

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2014

1) Roll Call

- Chairman Joe Califa called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. 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: Alamo, Alton, Donna, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mission, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Valley Metro and Hidalgo County RMA: Ex-Officio Members Present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District, Metro and San Juan EDC.

2) Adoption of Minutes

- September 2, 2014
Chairman Joe Califa asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of September 2, 2014. **No corrections were noted; Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by TxDOT and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- None given at this time.

4) Discussion & Approval of FY 2015-2018 TIP (Highway & Transit) Amendments

- Linda De La Fuente reported on the FY2015-2018 TIP (Highway) Amendments, and hand-outs were provided for everyone to review. She briefly went through the spreadsheets and the projects listed. Linda De La Fuente explained to members present that the spread sheets for FY2015-2018 were highlighted in purple which were projects Lett for that year, and projects in Brown were projects that were either Added or Modified for FY2015-2018, which included Donna Int'l Bridge for FY2017. **After some discussion on this item, Chairman Califa went on to the second part of this item, FY 2015-2018 TIP (Transit) Amendment**
- Maria Champine reported on the FY2015-2018 TIP (Transit) Amendment and hand-outs were provided for everyone to review. She briefly went through the spreadsheets and the projects listed. Maria Champine stated that she had been working with Valley Metro and McAllen Metro on "Program of Project" for Fiscal Year 2014 and whatever projects not Lett; were moved to FY2015. Maria Champine let members know that FY2015 new programs are: Section 5307-Urbanized Area Formula Program; Section 5310-Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and People with Disabilities Program; and Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities Program; that are in the "Program of Projects McAllen Urbanized Area" and must be included in the ATF Report. Maria Champine concluded by stating that FY2016-2018 projects were not discussed during her meeting w/Valley and McAllen Metro. **No discussion on these items took place; the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the FY2015-2018 TIP (Highway & Transit) Amendments as presented. The Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

5) Discussion & Approval of FY 2010-2035 MTP Amendments

- Linda De La Fuente noted that the FY 2010-2035 MTP Amendments was already covered under Section 4 above. Hidalgo County suggested that these items be discussed with the City Officials. Andrew A. Canon informed members present that these items had already been discussed and changes have been received on the current MTP 2035 Amendments. The only one major change was the Donna Int'l Bridge within the MTP 2035 and any other changes that were submitted by other cities. Andrew A. Canon explained that the process is to hold two TAC Meetings in November to discuss any new changes to the MTP 2040, and in December 2014, the Policy Committee will be making the final approval on the MTP 2040. The other funding that has not been included in the MTP FY2010-2035 is the funding that might be coming from Proposition #1. Until the election is held in November 2014, those funds will not be accounted /included for projects until after February 2015, when it goes through the legislation. But once approved, it should be \$20-\$50 million available for "projects". **After some discussion on this item, the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the FY2010-2035 MTP Amendments as presented. The Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

6) Discussion & Approval on Final Functional Classification Amendments

- Maria Champine gave a brief update on the Functional Classification Amendments as follows: 1) Updated maps were developed and displayed for members to review; 2) In conjunction with TxDOT, FHWA and HCMPO, these entities went through every roadway that has been functionally classified, with a total of 85 changes made to the Functional Classification Amendments, attachments provided to members present; 3) Updates are done every ten (10) years; 4) As a requirement the Final Functional Classification Amendments has to be approved from both the TAC and Policy Committees and then forward to FHWA; and 5) The purpose of the Functional Classification Amendments is to "evaluate the function of the roadway system and not specifically to building a road". Chairman Califa did advise members present, if further information is required on this item, please contact HCMPO Staff (Maria or Andrew) for further clarification. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Donna made a motion to approve the Final Functional Classification Amendments and present it to the TPC Committee at their next meeting for approval. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County, and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

7) Discussion of MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 - Update

- Linda De La Fuente briefly when over the MTP Project Funding Tables, which were also made available to members present. Linda De La Fuente reminded members that at the last TAC meeting, staff had requested from the cities to submit their projects for consideration. A total of 31 projects were submitted and are reflected in "Yellow"; these are either new projects or revisions of existence projects that were not funded. Only one project did not get funded "SH 107 w/ Overpass @ Schunior", out of 31 projects. After some discussion on this item, Andrew A. Canon concluded by stating that MTP Project Funding Table for 2015-2040 will be presented to the TAC Committee twice, November 4th for discussion and then for approval in November 25th and in December 2014 to the Policy Committee for their final Approval. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

