

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2016

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairperson San Juanita Sanchez 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, Edcouch, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo County, City of Hidalgo, McAllen, Mission, Palmhurst, Palmview, Pharr, San Juan, Sullivan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: Metro.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **June 23, 2016**

Chairperson San Juanita Sanchez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of June 23, 2016. **No corrections were noted to the minutes of June 23, 2016; City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 2016, as presented by staff. The City of McAllen seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

B) Cities of Donna Request /Action in Restoring Eligibility to Vote

- Andrew Canon stated that the City of Donna has met the requirement in attendance to be giving voting privileges. He stated that the city has been attending the Policy Meetings for the past four (4) consecutive months as per the Bylaws. **No discussion took place on this item; the City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve "Establishment of Voting Privileges for the City of Donna" as presented by staff. City of Palmview seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

C. Discussion and Action on the Cost Over-Run / Monthly Letting Project(s) (If Needed) (TxDOT)

- Mr. Toribio Garza Jr., P.E., TxDOT, provided the Monthly Letting Report to members present and noted that projects are moving forward as expected. The Monthly Letting Report is filed with the July 2016 agenda packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**
- **Contingencies On FY 2017-2020 TIP & AFAs** – TxDOT noted that implementation of the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project development item of Contingencies will no longer be considered for funding. This is a change from what has been done on TIP listings prior to this TIP.

We have discovered recently that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) does not allow Contingencies to be included on their Federal Project Authorization and Agreement (FPAA), which is their official document in which they obligate federal funds. Our Transportation Planning & Programming (TPP) Division has also stated that they do not allow Contingencies as an eligible item under the Economically Disadvantaged County (EDC) Program. Our Contract Services Office (CSO) has also said that Contingencies is not allowed as an eligible item on our Advance Funding Agreements (AFAs). Lastly, our internal programming system of DCIS does not allow Contingencies to be included as part of the construction cost. With these limitations in mind, we will therefore no longer include Contingencies as a funded item, beginning with the 2017-2020 TIP. On the Total Project Cost portion of the TIP project listings the Contingencies component is still required to be included, regardless if it is funded or not.

Existing executed AFAs that have Contingencies will be honored with the commitment that has been made. All new AFAs that have yet to be executed will not be allowed to include Contingencies. If a project does not have an executed AFA but has Contingencies as a funded item in the current TIP, then the local government could move the money to another project development item that it would like, either through a Revision to the current 2015-2018 TIP, or including it in the new 2017-2020 TIP. The local government can also proceed with the execution of the AFA but not include the amount for Contingencies for now; after the TIP Revision or new 2017-2020 TIP is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) moving the Contingencies amount to another project development item, then an AFA amendment can be executed to add this funding. Local governments would need to contact TxDOT if they wish to exercise this option. For on-system projects, the Contingencies funding would be moved to Construction. **Report filed as part of the Policy Packet for the month of July 2016.**

- **Local Government Risk Assessments on AFA's** – TxDOT provided handouts to the Policy Members present and went over the New Risk Assessment Procedures. TxDOT concluded by letting Policy Members know that a Workshop is scheduled in the near future with other representatives from Austin, to further discuss the New Risk Assessments on AFA's, once that date is determined; TxDOT will be sending out the time and date to Policy Members and HCMPO staff. Members asked; how is the new Risk Assessments on AFA's going to affect the funding for the cities. TxDOT reply was "any current AFA "on system projects will be grandfathered, all other new additional new AFA will not be approved. Again, TxDOT reminded members that once more information is available, TxDOT will provide that to all the members and HCMPO Staff. **Report filed as part of the Policy Packet for the month of July 2016.**

- **Economically Disadvantaged County (EDC) Program Update** – TxDOT noted that in 1997, the 75th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 370, better known as TxDOT’s Sunset Bill. Section 2.18 of SB 370 that gave the Texas Transportation Commission the ability to adjust the minimum local matching funds requirement. The amount of relief granted to eligible projects is based on a formula developed to measure a local government’s effort and ability to provide their local match for projects. TxDOT informed Policy Members present that TxDOT administration is mandating to no longer apply the Economically Disadvantaged Counties (EDC) to the cities within those counties under its existing EDC Program established in SB 370 in the 75th legislative session. Instead, the Administration is requesting to utilize the EDC Program to assist municipalities in the financial burden of paying 20% of ROW costs for “On System Roadways”, that are not State Highway. After much discussion on this item, Policy members present recommended that cities get together and write a letter or a Resolution opposing the new change regarding EDC Program and how it is going to impact the cities and counties projects. Staff recommended that Policy Members make their presence known at meetings that are currently held in Austin, and to keep in mind that their travel will be covered through MPO funds.

