

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 22, 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: Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, La Villa, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: None.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The HCMPO Transportation Policy Committee Members were in consensus to go into Executive Session, Pursuant to Ex. Gov. Code 551.074 (Personnel Matters) at 5:35p.m. Motion was made by Hidalgo County and seconded by the City of Edinburg and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.
 - Transportation Director's Evaluation

TAB IV RECOVENE – 6:08 p.m.

- Motion was made by the Hidalgo County 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 551.074(Personnel Matters). The motion was seconded by City of Donna and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.
- Chairman Norberto Salinas stated that after discussion regarding the Transportation Director's Evaluation, the members made a recommendation to approve a 6% raise for the Hidalgo County MPO Transportation Director. ***No discussion took place on this item; the City of Weslaco made a motion to approve the 6% percent (\$116,000.00) pay increase for the HCMPO Transportation Director as per his evaluation and discussed in Executive Session. The City of Palmhurst seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

TAB V PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ December 4, 2014

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of December 4, 2014. ***No corrections or additions were made to the minutes of December 4, 2014. Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the December 4, 2014 minutes as presented. TxDOT seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

B) City of Palmview Request /Action in Restoring Eligibility to Vote

- Mr. Canon stated that the City of Palmview has met the requirement in attendance to be giving voting privileges. He stated that the city has been attending the Policy Meetings every month. ***No discussion took place on this item; the City of Mercedes made a motion to approve Establishment of Voting Privileges for the City of Palmview as presented. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

C) Election of Secretary of Policy Committee

- Chairman Norberto Salinas asked for nominations for Secretary to the Policy Committee. ***After some discussion on this item; Hidalgo County nominated, Randy Sweeten, Chairman with the Hidalgo County Mobility RMA as Secretary to the Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by the City of Palmview and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

D) 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.***

E) Discussion & Action to approve Resolution Supporting Jimmy Garza to TxDOT

- Mr. Canon noted that the Governor of the State of Texas, as authorized under Texas Administrative Code, has the authority to appoint members to the Texas Transportation Commission whose purpose is to oversee the Texas Department of Transportation to ensure the transportation needs of the State of Texas are met. Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee agreed by a majority vote to endorse Mr. A. Jimmy Garza as a candidate to serve as a commissioner on the Texas Transportation Commission. Secretary Sweeten also noted thou Mr. Garza is a good candidate that Mr. Paul Moxley also be considered for this appointment. ***After some discussion on this item, the City of Mercedes made a motion to approve "Resolution 2014-02: Resolution Of Support For A. Jimmy Garza To Serve As A Commissioner On The Texas Transportation Commission. The motion was seconded by the City of Weslaco and upon a vote the motion passed. TxDOT abstained from voting on this item.***

F) Discussion & Action of the Transit TIP Amendment

- Maria Champine noted that Valley Metro was going through a Transit TIP Amendment only for FY2015 and hand-outs were provided for everyone to review. She briefly went through the spreadsheets and noted that a total of six (6) projects are being considered under the 5307 Category, two (2) new projects and 4 revised projects. Funding is being shifted from McAllen Metro to Valley Metro only. ***No discussion took place on this item; the Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the Transit TIP Amendment as presented. The City of Palmview seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

G) Discussion of the 2014 APL & APER

- Andrew Canon noted to members present that APL for 2014 was provided to members present for their review. This is the annual publication on final projects that were Lett for 2014 and is in partnership with TxDOT. These are projects that were Lett for 2014 through the MPO. ***Presentation only, no action taken.***

- Linda De La Fuente noted that the Total Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) Budgeted and Expended for FY 2014 was provided to members present for their review and included the following: Total amount of Projects Lett was \$24 Million for FY2014. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

UPWP	Description	Percent Expended
1.0	Administration Management	94%
2.0	Data Development and Maintenance	54%
3.0	Short Range Planning	100%
4.0	Metropolitan Transportation	37%
5.0	Management Systems/or Studies	83%
	Total	75%

H) Discussion on the Amendment of UPWP to Comply with PEA's

- Linda De La Fuente noted that the Amendment of UPWP to Comply with PEA's was provided to members present for their review and areas of concern were highlighted in red and are as follows: Addressing MAP-21 Planning Emphasis Areas; Transition to Performance Based Planning and Programming; Models of Regional Planning Cooperation; and Ladders of Opportunity. This information has been discussed with TxDOT and no formal approval is needed on this item. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