8) Discussion of Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaws

- Karina Maldonado reported to members present that the BPAC Members met on October 6, 2014 and the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was created by restructuring HCMPO's Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force (Bike/Ped) to include not only citizens and advocates, but also members of TAC. The restructuring was requested by TxDOT's head bicycle pedestrian coordinator out of Austin, as a means of making the committee a more legitimate and well-rounded group of individuals that will provide oversight and direction on bicycle and pedestrian oriented projects and programs for TAC and TPC. Karina Maldonado informed the members presents that the BPAC edited bylaws have already been reviewed by BPAC members, who unanimously support their adoption. Summary of amended bylaws were provided to TAC members present; as they will be worded and adopted by the BPAC, as well as; the final draft of BPAC Bylaws. Amended Section was as follows: The HCMPO-BPAC shall consist of a maximum of 21 voting members. These members shall serve a two-year term. No entity shall have more than two positions on the BPAC. Each member is entitled to one vote on each item submitted to a vote of the members. Members consist of (8) city staff, (1) Chamber of Commerce / Economic Development organization, (2) members of bicycle-oriented organizations, (2) members of pedestrian-oriented organizations, and (4) advocate positions. REASONING: To establish that each member has one equal vote, no entity can have more representation then another, and that citizens, advocate, EDC voting positions are available. Adoption of bylaws will not affect the MPO Procedures for TAC and TPC. Karina Maldonado concluded by letting the members know that after the initial meeting on September 2, 2014, it was proposed by BPAC members that they request the creation and adoption of their own bylaws with approval from TAC and TPC Committees at their November 2014 meetings. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

9) Discussion on Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

- Karina Maldonado provided handouts regarding the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) and briefly explained that The Hidalgo County MPO (HCMPO) has approximately \$3.6 million available to fund the **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**, a program established under MAP-21 legislation to provide funding for transportation alternatives, for projects within the MPO's urbanized boundary for fiscal years 2014-2015. Funding can be used towards Construction, Planning, and Design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including: Sidewalks, Bicycle infrastructure, Lighting and other safety related infrastructure, and Transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The BPAC committee will propose items to be listed on the TAP Project Scoring Criteria, which when finalized will be used during the selection process. Karina Maldonado concluded by letting members present know that this item will be addressed to include the Bylaws again in November as an action item by the TAC Committee. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

10) Discussion of Operational Improvements

- Andrew A. Canon noted that he has had discussions with Pharr TxDOT and will be setting up a video conferencing to further discuss options for alternative plans for the Operational Improvements on the One (\$1Million) that is still pending, looking into having the RFP ready by the first of the year. Once the conference call is set up, staff will be discussing scoring and criteria for this project. There is no time frame on when to distribute these funding. More information will be provided at the next meeting. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

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

- Andrew A. Canon noted that elections are scheduled for November 4, 2014, he has a concern with the consequences because there are two Propositions #1 on the ballot, first one reads: Proposition #1, "The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads". The second one reads: Proposition #1, "Which would create a hospital district in Hidalgo County". Once the election is over, and Proposition 1 is approved, shovel ready projects will be considered first with the funding that will be allocated by Proposition #1. No certain date on when the funds will be disbursed, once Proposition #1 passes. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

12) Monthly Letting Report

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

13) Status Reports

A. Calendar: October, November & December 2014

- Andrew A. Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:

Month of October: 1) October 20-24, Mr. Canon and two other staff members are scheduled to attend AMPO Conference in Atlanta,

Month of November: 1) Two TAC Meetings will be scheduled, November 4 and November 25th, the TAC Meeting will be scheduled depending on items needing approval; November 11, The Office will be Closed for Veterans Day; November 18-20, the 5th Annual Border to Border Conference is scheduled, November 27-28, office is Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday; and

Month of December: 1) Two Policy Meeting will be scheduled December 4, and fall back date, December 9, 2014, this will be a mandatory meeting and members need to be present, this is the month that any changes to the Thoroughfare Plan need to be submitted. December 24th and 25th office is Closed for the Christmas Holidays.

B. Director' Updates

- Thoroughfare Plan - Andrew A. Canon reported that the final Thoroughfare Plan will be presented to the TAC and Policy Board at the January 2015 Meeting and then to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court Meeting in February 2015 for Final Approval. The current map is posted on the HCMPO Website; advised everyone that the deadline to submit any changes is due December 19th. He reminded everyone that staff will need a resolution from each entity who submits any changes.

C. HCMPO Budget Report

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

14) HCRMA Update

- Eric Davila, RMA Consultant for Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation noted that their Board has approved the 2015 Strategic Plan and will be made available online and a hardcopy will be provided to the HCMPO Staff.

15) Valley Metro

- Gabriel Zuniga, Mobility Manager gave a brief update on Valley Metro.

- 16) Metro**
- Mrs. Sandra Gama gave a brief update.
- 17) Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District**
- No reports were given at this time.
- 18) Old or New Business**
- Mr. Bazan notified members present that certain highways are having issues with rising water, which will be addressed on an individual basis with cities affected. City of Donna asked if any additional funding was available for mowing. Mr. Bazan response was not at this time.
- 19) Adjournment**
- **The meeting adjourn at 3:20 pm.**