

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2014

1) Roll Call

- Vice Chairman Xavier Cervantes called the meeting to order at 1:35pm and reported to the TAC members present that Chairman Joe Califa had a prior commitment and as Vice Chairman, he would be conducting the meeting. 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, Mercedes, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Valley Metro and Hidalgo County RMA: Ex-Officio Members Present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District, and Metro.

2) Adoption of Minutes

- October 7, 2014
Vice Chairman Xavier Cervantes asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of October 7, 2014. **No corrections were noted; City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- None given at this time.

4) Election of Secretary

- Vice Chairman Xavier Cervantes stated that the position for Secretary needed to be filled since; Mr. Sandoval is no longer with the City of Alamo and asks for nominations from the TAC members present. City of Donna nominated Jaime Sandoval from the City of Mercedes. **No other nominations were voiced; The City of Donna made a motion to nominate Jaime Sandoval with the City of Mercedes. The motion was seconded by City of Edinburg, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

5) Discussion & Action of Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaws

- Karina Maldonado reported to members present that the BPAC Members met on November 3, 2014. 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 than 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 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. City of McAllen asked staff to look into the year the bylaws were amended (2009 vs 2011). **No further discussion took place on this item; the City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the Bike Ped Advisory Committee (BPAC) Bylaws as presented. The City of Mercedes seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

6) 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)**. 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. Match is as follows: TAP (80%) – Local Match (20%). Andrew Canon reported to TAC Member present, that the Evaluation Criteria was not discussed at this meeting, but will be presented at the next BPAC Meeting and approved by the TPC Committee in January 2015, at which time applications should be ready for anyone wishing to apply. Karina Maldonado concluded by letting members know that this item will be addressed again at the November 25th meeting as an action item by the TAC members. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

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 September 2014, TAC meeting, staff had requested from the cities to submit their projects for consideration. Linda De La Fuente, noted that two Funding Scenarios, on the technical and structure on how TRENDS Financial forecast is expected to work were presented to TAC members. Attachments for both "Scenario Funding Breakdowns" (which includes Scenarios 1 & 2) were presented, 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. TAC members present recommended proceeding with Funding Scenario #2 of the TRENDS Funding Model to be utilized for the additional projects to be selected for the HCMPO's 2040 MTP Update. 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 one more time to the TAC Committee on November 25th for final discussion and approval. It will also be presented in December 2014 to the Policy Committee for their final Approval. City of McAllen asked staff where the Lump Sum for Maintenance / Rehabilitation reflected in, is it "TIP or MTP". Mr. Homer Bazan with TxDOT reported that he would get with Linda De La Fuente and have this reflected in the next MTP Table before final approval. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

8) Discussion of Operational Improvements

- Andrew A. Canon reported that he had a very productive meeting on October 31st, with Pharr TxDOT and discussed options for alternative plans for the Operational Improvements that is still pending. They address items in the Congestion Study Project, which included identifying the congested corridors, signals timing, synchronization and dual left turn movement. Total money set aside is \$1 million for operational improvement projects. There is no time frame on when to distribute these funding, but discussed April 2015 as a start date and having TxDOT take the lead on this project. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

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

- Andrew A. Canon noted that elections are scheduled for November 4, 2014, 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, the estimated time on when the funds will be disbursed, is around March or April of 2015. Must get voters out to vote! **Presentation only, no action taken.**

10) 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. The City of Edinburg will be having a Ribbon Cutting on the "Bike/Hike Trail, scheduled for November 2014. More information will be provided on the City of Edinburg Website. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

11) Status Reports

A. Calendar: November & December 2014

- Andrew A. Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:
 - 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 24, 2014, BPAC Meeting is scheduled; and 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.
 - AMPO Conference – October 2014** – Conference was very educational for staff that attended, one interested conversation Mr. Canon had with Florida MPO's staff, was considering "A Regional Coalition" amongst the three Local MPO's; as set in Florida. Mr. Canon stated that more information will be provided at the next coming TAC meetings, as he gathers more information on the do's and don'ts of creating a Regional Coalition for this area. Conference also discussed Map 21, challenges throughout the various MPO Organizations.
 - TRB Conference – Washington** - Conference is set for January 12-15, Staff members attending Cody Baczewski, Chanel Borrego, Maria Champine and Mr. Canon.

B. Director' Updates

- Thoroughfare Plan - 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 and resolution must be provided.

C. HCMPO Budget Report

- HCMPO Budget was made available to members present on their IPADS; no discussion took place on this item.

12) HCRMA Update

- Jorge Ramon gave a brief update.

13) Valley Metro

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

14) Metro

- Mrs. Sandra Gama gave a brief update.

15) Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District

- No reports were given at this time.

16) Old or New Business

- Mr. Bazan notified TAC Members present that TxDOT will be having a Public Meeting for the Proposed Improvements to FM 494 from Mile 3 Road to SH 107, Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 5p.m. at Sharyland Pioneer High School- 1001 N. Shary Road-Mission, TX 78572.

17) Adjournment

- **The meeting adjourn at 2:37 pm.**