this time.

**TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A) Adoption of Minutes from:**

➤ **April 16, 2015**

Vice Chairman San Juanita Sanchez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of April 16, 2015. **No corrections were noted; the City of Alamo made a motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2015 as presented by staff. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

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

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

**C) Presentation to South Texas Juvenile Diabetes Association (STJDA)**

- Andrew A. Canon stated that the Walk n Rolla event went very well. He stated that Debra Franco, STJDA, was present to receive the presentation check. He noted that the event went very well and only hope to have a better event next year. He thanked staff and the cities that participated as sponsors in the event. Mr. Canon presented the STJDA with a \$9,300 Check. **Presentation of the check only, no action taken.**

**D) Discussion and Action of TAP Funded Projects**

Andrew Canon reported that at the BPAC and TAC Committees meetings held in June 2015, recommendation was to fund the following projects as per TAP criteria: 1) Hidalgo County Precinct #2 - The Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project (Scored 98 Points) for Construction; and 2) City of Edinburg – Bicycle Master Plan Study (Scored 91.75 Points) for Planning. Andrew Canon also stated there was a third application submitted by PSJA School Districts and the reason PSJAs' applications were disqualified, no resolutions were approved by their School Board at the time they submitted their applications.

Andrew A. Canon noted that at the TAC Committee meeting discussion took place regarding the \$460,000 Planning funding, since the City of Edinburg will be awarded \$150,000 for Planning, leaving a balance of \$350,000, BPACs' recommendation was to move \$350,000 Planning funds to the Construction funds and be used towards Hidalgo County Precinct #2 - The Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project. The City of Edinburg had a request that the reminding balance be shifted over to Construction to be used towards (2) of their projects (McIntyre Railroad Pedestrian Crossing and Cano Walking Trail Lighting Project). Andrew A. Canon concluded and stated that it was the TACs' Committee and Staff recommendation to award TAP Funded Projects as scored and move the remaining Planning Funds to the Construction Funds and be used towards Hidalgo County Precinct #2 – The Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project. The City of Pharr indicated that they are in support for the Hidalgo County Precinct #2 Project moving forward, however; the City of Pharr and the Hidalgo County are currently working on some due-diligence that need to be cleared up. **After some discussion on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the TAP Funding Projects as presented by the TAC Committee and Staff. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion passed. The City of Pharr abstained.**

**E) Discussion and Action of Bike Plan Update**

- Maria Champine noted the HCMPO Staff is seeking approval for updates to the Bicycle Plan. The previous plan was adopted by the TPC on August 16, 2012. Since then, a new facility type, Separated Bike Lanes – Section 4.4, has been included in the Bike Plan. Additionally, the plan remains in compliance with AASHTO Standards as no revisions have been made to their standards following the 2012 HCMPO adoption. Also provided by staff were five (5) updates received by: Alamo, Edinburg, McAllen and Hidalgo County Precinct #2. Maria Champine noted that the HCMPO Bike Plan will be updated on an annual basis. Therefore, staff request that entities' updates be submitted on a regular basis as projects are proposed or completed, or submitted once per year when requested by HCMPO staff. Maria Champine concluded that this item was voted upon and approved for TPC consideration unanimously by TAC. **After some discussion on this item; Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the Bike Plan Updates as presented by staff. The City of Mercedes seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

**F) Discussion and Action on the Transit Plan**

- Maria Champine provided the final Transit Plan, to include surveys and maps that apply to the Transit Plan to members present. The HCMPO Staff has been working on the Public Transportation Plan as one of the elements of the Multi-Modal Plan. The Public Transportation Plan is being provided and presented for final approval. Maria Champine concluded by noting that once it is approved by the TPC Committee, it will become one of the elements of the Multi-Modal Plan and an essential component of the transportation system. Secretary Randy Sweeten recommended that due to all the information that needs to be reviewed regarding the Transit Plan, he would like have more time to read through the Transit Plan, and therefore requesting that this item be tabled until the next TPC Meeting. **No discussion took place on this item; members were in consensus to table this item until next TPC Meeting.**

**Chairman Mayor Salinas took over the meeting.**

**G) Discussion on the Beginning of Public Involvement for the MTP, Highway and Transit (TIP) Amendments (Draft)**

- Linda De La Fuente reported to TPC Members present that the Public Involvement meetings for the MTP, Highway and Transit are scheduled from June 5 thru July 10, 2015. Linda De La Fuente provided a summary of changes for MTP & Highway as follows:

**MTP and Highway Report:**

**FY 2015**

- Mile 1 E (PE) – Cost estimates were updated and the ROW phase was removed from FY 2015 and placed in FY 2025 with the construction phase.

**FY 2016**

- Edinburg Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan – Added project as part of the 2015-2016 HCMPO TAP Program Call
- Veterans SH 495 Extension (ROW) – CSJ number changed from 0865-01-082 to 0865-01-108

**FY 2017**

- Hidalgo County Precinct #2 Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project – Added project as part of the 2015-2016 HCMPO TAP Program Call

**FY 2025**

- Mile 3 N Phase II – Cat 7 funding in the amount of \$2,030,000 was taken from this project and added to the Liberty Blvd Phase II ROW cost. The funding shortfall was replaced with local funding.
- Liberty Blvd Phase II ROW cost – The ROW for this project was moved up from FY 2031 to FY 2025 and funded with Cat 7 from the Mile 3 N Phase II project, cost estimates were also updated.
- Mile 1 E – Project was moved from the Unfunded projects to FY 2025 using Cat 7 from the FM 493 (La Blanca) project which was pushed to FY 2026 and funded with TRENDS.

**FY 2026**

- FM 493 (La Blanca) – Project was pushed down from FY 2025 to FY 2026 in order to fund the Mile 1 E project. Funding changed from Cat 7 to TRENDS.
- SH 68 Phases II and III – New projects were requested to be included into the MTP by TxDOT, funding for the moment is identified as Other until a specific source of funding is secured.

**FY 2031**

- Liberty Blvd Phase II – The ROW funding was moved up to FY 2025.

**FY 2036**

- Bicentennial Blvd – City of McAllen requested a swap between the 29<sup>th</sup> St. project funded in FY 2036 and Bicentennial Blvd. Cost estimates for Bicentennial were updated utilizing the Cat 7 available from the 29<sup>th</sup> St project and funding the shortfall with local funding.

**Unfunded**

- 29<sup>th</sup> St – McAllen requested to un-fund this project in order to fund Bicentennial Blvd.

➤ **Transit (TIP) Amendments**

Maria Champine reported to TPC Members present that the first Transit Public Involvement meetings are scheduled for June 30, 2015 at HCMPO Conference Room; July 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 at McAllen Central Station and July 7, 2015 at Mission Memorial Library. Maria Champine noted that both Transit providers, Valley Metro and McAllen Metro continue to do a thorough review on current projects listed on the TIP and will be submitting the final list to HCMPO Staff, prior to final approval by the TPC Committee. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

**H) Discussion on Response Letter from TxDOT Re: SH 68 and IBTC Alignments**

- **SH 68 and IBTC Alignments** – Andrew A. Canon report to TPC Members present that a letter regarding SH 68 and IBTC Alignments was mailed out to Mr. Toribio Garza, P.E., with TxDOT, on behalf of the TPC Chairman and Vice Chairman, addressing citizens' complaints concerning the SH 68 proposed Alignment, the requested information in the letter is so that HCMPO may be better prepared to answering local constituents on the following: 1) Environmental Impact Statement; 2) Will TxDOT conduct more Public Hearings; 3) Project Timeline; and 4) TxDOT approach to HCRMA regarding taking over certain sections of the Hidalgo County Loop.

- **SH 68 and IBTC Alignments** – Toribio Garza, P.E., TxDOT noted that a response was provided in writing regarding SH 68 and IBTC Alignments to TPC Chairman and Vice Chairman and to the TPC Committee members. In the letter the following was addressed: 1) TxDOT are transitioning from an Environmental Assessment (EA) to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the SH 68 Projects as part of the environmental process, which took into account the impacts on the proposed right-of-way and public input; 2) The Change to an EIS will be made public in the near future through a Notice Of Intent (NOI) that will be published in the Federal Register; 3) As part of the EIS process, possible new alignment alternatives, in addition to the previously identified ones, will be considered when determining the final alignment; 4) Anticipating conducting a Public Meeting in the Summer to inform the public about the new EIS process that is being pursued and the new possible alignment alternatives that are being considered, date of public hearing is still pending, but once a date is determined, TPC members will be made aware of the date, time and location; and 5) TxDOT is coordinating closely with the Hidalgo County RMA on the financing and letting of their upcoming projects. The alignment of the IBTC project will not be part of the upcoming SH 68 EIS documents because each project will have its own independent environmental document. After some discussion on this item, City of Mission asked if a time frame has been set when this alignment/project is to take place. TxDOT response was that a year (total of 2- years) has been added to this project, because of the in-depth (EIS) that need to be done, but will keep TPC Members updated as the projects proceeds. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

**I) Monthly Letting Update**

- Toribio Garza, P.E., TxDOT provided the Monthly Letting Report to members present and stated that one of many Projects to be LETT in July 2015 are:

HWY	LIMITS	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATE	FUNDING CATEGORIES
US 83 Relief Route at La Joya/Penitas	From: 0.85 E. of FM 886 (El Faro Rd) To: 0.28 W. of Showers Road	Construct 4 Lane Expressway/Relief Route	\$100,315,528	Cat 10 CBI, CAT 3 TMF, Prop. 1
FM 1925	From: Kenyon Road to FM907	Widen to 4 lanes	\$4,262,000	Prop. 1
BUS 83	BUS 83 @ North Floodway(Mercedes Floodway	Concrete Overlay & Replace rail	\$1,250,563	Cat 6, Cat 8

The Monthly Letting Report was filed with the June 2015 agenda packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

- **HCRMA – SIB Loan** – a lengthy discussion took place amongst the TPC members regarding the SIB Loan and accountability should it default and the pros and cons of the SIB Loan.

**TAB IV STAFF REPORTS**

**A) Directors Update**

➤ **Calendars Report**

**Month of June 2015:**

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for June 1, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for June 2, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for June 18, 2015
- Attended TxDOT Meeting in Austin – June 24-25, 2015

➤ **Month of July 2015:**

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for July 6, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for July 7, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for July 16,, 2015
- Office Closed – Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> for 4<sup>th</sup> Of July Holiday
- Attending Freight Meeting – Corpus Christi – July 15, 2015

➤ **Legislative Update 6/18/2015:**

Andrew A. Canon informed TPC members present that effective September 1, 2015, S.B. No. 1237 - relating to Internet broadcasts of open meetings held by the policy board of a metropolitan planning organization, will be enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas as follows:

- SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 472, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 472.036 to read as follows:
- Sec. 472.036. INTERNET BROADCAST AND ARCHIVE OF OPEN MEETINGS. In a manner that complies with Section 551.128(c), Government Code, a metropolitan planning organization shall broadcast over the Internet live video and audio of each open meeting held by the policy board. Subsequently, the organization shall make available through the organization's Internet website archived video and audio for each meeting for which live video and audio was provided under this section.

Andrew A. Canon concluded by noting that equipment will have to be purchased by the HCMPO in order to meet this requirement and the estimated cost would be \$50,000.00. Suggestions by some members of the TPC were; for staff to look into holding the TPC meetings at another location were the equipment is already in place. Mr. Canon noted that this was not feasible for staff, especially when documents/copies are needed at the last minute and some of the conference rooms in some of these cities are not big enough to accommodate our TPC members/meetings. After some discussion on this item, TPC members suggested that in the matter of the equipment, this will be re-consider again at a later date prior to the September 1, 2015 Deadline.

- **Border to Border Conference** – Staff is recommending holding the 2016 Border to Border conference in San Diego, CA. Staff noted that Federal Highway is on aboard to hold this conference in San Diego, CA. After some discussion on this item, TPC members were in consensus to hold the 2016 Border to Border Conference in San Diego, CA.

➤ **Re-Designation Update**

Andrew A. Canon noted that the Re-Designation approval is still pending from the Governors' office, have met with representative with the Governors' office and awaiting on his response on who will be signing off on the Re-Designation Official Document for the HCMPO.

➤ **HOG Porker Tournament**

Andrew Canon noted that staff has been producing posters and flyers in-house and staff has been assisting with this project. Andrew Canon wanted to make the TPC members aware be and transparent of what HCMPO staff was working on. The tournament is scheduled for June 27, 2015 in Weslaco. Past proceeds have been used towards the following projects: 1) Head Start Program in San Juan, Veteran Nursing Home in McAllen and back to school supplies for Anaya Elementary in Pharr. Vice Chairman San Juanita Sanchez noted that the Harley Davidson Group (HOG) was a very good organization and supports their efforts in helping out the communities' through-out the valley.

**B) HCMPO Budget Report**

➤ Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). Budget spent is 79.17%, still below budget.

**TAB V TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT**

➤ Rene Garza, P.E., TxDOT gave an update and provided a report of completed and pending projects.

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

➤ Randy Sweeten, HCRMA provided an update on the SIB Loan and the FONSI.

**TAB VII VALLEY METRO**

➤ Tom Logan, Valley Metro Director gave an update and provided a report to members present.

**TAB VIII METRO**

➤ No reports were given at this time.

**TAB IX OLD OR NEW BUSINESS**

➤ No Old or New Business were discussed.

**TAB X ADJOURNMENT**

➤ *No other items were discussed; the City of San Juan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

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Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)  
Secretary