



Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization

510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX. 78596

(956) 969-5778
(956) 969-5821 fax

Planning Partners:

Alamo
Alton
Donna
Edcouch
Edinburg
Elsa
Granjeno
Hidalgo
Hidalgo County
Hidalgo County RMA
La Joya
La Villa
McAllen
Mercedes
Mission
Palmhurst
Palmview
Peñitas
Pharr
Progreso
Progreso Lakes
San Juan
Sullivan City
TxDOT
Valley Metro
Weslaco

Additional Partners:

FHWA
FTA
Fish & Wildlife
Hidalgo County Commuter
Rail District
Metro
Rio Grande Valley
Partnership
Weslaco Chamber of
Commerce
Gobierno de Tamaulipas
San Juan Economic
Development

Memorandum

TO: Bicycle And Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
FROM: Cody Baczewski, BPAC Coordinator
SUBJECT: May 11, 2015 BPAC Meeting, 1:30 PM

Dear BPAC Members,

Attached is the agenda for the BPAC meeting being held on Monday, May 11th, 2015 at 1:30 PM at the Hidalgo County MPO Offices, located at 510 S. Pleasantview Dr. in Weslaco, Texas.

The first item up for action is the Bike Friendly Business program. The HCMPO has received a quote for map printing from The Whitley Group, the same firm that printed CAMPO's regional bicycle map. MPO staff is seeking guidance as to the number of maps that should be ordered.

Secondly, a discussion about coordinating goals and resources to best meet community needs in bicycle and pedestrian educational and outreach efforts will follow.

Next on the agenda is scoring applications for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). BPAC members are highly encouraged to attend and assist with this agenda item.

Lastly, up for brief discussion is a recap of the 5th annual Walk N Rolla.

We encourage your continued engagement with the BPAC and look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting!

Sincerely,

Cody Baczewski
GIS Specialist, BPAC Coordinator
Hidalgo County MPO



Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization

510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX. 78596

(956) 969-5778
(956) 969-5821 fax

AGENDA

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

LRGVDC Transit Center Conference Room

May 11th, 2015 | 1:30PM

I. Roll Call

II. Approval of Minutes of:

- March 2nd, 2015
- April 6th, 2015

Action

MPO Staff

III. Bike Friendly Business Program

- Map printing quantity

Discussion/Action

BPAC Members

IV. Education/Outreach Efforts

Discussion

BPAC Members

V. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Scoring

Discussion/Action

BPAC Members

VI. Staff Update

- Walk N Rolla 2015

Update

MPO Staff

VII. Old or New Business

Discussion/Action

VIII. Adjournment

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2015

I. Roll Call

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held at the HCMPO conference room located in Weslaco, Texas and called to order by Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, at 1:35 PM.

The following attendees were present:

Technical Members

Ponciano Longoria-City of Edinburg
Benjamin Worsham-City of McAllen
Joe Califa-L&G Engineering / City of Mission
Dora Robles-City of Pharr
Commissioner Armando Garza-City of San Juan
Homer Bazan-TxDOT Pharr

Citizen and Advocates

Michael McNew - Edinburg
Albert Juliano - Pharr
Michael Padgett – McAllen
William "Bill" Lang

HCMPO Staff

Cody Baczewski, GIS Specialist
Maria Champine, Assistant Director
Gloria Banda-Gonzales, Administrative Assistant

II. Approval of Minutes

➤ February 2, 2015

Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of February 2, 2015. No corrections were noted; City of Mission made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Michael Padgett and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Discussion & Action on BPAC Application

Cody Baczewski notified the board members present that he had received three applications for consideration to the BPAC Committee and action would be taken on each application separately as follows:

Application No. 1: German Madrazo is a resident from McAllen and has applied as the Advocate for Pedestrian Citizen Position. *After some discussion on this item, City of Mission made a motion to appoint Mr. Madrazo to the Pedestrian Citizen position as requested. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

Application No 2: Armando Garza, Jr. has applies as the Advocate for the Low Income/Colonia Position and he would be removed as the representative for the City of San Juan. *After some discussion on this item, City of San Juan made a motion to appoint Mr. Garza to the Low Income/Colonia Position as requested. The motion was seconded by City of Mission and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

Application No. 3: Richard W. Cavin joined by conference call while the committee considered his request to serve on the BPAC committee. Mr. Cavin resides in Cameron County and works for RGV Rando events, which covers also Hidalgo County. *After some discussion on this item, Mike Padgett made a motion to appoint Mr. Cavin as the Advocate to the Bicycle Position as requested. The motion was seconded by Albert Juliano and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

IV. Discussion & Exercise on Bicycle Plan Updates & Map

Cody Baczewski provided copies of the Bicycle System Maps to members present for their review and noted that cities have been contacted to submit any new plans, so that they are added to the new Bicycle Plan Facility Definitions & Maps. Cody Baczewski reported that individual maps will be sent to local entities, just to make sure that all the information is current and updated as required. After some discussion on this item, City of McAllen recommended that Box Bikes be add to the maps' legend. Staff explained to members present that the Box Bikes were included on the current maps, the color scheme just needed to be different from the proposed Bike Boxes colors. Staff is to work on the color scheme before finalizing the map.

V. Discussion on Education & Enforcement of Bike/Ped Safety

Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, mentioned that Jeff Underwood, Chairman would like to see the RGV Community working together on bike safety. Safe passing ordinances and cities with and without them were discussed. Drainage and irrigation canals being used as space for hike/bike trails and the associated challenges and liability issues were then discussed. Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, suggested BPAC organize an annual ride and use that as an avenue for education and then suggested having BPAC members volunteer at Walk-N-Rolla to begin outreach. Richard Cavin, Bicycle Advocate, then expressed the importance of educating both cyclists and non-cyclists and discussion was had about educating children with programs at schools. Maria Champine added that any bicycle helmets not given away at Walk-N-Rolla could be used in these events. The depictions of shoulders on the Bicycle System Map and on Business 83 in particular were then discussed because they are not useable shoulders for riding in some areas. Cody Baczewski suggested cities make the determinations of shoulders' suitability for inclusion in the map themselves as part of their review of the Bicycle System maps. Maria Champine then detailed the specifications required of a shoulder for inclusion in the map and stated that staff takes guidance from the cities as to inclusion or exclusion in the map. Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, then spoke about Strava's heat maps that depict where runners and cyclists are going and noted that he will give a presentation on it at the next meeting. He then recommended tabling the Business 83 shoulder removal and review of other shoulders until the next meeting and allowing cities to make their own determinations as well. Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, concluded by suggesting that the BPAC arrange for bike/ped safety and education speakers and look into complete street resolutions.

VI. Staff Update

➤ Discussion & Update on Walk N Rolla 2015

Cody Baczewski noted that the 5th Annual Walk N Rolla event is scheduled for April 25th in conjunction with the City of Edinburg's "Cool City Celebration", which will include several other entities as part of the event: Walk N Rolla, Arbor Day, Earth Day, Dia de los Niños, and CDBG Community Week. The Walk N Rolla events will include a Guided Family Bike Ride, 5K Walk/Run, Criterium Bike Race, Kid's Bike Rodeo, and a Mutt Strut. After some discussion on this item, the BPAC members present recommended that they have a table at the event and provided educational information to attendees.

VII. Old and New Business

Maria Champine at this time express how great full HCMPO Staff were for inviting them to be part of the City of Edinburg "Cool City Celebration" event.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2015

I. Roll Call

The Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting was held at the HCMPO conference room located in Weslaco, Texas and called to order by Jeff Underwood, Chairman, at 1:35 PM.

The following attendees were present:

Technical Members

Jeff Underwood – City of Alton
Richard Hinojosa – City of Edinburg
Dora Robles – City of Pharr
Joe Califa – L&G Engineering / City of Mission

Citizen and Advocates

German Madrazo – Pedestrian Advocate At Large
Douglas Vanker – Weslaco – Citizen At Large
Michael Padgett – McAllen – Citizen At Large
Michael McNew – Edinburg – Citizen At Large
William “Bill” Lang – Bicycle Advocate At Large

HCMPO Staff

Cody Baczewski, GIS Specialist
Andrew Canon, Director

II. Approval of Minutes

➤ **March 2, 2015**

Jeff Underwood, Chairman, stated that due to a lack of quorum, minutes from the March 2, 2015 BPAC meeting will be brought for approval at a subsequent meeting. Joe Califa, L&G Engineering / City of Mission, then asked for clarification on the status of TxDOT’s representation on the committee and Jeff Underwood suggested TxDOT submit an alternate form so that Steve Walker or another alternate can fully participate and vote in future meetings.

III. Discussion on BPAC Roster, Positions, and Alternates Confirmation

Cody Baczewski asked BPAC membership to review names, positions, and contact information on the roster as a housekeeping item. He then suggested entities submit Contacts and Alternatives Forms so that alternates may vote in the absence of a BPAC member. Joe Califa, L&G Engineering / City of Mission, then asked for clarification on the need for an alternate while scoring TAP applications. Andrew Canon stated that since the BPAC is only scoring projects and making recommendations to the TAC for TAP projects, a conflict of interest is not present.

IV. Discussion on Walk-N-Rolla and Volunteer Opportunities

Jeff Underwood, Chairman, stated that there is an opportunity for volunteers to staff the BPAC table at Walk-N-Rolla. Andrew Canon listed the events happening and invited all who are interested to participate. Jeff Underwood then asked if there was interest, Dora Robles, City of Pharr, volunteered. Cody Baczewski then asked anybody who is interested in volunteering to e-mail him and he would keep all interested parties informed. Jeff Underwood asked if promotional items would be available to distribute and Andrew Canon stated that stickers, lights, etc... would be available. Joe Califa, L&G Engineering / City of Mission, then asked about Bicycle System Maps and Cody Baczewski stated that they would be available to distribute as well.

V. Discussion on BPAC Outreach Efforts

Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, put forth the idea of organizing the BPAC’s own events to fund outreach activities. Andrew Canon responded that allowing BPAC funding and an account could be problematic for the MPO and suggested the BPAC partner with an organization such as Run, Ride, and Share for education and outreach. Michael McNew asked about following the model set by the Bike Friendly Business program and Andrew Canon replied that that money is raised for advertising purposes. Joe Califa, L&G Engineering / City of Mission, then inquired about the possibility of the MPO being the recipient of a TxDOT grant and Andrew Canon stated that it is

possible. Jeff Underwood, Chairman, then suggested to Michael McNew that they contact City of McAllen Commissioner Whitacre to attempt to have Run, Ride, and Share represented at subsequent BPAC meeting.

VI. Discussion on Creation of BPAC Logo

Jeff Underwood, Chairman, stated that the previous discussion had covered this topic and suggested uniting with other groups or under the Run, Ride, and Share brand rather than creating a distinct BPAC logo.

VII. Bike Friendly Business

Cody Baczewski stated that the Bike Friendly Business Program has not been high priority but will be picked up again soon. Andrew Canon then stated that the BPAC's help with outreach would be appreciated as cities and other entities are desired sponsors and partners and used the example of libraries with bike racks as a desired municipal partner. German Madrazo, Pedestrian Advocate at Large, suggested outreach directly to businesses and Andrew Canon replied that staff would focus on that at the conclusion of Walk-N-Rolla. Jeff Underwood, Chairman, then suggested this item again be placed on the agenda for the next BPAC meeting.

VIII. Discussion on Strava Heat Map Presentation

Michael McNew, Vice Chairman, introduced Strava and the idea of using their data in the planning process to help account for cyclists and runners. He then demonstrated their heat maps, the detailed cost, how the data is collected, and how it can be used. Several BPAC members expressed support for the acquisition of this data to assist in planning for cyclists and runners.

IX. Staff Update

Andrew Canon stated that he had testified at a hearing for a bill the week before to bring all transit providers in the Rio Grande Valley under one RTA (Regional Transit Authority). He then detailed an initiative to implement a statewide texting and driving ban similar to those already implemented by several Texas cities. He also notified BPAC, that Bike Texas has introduced a statewide safe passing ordinance and then detailed a bill that would allow motorcycles and cyclists to turn left from protected left-turn lanes on red after two cycles of traffic control sensors not registering their presence.

Jeff Underwood, Chairman, then asked for a status update on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) call for projects and Cody Baczewski notified the BPAC members present that no applications have been submitted, but that several entities had contacted the MPO with questions and are currently working on their applications, for which the deadline is May 8th.

X. Old or New Business

German Madrazo, Pedestrian Advocate, notified the BPAC of an event to take place on April 14 2015 at 7PM. It will be held at Doctor's Hospital at Renaissance and features doctors and healthcare professionals answering questions related to training and determining readiness for running and cycling.

William Lang, Bicycle Advocate, then submitted a document containing updates and/or discrepancies that he has identified as needing to be addressed in the Bike System Map. Jeff Underwood, Chairman, thanked him for documenting this and asked him to submit it to Cody Baczewski for verification and eventual inclusion in the Bike System Map.

German Madrazo then recounted an incident that he had been made aware of that had occurred between a group of runners and unidentified irrigation or drainage district employees. Andrew Canon and Richard Hinojosa then detailed the legal structure and issues that prevent the public from utilizing these spaces for recreational purposes.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.



Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization

510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX. 78596

(956) 969-5778
(956) 969-5821 fax

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Timeline

The Hidalgo County MPO (HCMPO) has approximately \$4.6 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 planning area for fiscal years 2015-2016.

October 6th, 2014	Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) will create the Project Selection Criteria and Application requirements for future use in all TAP Call for Projects.
November 3rd, 2014	BPAC will finalize the Project Selection Criteria and Application requirements for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee & Transportation Policy Committee
November 4th & 25th, 2014	TAC will discuss the BPAC recommendations on the Project Selection Criteria and address any necessary changes
December 4th, 2014	TPC will approve the final BPAC/TAC recommendations on the Project Selection Criteria
January 5th-6th, 2015	BPAC/TAC will review and make revisions to the TAP Application
February 2nd, 3rd, 19th	BPAC/TAC/TPC will review and adopt the TAP Application
February 17th, 2015	HCMPO will host a TAP Overview Workshop for interested parties prior to opening the TAP Call for Projects for informational purposes only.
February 20, 2015	The FY2015 TAP Call for Projects will open to all eligible project entities for project submissions.
May 8, 2015	The FY2015 TAP Call for Projects will close and no longer accept applications after 5PM on May 8, 2015.
May 11, 2015	BPAC will review and evaluate submitted projects and submit scores to TAC.
June 2 & 18, 2015	TAC will review scores and recommend projects for selection. TPC will review the recommendations from TAC.
June 3 – July 15, 2015	Projects being recommended for selection will go through public involvement prior to final approval.
July 7 & 16, 2015	TAC/TPC will finalize and approve TAP projects.
August 2015	Selected Projects will be included in the TIP Revision Cycle.



Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization

510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX. 78596

(956) 969-5778
(956) 969-5821 fax

Application Guide Transportation Alternatives Program (Tap)

FY 2015 – 2016 CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE HIDALGO COUNTY URBANIZED AREA

Applications Due: May 8th, By 5:00pm

Please Note: The Transportation Alternatives Program is a federally-funded reimbursable program, administered by TxDOT and the HCMPO. All projects must adhere to federal and state regulations and requirements. Please review the documents associated with this Call for Projects to determine if your agency is willing, and has the institutional capacity, to comply with the required terms and conditions.

Project proposals must be received by 5 PM, Central Standard Time, on May 8, 2015.

The HCMPO must have the submitted application “in hand” at the HCMPO Offices by the mentioned deadline. A postmark by the established deadline does not constitute an on-time application. In addition, supplemental information, other than administrative clarifications, will not be accepted after the application deadline. Incomplete applications or those not submitted by the deadline will not be accepted. Project sponsors are encouraged to submit their proposals far enough in advance of the submission deadline to allow HCMPO staff to review proposals for completeness.

Project proposals must consist of three (3) original hard copies (including attachments) and one (1) electronic copy of all files on a CD, or USB drive.

Project proposals should be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Attn: Linda de la Fuente
510 S Pleasantview Dr
Weslaco, TX 78596

This information in your application(s) is public record. Therefore, applicants should not include information regarded as confidential.

Completed application packets should include the following documents:

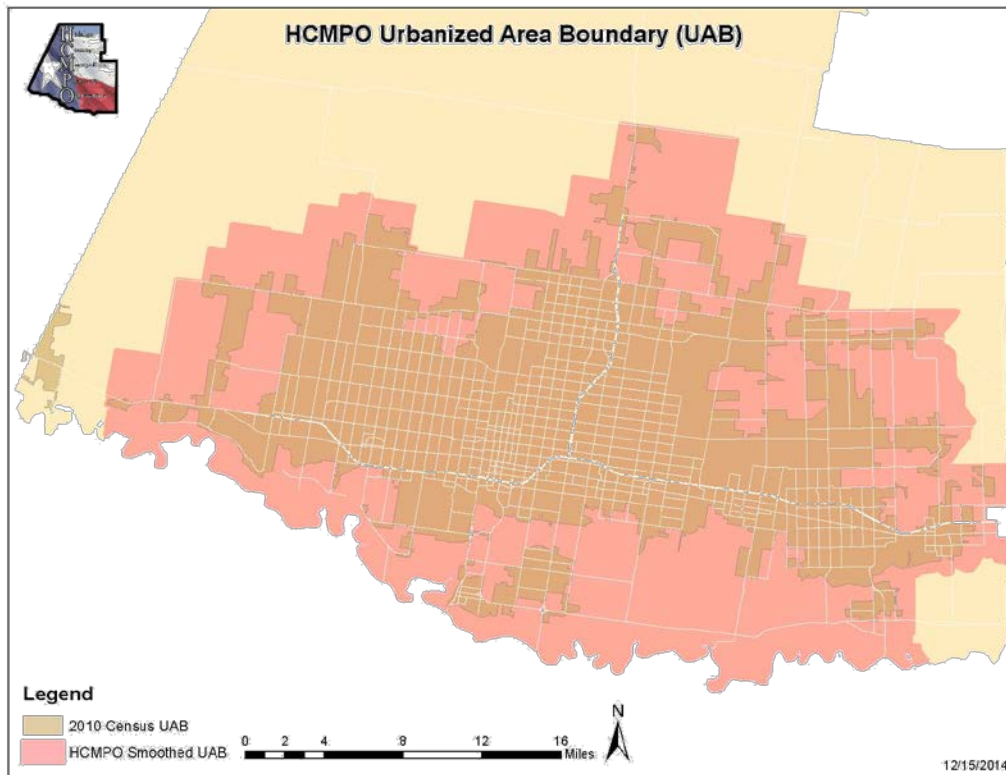
- ✓ Project Location Maps & Other Supporting Maps (no more than 15 items)
- ✓ Itemized Project Cost Estimate
- ✓ Resolution of Commitment of Local Match and Over Match
- ✓ Evidence of Public Involvement and Letter of Support (no more than 10 items)
- ✓ Materials such as pictures, diagrams, etc to supplement the project description and explain conditions and proposed improvements (if applicable)

Application Guide Table of Contents

- A. Program Overview for the Hidalgo County Area
- B. Eligible TAP Project Categories for the Hidalgo County Area
- C. Eligible Entities to Receive TAP Funds
- D. Funding and Match Requirements for the Hidalgo County Area
- E. Program Call Sequence of Events
- F. Project Implementation

A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW (for the Hidalgo County Area)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), a reimbursable federal funding program, was authorized under the transportation bill entitled Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). FHWA and TxDOT have developed guidance for the consistent implementation of the use of TAP funding across the state but it is the HCMPO's duty to award funding to the applicants, within its planning area, that develop projects focus on expanding alternative modes of transportation. Those eligible projects are selected and prioritized through competitive process administered by the HCMPO, in consultation with TxDOT. As delegated by federal guidance, it is up to the MPO's discretion "about how to establish project priorities, or whether to fund (or not fund) particular categories. There is no requirement to consider all eligible TAP activities equally."



Approximately \$4.6 million is anticipated to be available to fund TAP projects in the Hidalgo County planning area for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), with assistance from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), is responsible for selecting projects for the area through a competitive process. The HCMPO planning area includes all of Hidalgo County.

Please be advised that the program rules and policies have changed since the FY 2012-2013 Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program Call by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Please become familiar with the program rules, policies, and requirements for the TAP 2015-2016 Call for Projects for the Hidalgo County urbanized area. The following is a list of the most basic program facts. Please contact the HCMPO early in the process for questions related to submitting an application packet.

- **Projects not selected by the MPO are not eligible for consideration during a program call administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).** The State Program Call will be available for projects located in areas under 200,000 in population.
- **Eligible project sponsors may submit no more than 4 applications for an entity, prioritized in order of importance.** Local cash-match commitment resolutions must be provided by eligible entity project sponsors for each submitted application.
- **The primary focus of each submitted project must be for transportation rather than for purely recreational purposes and must have logical endpoints.** An example of a recreational project would be a looped trail within a city park with no logical endpoints near major destinations.
- **Consistent with other Federal-aid highway programs, TAP funds are administered by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).** Projects may be administered by the local entity or by TxDOT, to be determined after project selection.
- **As with other Federal-aid highway programs, TAP is a reimbursable program, not a grant.** Applicants must be equipped to handle 100 percent of the project cost upfront, as reimbursement of the Federal portion will be withheld until after the scheduled work has been completed.
- **The local match must be cash.** A resolution of commitment for local cash-match must be submitted by the eligible entity project sponsor for each submitted application. Donations will not be accepted as a match, but may be used to reduce the overall cost of the project and should not be included in the project budget.
- **Eligible entity project sponsors are responsible for any and all cost overruns.**
- **All on-system projects or projects crossing an on-system roadway must follow TxDOT procedures.** Projects may be located on off-system roadways.
- **All projects carried out using TAP funds must comply with applicable provisions, regardless of whether or not the projects are located within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway. Treatment of projects will require:** project agreements, authorization to proceed prior to incurring costs, prevailing wages rates (Davis-Bacon), Buy America, and competitive bidding.
- **Projects must advance to construction within 3 years from the date of selection or risk the loss of Federal Funding.**
- **The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) will have final approval of all projects and funding awarded.** Applications will be evaluated by the BPAC, a subcommittee of TAC, and will be approved by TPC. Based on available funds, project application requests for TAP funds may not be fully funded.

B. ELIGIBLE TAP PROJECT CATEGORIES (For The Hidalgo County Area)

TAP provides funding opportunities for various projects, including on-road and off-road trails for pedestrian, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. The federal guidelines allow for various eligible project categories, however only the following have been deemed eligible for TAP funds in the HCMPO planning area. Please contact staff in advance of application submission for any questions concerning project eligibility under the TAP and the Call for Projects for the Hidalgo County MPO.

Transportation Alternatives as defined in 23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29) (MAP-21 § 1103)

- A. Construction, planning, and design** of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation, including sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et. Seq.).
- B. Construction, planning, and design** of infrastructure-related projects and systems that will provide safe routes for non-drivers, including children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities to access daily needs.

For the purposes of the HCMPO Call for Projects, eligible projects have been categorized in the following way.

Activity Type	Percent of TAP Funding Allocated
Construction	90%
Planning and Design	10%
Project Types	
Sidewalk	
Bicycle Infrastructure	
Safety-Related Infrastructure (signals, traffic-calming, lighting, etc)	
ADA Compliance	

The HCMPO has deemed the following MAP-21 categories ineligible for application in the FY 2015-2016 Call for Projects for the Hidalgo County region:

- Conversion and use of abandoned railroad corridors for trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorized transportation users
- Construction of turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas
- Inventory, control, or removal of outdoor advertising
- Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities
- Vegetation management practices in transportation rights-of-way
- Archaeological activities
- Environmental mitigation activities
- Recreation Trails Program
- Safe Routes to School
- Planning, design, or construction of boulevards

Note: TAP funds cannot be used for:

- State or MPO administrative purposes
- Promotional activities
- General recreation and park facilities, playground equipment, sports fields, campgrounds, picnic areas and pavilions
- Routine maintenance and operations

C. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO RECEIVE TAP FUNDS

Under 23 U.S.C. 213(c)(4)(B), the eligible entities to receive TAP funds are:

- Local Governments
- Regional Transportation Authorities
- Transit Agencies
- Natural Resource and Public Land Agencies
- School Districts, local education agencies, or schools
- Tribal governments
- Any other local or regional government entity with responsibility for oversight of transportation or recreational trails

Nonprofit organizations are not eligible as direct grant recipients for TAP funds unless they qualify through one of the eligible entity categories. Nonprofits are eligible to partner is any eligible entity on a TAP project.

TxDOT and the HCMPO are not eligible entities and therefore are not eligible project sponsors; however, TxDOT and the HCMPO may partner with an eligible entity project sponsor to carry out a project.

D. FUNDING AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS (For the Hidalgo County Area)

The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Call for Projects for the Hidalgo County area will have a total of \$4.6 million available.

There is no maximum funding award per project; however, there is a limitation on the number of project awards per eligible entity receiving TAP funds. No more than 4 projects may be submitted by eligible entities, regardless of whether applying for construction funds or planning and design funds.

Furthermore, eligible entities must provide proof of local match funding availability for each of the Entity’s submitted project applications.

The funding has been designated in the following way:

Activity Type	Percent of TAP Funding Allocated	Total TAP Funding Available
Construction	90%	\$4,176,000
Planning and Design	10%	\$464,000

NOTE: If no projects are submitted for the Planning and Design funds, the funds will be used towards construction-type projects, as identified through the MPO’s selection process.

All projects types will require a minimum local match of 20%. The local match must be cash. Non-cash donations can be used on a project but will not count towards the required local match and should not be included on the budget.

- Sidewalks
- Bicycle Infrastructure
- Safety-Related Infrastructure (signals, traffic-calming, lighting, etc)
- ADA Compliance

Section 120(j) allows Federal agency funds to pay the non-federal share of the cost of any transportation project that is within, adjacent to, or provides access to Federal Land, for projects funded under title 23 or under Chapter 53 of title 49.

E. PROGRAM CALL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Call for Projects will open on February 20, 2015 and end on May 8, 2015.

All project applications must be submitted “in-hand” by the dates mentioned above. HCMPO Staff will review each project application to ensure that all of the requested documentation has been included. Incomplete application packets will not be considered.

Evaluation and Selection Process

All eligible projects submitted will be evaluated through the competitive process for the Hidalgo County Area by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), a subcommittee of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The BPAC will score each project and present the results to TAC. The TAC will then submit the recommended projects for selection and the specific funding allocations to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for a final decision. The HCMPO will notify the eligible entities of their selected projects.

Projects will be evaluated on the criteria listed below:

Scoring Criteria			
Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points	Description/Factors	Evaluation Method
Improving Safety	29	Provides safer and less intimidating facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-drivers by improving safety in areas with high numbers of crashes. Can be achieved by improving crossings, signalization, and traffic calming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 PTS -Improves safety in area with high # of crashes within a block (300ft) • 8 PTS- Improves mobility for elderly, disabled, and/or youth (disadvantaged population) • 8 PTS- Improves visibility of non-drivers to vehicular traffic
Making Linkages and Connections	24	Improves connections between neighborhoods, cities, transit services, bicycle facilities, and schools. This can be achieved through gap closures, extension of regional facilities, linkages between multiple jurisdictions, and providing access to rail stations or bus stops via trails, sidewalks, bicycle facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PTS- Connects other cities/ neighborhoods • 6 PTS- Connects to schools/public building • 6 PTS- Extends existing system (bike/ped/transit) • 6 PTS- Eliminates gaps in system (bike/ped/transit)

Incorporates Pedestrian and Bicycle Design Enhancements and Promotes Active Living	15	Provides pedestrian and bicycle areas with landscaping, sidewalk design, crossing treatments, street furniture, bike racks, and lighting which encourages pedestrian and cyclists to utilize area thus providing health and environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PTS- Provides design enhancements • 5 PTS- Provides bicycle parking/seating for pedestrians, rest areas • 5PTS -Provides trailheads, staging area and parking
Implementing Active Transportation or Mobility Plan	10	Improves ability to use walking and bicycling facilities for everyday activities including travel to work, school, and shopping as described in the HCMPO's Regional Bike Plan, Regional Pedestrian Plan, Regional Transit Plan, or other related community Master Plan adopted by the city or county's governing body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 PTS - Project conform to any MPO, City (Entity) or Regional Plan
Connecting to Employment, Households, and Activity Centers	12	Provides access to major destinations and large number of residents or employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PTS -Improves access to commercial areas • 4 PTS- Improves access to parks and recreational areas • 4 PTS-Improves access to educational areas
Serving Disadvantaged (Environmental Justice) Areas	10	Provides access in underserved communities or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 PTS-Improves access to areas within or adjacent to 50% of households below poverty rate, as defined by Census
TOTAL:	0 to 100 Points		

In addition, points may be given to projects which go “above and beyond” the required evaluation criteria.

Above and Beyond Criteria		
Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points	Evaluation Method
Local Match is:	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 PTS = 21-30% 4 PTS = 31-40% 6 PTS = 41-50% 8 PTS = 51-60% 10 PTS = Above 61%
Project Readiness; PS&E, ROW	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PTS- ROW has been acquired • 2 PTS- PS&E is at least 90% Complete
Funding completes the project	5	5 PTS - Yes
Location of project has safe passing ordinance	2	2 PTS - Yes
TOTAL:	122 Points	

F. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

As with other Federal-aid highway programs, all projects carried out using TAP funds must comply with applicable provisions in title 23, such as project agreements, authorization to proceed prior to incurring costs, prevailing wage rates (Davis-Bacon), competitive bidding, and other contracting requirements, regardless of whether the projects are located within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway.

All selected projects must be developed as they were approved by the TPC and as included in the project agreement with TxDOT. Changes in items of work or project scope that occur without advance TxDOT approval will not be reimbursed. The construction contractor will, in all cases, be chosen through a competitive bidding process approved by TxDOT. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive bidder.

Please remember that the project may be eliminated from the program if:

- Implementation of the project would involve significant deviation from the activities as proposed in the nomination form;
- A construction contract has not been awarded or construction has not been initiated by the local entity within four years from the date of selection; or
- The project agreement is not executed with TxDOT within (1) year after the project is selected by the TPC.

The TPC reserves the right to remove funding from a project for which the local sponsor is unable or unwilling to sign an agreement to implement the project or cannot provide the required minimum local match.

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Alternatives Program

Last Edit: 11/25/14

Note: FY 2015 & FY 2016 funds will be combined for project call: Totaling \$4.64 million		
ACTIVITY TYPE	PERCENT OF TAP FUNDING ALLOCATED	TOTAL AMOUNT (Estimate)
CONSTRUCTION of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.	90%	\$4,176,000.00
PLANNING AND DESIGN of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclists, and other non-motorized forms of transportation.	10%	\$464,000.00
PROJECT TYPE	TAP Funding	Local Match
Sidewalks	80%	20%
Bicycle Infrastructure	80%	20%
Lighting and Other Safety Related Infrastructure	80%	20%
Transportation Projects to Achieve Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	80%	20%

Scoring Criteria

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points	Description/Factors	Evaluation Method
Improving Safety	29	Provides safer and less intimidating facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-drivers by improving safety in areas with high numbers of crashes. Can be achieved by improving crossings, signalization, traffic calming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 PTS -Improves safety in area with high # of crashes within a block (300ft) • 8 PTS- Improves mobility for elderly, disabled, and/or youth (disadvantaged population) • 8 PTS- Improves visibility of non-drivers to vehicular traffic
Making Linkages and Connections	24	Improves connections between neighborhoods, cities, transit services, bicycle facilities, and schools. This can be achieved through gap closures, extension of regional facilities, linkages between multiple jurisdictions, and providing access to rail stations or bus stops via trails, sidewalks, bicycle facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PTS- Connects other cities/ neighborhoods • 6 PTS- Connects to schools/public building • 6 PTS- Extends existing system (bike/ped/transit) • 6 PTS- Eliminates gaps in system (bike/ped/transit)
Incorporates Pedestrian and Bicycle Design Enhancements and Promotes Active Living	15	Provides pedestrian and bicycle areas with landscaping, sidewalk design, crossing treatments, street furniture, bike racks, and lighting which encourages pedestrian and cyclists to utilize area thus providing health and environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PTS- Provides design enhancements • 5 PTS- Provides bicycle parking/ seating for pedestrians, rest areas • 5PTS -Provides trailheads, staging area and parking

Implementing Active Transportation or Mobility Plan	10	Improves ability to use walking and bicycling facilities for everyday activities including travel to work, school, and shopping as described in the HCMPO's Regional Bike Plan, Regional Pedestrian Plan, Regional Transit Plan, or other related community Master Plan adopted by the city or county's governing body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 PTS - Project conform to any MPO, City (Entity) or Regional Plan
Connecting to Employment, Households, and Activity Centers	12	Provides access to major destinations and large number of residents or employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PTS -Improves access to commercial areas • 4 PTS- Improves access to parks and recreational areas • 4 PTS-Improves access to educational areas
Serving Disadvantaged (Environmental Justice) Areas	10	Provides access in underserved communities or communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 PTS-Improves access to areas within or adjacent to 50% of households below poverty rate, as defined by Census
TOTAL:		0 to 100 Points	
Above and Beyond Criteria			
Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points	Evaluation Method	
Local Match is:	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 PTS = 21-30% 4 PTS = 31-40% 6 PTS = 41-50% 8 PTS = 51-60% 10 PTS = Above 61% 	
Project Readiness; PS&E, ROW	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 PTS- ROW has been acquired • 2 PTS- PS&E is at least 90% Complete 	
Funding completes the project	5	5 PTS - Yes	
Location of project has safe passing ordinance	2	2 PTS - Yes	
TOTAL:		122 Points	