I) Discussion of Proposition #1 Projects Submitted

- Andrew A. Canon noted the following: 1) Letter from TxDOT dated December 19, 2014 indicates that Hidalgo County MPO will receive \$1.74 billion in funding for this fiscal year 2015. Based upon this allocation the Hidalgo County MPO will receive \$20,106,000 in funding for this fiscal year. In accordance with legislative requirements, this funding is distributed by formula for use on facilities on the state highway system, not to include toll roads; and 2) Letter also received and dated November 11, 2014 executed by Mayors from City of Mission and City of Palmview; Commissioner Flores and Commissioner Palacios, was submitted to the MPO indicating that they have been aggressively developing roadway projects toward a shovel-ready projects. They are respectfully requesting that three of their project which will be ready to receive bids in the early part of 2015, receive Prop #1 funding that will soon be made available. They are also requesting that the CAT 7 and CAT 11 allocation that will be freed up by the additional Prop #1 funding be assigned to 2 other corridor expansions Taylor Road and Veterans Rod (SH 495) Expansions. Andrew Canon concluded by reminding members present that projects will be selected by February 2015 and funds will be awarded for construction only. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

J) Discussion of 5310 Program Call

- Maria Champine noted that the 5310 Program Call was provided to members present for their review. The 5310 Program Call is intended to enhance mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities by providing funds for program to serve the special needs of transit-dependent populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The McAllen Urbanized Area has a minimum of \$639,522 in federal funding available for traditional 5310 projects under this program. An additional \$204,444 is available for funding of either traditional or other 5310 projects. This funding is a combination of fiscal years 2013 and 2014 and may be used for either capital or operating expenses. Maria Champine concluded her presentation by letting members know that an Information Workshop is scheduled for January 29, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at the LRGVDC Transportation Center. Application deadline is February 20, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. and must be submitted to Maria Champine, Assistant Transportation Director. Application and the Program Management Plan are available on the website for download. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

K) Discussion of Continuous Illumination

- Chairman Norberto Salinas noted that several concerns have been voiced regarding lighting along the expressway; several cities are willing to partner up with TxDOT to see this issue resolved. 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	3.1%	\$92,889.37	\$9,288.94
Palmview	US83	FM 492	Bentsen Palm RD	1.5	3.1%	\$92,889.37	\$9,288.94
TxDOT (Safety Lighting)	US83	Bentsen Palm	Edinburg Main Canal	1.16	2.4%	\$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	11.2%	\$334,401.74	\$33,440.17
McAllen	US83	Bentsen Rd	FM206(Jackson)Rd	4.7	9.75%	\$291,053.37	\$29,105.34
Pharr	US83	FM206(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
				Minus McAllen → 43.49	90.25%	\$2,693,172.53	\$269,317.25
							Totals

After some discussion on this item, it was the recommendation of the TPC Members to further review this time for consideration.

L) Monthly Letting Update

- Mr. Toribio Garza Jr., P.E., TxDOT, provided hand-out to members present. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB VI STATUS REPORTS

A) Directors Update

➤ **Calendars Report**

Andrew Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:

Month of January 2015:

- TAC Meeting - Was Scheduled January 6, 2015
- New Year's 2015 – January 1, 2015 – Office was Closed
- Martin Luther King – January 19, 2015 – Office was Closed
- Policy Meeting - Scheduled January 22, 2015

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

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. **Reports only, no action taken.**

C) Thoroughfare Update

- Luis Diaz, GIS Specialist/Transportation Planner reported that the City of McAllen and City of Pharr have submitted their information, to include Resolutions. Luis Diaz concluded by informing the members present that the approval process will be as follows: Thoroughfare Plan submissions were presented in February 2015 to the TAC Committee, and then for final approval to the Policy Committee. After the TPC's Committee approval, the submissions it will be presented in February 2015 to Hidalgo County Commissioner Court for approval at the County Level. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB VII OFF SYSTEM REPORT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VIII TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- Mr. Rene Garza, TxDOT, gave a brief update and provided a hand-out of completed and pending projects. Hand-out was filed with the January 2015 agenda packet.

TAB IX HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT (HCCRD)

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB X HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

- Randy Sweeten, Chairman, HCRMA, provided a brief update.

TAB XI VALLEY METRO

- Gabriel Zuniga provided a brief update.

TAB XII METRO

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XIII OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XIV ADJOURNMENT

- **The City of Weslaco 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