D) Discussion and Action on Amendments to the 2040 MTP Highway and FY 2015-2018 TIPs

- Andrew Canon provided hand-outs of the Summary of Changes for the 2040 MTP Highway and FY2015-2018 TIPs, to Policy Members present for their review and approval. Staff noted that several Public Meetings were held for the month of June and July. **No discussion took place on these items; the City of Edcouch made a motion to approve the Amendments to the 2040 MTP Highway and FY2015-2018 TIPs, as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

E) Discussion and Action on Amendments to the Highway For FY2017-2020 TIPs

- Staff noted that this Item (E) was voted along with Item D.

F) Discussion and Action on Staff Out of Travel-TRB Conference – South Carolina – September 2016

- Andrew Canon noted that staff is seeking approval for Out of Town Travel to attend Tools of the Trade Conference to be held in Charleston, SC, September 11-14, 2016. **No discussion took place regarding staff request to attend the TRB Conference in Charleston, SC. The motion was made by the City of Palmview to approve the Out of State Travel, TRB Conference as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Alton, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

G) Discussion and Action on the Final 2016 CMP Study

- Andrew Canon noted staff is seeking approval of the Final 2016 CMP Report that will be presented by Mr. Steve Taylor. Staff also noted that the CMP Subcommittee met today (July 21, 2016) to review and identify corridors by categories (1 & 2) and Workshop was very well represented by various cities. Steve Taylor provided to members present a presentation of the CoPlan Winter 2016 CMP Final Report and noted the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization has an established congestion management process (CMP) to monitor the transportation network in Hidalgo County. The goal of the monitoring system is to ensure optimal performance of the transportation system by identifying congested areas and related transportation deficiencies. The purpose of this study was to identify problem areas using travel time studies and to prepare recommendations to improve the traffic flow on the transportation system as a whole and on specific corridors. The results of this study are used as factors in prioritizing needed improvements. After some discussion on this item, Mr. Taylor noted that he was available after the meeting is anyone had further questions regarding his presentation/report. **After some discussion on this item, City of Alton made a motion to approve the Final 2016 CMP Report, as presented by Steve Taylor. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

H. Discussion and Review of Previous TAP Process for New 2017-2018 Project Call

- Jon Ray Bocanegra presented to Policy Members present an outline of the updated Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Scoring Criteria for each category:

Evaluation Criteria	Scoring (Maximum Points)
Improving Safety	29
Making Linkages and Connections	24
Incorporates Ped/Bike Design enhancements and Promotes Active Living	15
Connecting to Employment, Households, and Activity Centers	12
Implementing Active Transportation or Mobility Plan	10
Serving Disadvantaged (Environmental Justice) Areas	10
Total	100
Above and Beyond Criteria	Up to 22 (Bonus Points)

1) Comments on TAP Selection Process will be taken until Monday July 25th, 2016 at 5:00 PM; 2)**\$2.54 Million** is available for FY 2017 with 90% of funding to go toward construction and 10% towards Design; 3) BPAC will evaluate and score each project; 4)The Average Scores will be presented to TAC for review; and 5)TAC will present proposed project selections and awards to TPC; which TPC will have the final approval of all projects and funding. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

I) Discussion on Performance Measures – Update

- Jon Ray Bocanegra went over the Performance Measures that are necessary / required by HB 20 and how they are to be developed to performance based planning and programming process to meet the goals/objectives; and the grouping of the measures and metrics by TxDOT and MPO’s. Areas focused on are: Mobility, Congestion and Safety which need to be in place by 2018.

- Miguel Arispe also reported that staff has scheduled a Performances Measures Meeting for Monday, July 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The subcommittee members will begin the process of creating a Performance Measure Project Selection Criteria in accordance with Texas House Bill 20. Performance Measures Project Selection Criteria will ultimately guide where HCMPO funding will be rewarded. Staffs concluded by letting members know that this is an ongoing project. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB IV STAFF REPORTS

A) Calendars Report

Month of July 2016:

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for July 6, 2016
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for July 7, 2016 at 10:00 AM
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for July 21, 2016

Month of August 2016:

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for August 3, 2016
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for August 4, 2016 at 10:00 AM
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for August 18, 2016

1. Directors' Updates

- 6th Bi-Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference Update - Staff noted that this conference has been canceled and sponsorships/checks that were received for this event will be refunded.
- TEMPO Meeting (07-20-21/2016) – Austin – Staff noted that Linda De La Fuente was in Austin attending the TEMPO Meeting.
- CMP Subcommittee Meeting – July 21, 2016 – Already discussed at the being of the agenda under Item “G”.

B) HCMPO Budget Report

- Andrew Canon gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget. **(Report part of the Packet)**

TAB V TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- No one was present to provide a verbal report. **(Report part of the packet)**

TAB VI HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

- Ramon Navarro gave brief update on their ongoing projects. Every project continues to be on target.

TAB VII VALLEY METRO

- Myra Garcia reported that there continues to be an increase in Ridership. **(Report part of the packet)**

TAB VIII METRO

- Sandra Gama was present to provide a verbal report. **(Report part of the Packet)**

TAB IX OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- None

TAB X ADJOURNMENT

- **No other items were discussed; the City of Pharr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm. HCRMA seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

ATTEST: _____

Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary