

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2014

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, Donna, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo County, 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

- The following citizens addressed the TPC Board member present regarding future construction along State Highway 68.
 - Philip Rivera
 - Josh Fike
 - Norma Saldana
 - Daniel Villarreal
 - Rachel Villarreal

TAB III EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The HCMPO Transportation Policy Committee Members were in consensus to go into Executive Session, Pursuant to Ex. Gov. Code 551.072 (Deliberation on Real Property) and Section 551.074 (Personnel Matters).
 - Ken Jones, LRGVDC CEO – HCMPO Lease
 - TPC discussed State Highway 68

TAB IV RECOVENE – 5:52 p.m.

- Motion was made by the City of San Juan to reconvene in Open Session to take necessary action if any, in accordance with Chapter 551, Open Meetings, Subchapter E, and Procedures Relating to Closed Meeting 551.102. The motion was seconded by City of Donna and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place as follows:

- TPC Members present agreed to have HCMPO Staff continue discussions regarding other Lease options with Mr. Jones and with the Cities of McAllen and Edinburg.
- TxDOT Representatives noted that several meetings have been conducted by TxDOT and families regarding State Highway 68 Project. Studies are still being done in the areas by engineers/consultants. TxDOT has a website on State Highway 68 and is a segment of the RMA.

TAB V PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **October 16, 2014**

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of October 16, 2014. No corrections or additions were made to the minutes of October 16, 2014, ***The City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the October 16, 2014 minutes as presented. 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.

C) Discussion & Approval of Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaws

- Karina Maldonado reported that the BPAC have held several meeting already, since the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was created. At the BPAC meeting held on Monday, January 5th, 2015 at 1:30, the BPAC Committee approved the amendments to the MPO Procedures to allow for the use of bylaws and a voting structure within the BPAC. Beginning January 5th, voting and attendance will be taken into account, and the BPAC will need to elect an executive committee, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. Karina Maldonado reported that the BPAC Committee made one changes to the HCMPO Bylaws and Procedures as follows: 1) Sub-committee may operate under their own set of bylaws and procedures with the approval from the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Committee. ***After some discussion on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaws with changes recommended by the BPAC Committee. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

D) Discussion & Approval on Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

- Karina Maldonado reported that FY2015 & 2016 funds will be combined for project totaling \$4.64 million for the TAP Projects within the Hidalgo County MPO's urbanized area. It is due to this update that the HCMPO is encouraging all TAC members to participate in the criteria and application development for the TAP. Karina Maldonado went over the Criteria Scoring Point for the TAP Program and hand-outs were made available to members present to review. Mr. Canon concluded and recommended that a representative from each city keep in touch with HCMPO Staff through next year for further information on when deadlines are to be submitted for the TAP application. Karina Maldonado concluded by reminding members present that all updates, forms, and application will be made available on the HCMPO website. ***After some discussion on this item, City of Penitas made a motion to approve the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) as presented by staff. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

E) **Discussion & Approval of the 2015-2040 MTP Update**

- Linda De La Fuente, reported that two Funding Scenarios, on the technical and structure on how TRENDS Financial forecast were presented to the TAC Committee in September for their recommendation to TPC Committee. Linda De La Fuente briefly explained both “Scenario Funding Breakdowns” (which includes Scenarios 1 & 2) as well as the MTP spreadsheet that identifies the amount of additional funding per year and band that will be available with the TRENDS Funding. 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. Linda De La Fuente concluded by informing members present that the MTP is done every five (5) years and is submitted for approval to the TPC Committee. **After some discussion on this item, the City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the 2015-2040 MTP Updates as presented. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

F) **Discussion & Approval on Functional Classification Amendments**

- Maria Champine reported that HCMPO staff is seeking approval to submit a written request to TxDOT to functionally classify Alamo Road north of FM 1925 to Davis Rd as a Major Collector, and to functionally classify Davis Rd from Doolittle Rd to Brushline Rd as a Major Collector. This will serve as a connectivity and collection of traffic from the populated areas along Davis Rd and FM 1025. In addition, by continuing the Major Collector classification of Davis Rd from Doolittle Rd to Brushline Rd, it will serve as system continuity in that area. **No discussion took place on this item; the City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the Functional Classification Amendments as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of Alamo, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

G) **Discussion of Proposition 1 Potential Funding**

- Andrew Canon reported that the Texas Legislatives will meet December 18, 2014 to finalize distribution, and one of many possibilities to be consider is (60/20/20), 60% (3/5th) of Funds for Congestion and Connectivity needs; 20% (1/5th) of the funds to be distributed for maintenance to districts by TxDOT’s Category 1 formula; and 20% (1/5th) of the funds to be distributed for Energy Impacts to highways using formulas accounting for highway conditions and current production activities. Proposed funding distribution is preliminary, subject to change only for FY2015; Distribution after FY2015 are dependent on legislative authorization and future oil/gas severance tax revenue; MPOs and Districts should be working together to target potential project opportunities. Andrew Canon reminded member present that funding may not be use on Toll Projects; Use Off-System; and use on non-roadway projects. Cities should commit to FY2015 Projects; Encourage Collaboration across Districts and MPO’s; Deliver “Meaningful” Projects which will impact all counties. City of San Juan asked for an update on the status regarding discussion of merging of the MPOs’. TxDOT informed members present, this is still being discussed and more information will be provided either in March or April 2015. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

Mayor San Juanita Sanchez (TPC Vice Chairman) took over the meeting (6:54 p.m.) Mayor Norberto Salinas (TPC Chairman) had a prior commitment and had to be excused.

H) Monthly Letting Update

- Mr. Toribio Garza Jr., P.E., TxDOT, gave a brief update.

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

A) **Directors Update**

➤ **Calendars Report**

- December 2014 – Andrew Canon is scheduled to be in Austin December 17-18, 2014, Re: TxDOT Forum
- January 2015 - TRB Conference is scheduled in Washington, D.C., several HCMPO Staff members will be attending (Andrew, Maria, Cody, and Sarah).

- **5th Bi- Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference Update** - The awards luncheon was scheduled on November 19, 2014 and the keynote speaker was Texas State Representative Armando “Mando” Martinez, who also was honored as the recipient of the 2014 Outstanding Leadership for the South Texas Border Area Award, presented by the HCMPO. Had about 160 attendees at the conference throughout the three day event. **Report only, no action taken.**

B) **HCMPO Budget Report**

- Linda De La Fuente briefly went through the Annual Performance & Expenditure Report (APER). Budget spent is 39.0%, 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 will be presented in January 2015 to the TAC, Citizens Advisory 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 V OFF SYSTEM REPORT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VI 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 December 2014 agenda packet.

TAB VII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT (HCCRD)

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

- Pilar Rodriguez, P.E. Executive Director, HCRMA, provided a brief update.

TAB IX VALLEY METRO

- Tom Logan provided a brief update.

TAB X METRO

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XI OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- **Lighting Along the Expressway** - Request was made to have this item on the next TPC Agenda for discussion on who is responsible for maintaining the lights poles along the expressway; is it each city or TxDOT.

TAB XII ADJOURNMENT

- *The City of Penitas made a motion to adjourn at 7:41 pm. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary