

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2015

1) Roll Call

- Chairman Joe Califa called the meeting to order at 1:38 pm. 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: Alton, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mission, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Valley Metro, Hidalgo County RMA: Ex-Officio Members Present: Metro and Hidalgo County Rail District.

2) Adoption of Minutes

➤ May 5, 2015

Chairman Joe Califa asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of May 5, 2015. **No corrections were noted to the minutes of May 5, 2015; TxDOT made a motion to approve the minutes of May 5, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by the City of San Juan and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- None given at this time.

4) Discussion and Action on the TAP Funded Project(s)

- Andrew Canon reported that the BPAC Committee met on Monday, June 1, 2015, and explained to TAC members present that during the scoring process, staff were trying their best to process the scoring as effectively and expedite the results as quick as possible and in doing so, numbers were transposed on one of the projects. Andrew Canon noted that Linda De La Fuente performed a secondary round of tabulations to verify the scores; once the re-tabulations were finalized the scores were posted on the FTP Website on all the scoring sheets that were received and also the average scoring summary developed by staff. Andrew Canon also stated that he was contacted by PSJA School Districts' representative regarding their applications, Mr. Canon did make them aware that the reason PSJAs' applications were disqualified, no resolutions were approved by their School Board at the time they submitted their applications. Staff is recommending funding these projects as per TAP criteria as follows: 1) Hidalgo County Precinct #2 - The Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project (Scored 98 Points) for Construction; and 2) City of Edinburg – Bicycle Master Plan Study (Scored 91.75 Points) for Planning. Andrew Canon noted that at the BPAC Committee meeting discussion took place regarding the \$460,000 Planning funding, since the City of Edinburg will be awarded \$150,000 for Planning, leaving a balance of \$350,000, recommendation was to move \$350,000 Planning funds to the Construction funds and be used towards Hidalgo County Precinct #2 - The Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project. Joe Califa noted that the City of Edinburg is requesting that the reminding balance be shifted over to Construction to be used towards (2) of their projects (McIntyre Railroad Pedestrian Crossing and Cano Walking Trail Lighting Project). **After some discussion on this item; the City of San Juan made a motion to approve the TAP Funded Projects and move the remaining Planning Funds to the Construction Funds and be used towards Hidalgo County Precinct #2 – The Regional Hike & Bike Trail Project as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Hidalgo County and upon a vote the motion passed (6-3).**

5) Discussion and Action of Bike Plan Update

- Maria Champine noted the HCMPO Staff is seeking approval for updates to the Bicycle Plan. The previous plan was adopted by the TPC on August 16, 2012. Since then, a new facility type, Separated Bike Lanes – Section 4.4, has been included in the Bike Plan. Additionally, the plan remains in compliance with AASHTO Standards as no revisions have been made to their standards following the 2012 HCMPO adoption. Also provided by staff were five (5) updates received by: Alamo, Edinburg, McAllen and Hidalgo County Precinct #2. Maria Champine noted that the HCMPO Bike Plan will be updated on an annual basis. Therefore, staff requests that entities' updates be submitted on a regular basis as projects are proposed or completed, or submitted once per year when requested by HCMPO staff. Andrew Canon had questions on the following: 1) TxDOT - Is 107 Bike Lane extended all the way to Conway; 2) McAllen – Does Bicentennial Hike and Bike Trail, does it go North of Trenton. City of McAllen response was it goes beyond North Trenton and is accurate on the map; 3) Does the Hike and Bike Trail on Trenton, go West of Trenton and 2nd Street; 4) Is the Bike Lane on Dicker Road to 2nd Street, is that correct – City of McAllen response, they would have to look into those areas; 5) Andrew noted should the unpaved section of Mission Trails be included in the map. TAC recommendation was to include the unpaved area as well. **After some discussion on this item, City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the actual Bike Plan with inclusions, subject to verification by comments raised by Mr. Canon. The motion was seconded by City of McAllen and upon a vote the motion passed unanimously.**

(6) Discussion on the Beginning of Public Involvement for the MTP, Highway and Transit (TIP) Amendments (Draft)

- Linda De La Fuente reported to TAC Members present that the Public Involvement meetings for the MTP, Highway and Transit are scheduled from June 5 thru July 10, 2015. Linda De La Fuente provided a summary of changes for MTP & Highway as follows:

MTP and Highway Report:

FY 2015

- Mile 1 E (PE) – Cost estimates were updated and the ROW phase was removed from FY 2015 and placed in FY 2025 with the construction phase.

FY 2025

- Mile 3 N Phase II – Cat 7 funding in the amount of \$2,030,000 was taken from this project and added to the Liberty Blvd Phase II ROW cost. The funding shortfall was replaced with local funding.
- Mile 1 E – Project was moved from the Unfunded projects to FY 2025 using Cat 7 from the FM 493 (La Blanca) project which was pushed to FY 2026 and funded with TRENDS.

FY 2026

- SH 68 Phases II and III – New projects were requested to be included into the MTP by TxDOT, funding for the moment is identified as Other until a specific source of funding is secured.

FY 2031

- Liberty Blvd Phase II – The ROW funding was moved up to FY 2025.

FY 2036

- Bicentennial Blvd – City of McAllen requested a swap between the 29th St project funded in FY 2036 and Bicentennial Blvd. Cost estimates for Bicentennial were updated utilizing the Cat 7 available from the 29th St project and funding the shortfall with local funding.

Linda De La Fuente concluded her report, by letting TAC Members know, this item will be presented again in July for final approval by both the TAC and TPC Committees.

Transit (TIP) Amendments

- Maria Champine reported to TAC Members present that the first Transit Public Involvement meeting is scheduled on July 1st from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 at McAllen Central Station. Maria Champine noted that both Transit providers, Valley Metro and McAllen Metro will be meeting next week to do a thorough review on current projects listed on the TIP and will be submitting the final list to HCMPO Staff.
- Andrew Canon asked for clarification from TxDOT regarding Highway/TIP Environmental Review in the UTP, must it have a clearance on the TIP. Homer Bazan with TxDOT responded with the following: It takes several years for a project to be constructed once the need for that project has been identified. The following steps are elements of the project development process from conception to construction and implementation:
 - Demographic, census, traffic data has indicated the need for a project.
 - The project is scoped in general terms and listed in a long range plan and may receive plan authority from TxDOT. Projects may remain in the plan authority stage for up to 10 years.
 - TxDOT identifies available funding for the project. After funding has been generally identified, a project may now receive develop authority and be placed in the UTP.
 - Projects may remain in the development stage for up to 7 years while the following is completed:
 - PS&E (Plans, Specifications and Estimates)
 - Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition
 - Local agreements (if required)
 - Environmental clearance (NEPA)
 - Public involvement
 - The project receives construct authority and is placed in the TIP/STIP with all sources of funding to complete the project phases for projects to be let to construction/implemented within 1 to 4 years.
 - The project has all funds identified/ committed, all local agreements in place, required rights-of way (ROW) are purchased, environmental clearance (including completion of public involvement), etc., and may then go to construction.

As required to maintain fiscal constraint, the STIP (and TIPs contained therein) should include projects for which full funding is reasonably anticipated to be available in order to construct, complete, implement, operate and maintain the projects.

- After much discussion on this item, Andrew Canon recommended that maybe a letter should be written to Austin or Toribio Garza regarding this issue, of cities not being able to get a FONSI on a timely manner. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

7) Discussion of FY 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - DRAFT

- Linda De La Fuente reported that the FY 2016-2017 UPWP is a two year budget in which the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO) staff defines the tasks that are to be undertaken to meet the requirements of MAP21, and to provide open, transparent resources for the public on what funds are being expended to meet these requirements. Linda De La Fuente noted that the Budget Summary for FY 2016 total TPF = \$1,384,416.23 and Budget Summary for FY 2017 Total is \$1,060,466.35. Andrew Canon reminded TAC members present that if the UPWP is approved by TPC Committee, not all PL-112 & FTA 5303 for FY 2017 is being obligated due to the expected switch to Hidalgo County as the HCMPO's Fiscal Agent resulting in large Fringe and Indirect cost saving. Andrew Cano noted that, if the new Fiscal Agent gets approved, expected time frame is October 2015 to relocate HCMPO. Andrew Canon concluded and noted that this item will be presented again in July to both the TAC and TPC Committees as an Action Item. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

8) Discussion of Pavement Management System (PMS) - Update

- Maria Champine reported that the HCMPO Staff held a workshop on Thursday, May 28, 2015, workshop was a success. The workshop help identify, when new streets were paved, rehab overlaid were done and identify any new city limits. The PowerPoint presentation of the workshop was provided to members present. Maria Champine noted that HCMPO Staff continues updating the Pavement Management System (PMS); staff is seeking assistance from the various cities, by asking them to please send any updates the cities have done to new streets or on-system within the cities' limits. The deadline for submittal of data is July 31, 2015. All information submitted will be collected and mapped. After all information is collected, another workshop will be scheduled in the month of August to review what was submitted and what is missing. All submittals need to be emailed to Luis Diaz at ldiaz@hcmppo.org. The PMS will be updated on an annual basis once these updates are approved and adopted by both the TAC and Policy Committees. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

9) Monthly Letting Report

- Mr. Homer Bazan provided to TAC Members present handouts of the TxDOT Monthly Letting Update for May 2015 on Projects within the Hidalgo County MPO Area. Mr. Bazan advised members present that several projects will be letting earlier throughout the year than originally scheduled. **Presentation only, no action taken.**

10) Status Reports

A. Calendars 2015:

- Andrew Canon reported on the Calendars as follows:

Month of June 2015:

- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for June 1, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for June 2, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for June 18, 2015
- TxDOT Meeting – June 24-25, 2015 – Austin (Andrew Attending)

Month of July 2015:

- Office Closed – Friday, July 3rd 2015 in Observance of 4th of July
- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for July 6, 2015
- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for July 7, 2015
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for July 16, 2015
- Andrew Canon - Annual Leave – July 27 – August 10, 2015

B. Director' Updates

- Legislative Update – April 2015 – Andrew Canon provided to members present a hand-out on the Senate and House of Representatives Bills that are going before the Legislative for consideration. (Hand-Out on File)
- Re-Designation for HCMPO- Andrew Canon noted he is still working with the governor's office, will be meeting with representative on his trip to Austin on June 24-25, 2015. Will be providing an update at the next TAC Meeting scheduled for July 7, 2015.
- Border to Border Conference - Staff is seeking for guidance to host the Border to Border Conference in San Diego in November 2015. After some discussion on this item, TAC members present were in consensus to have this item presented to the Policy Committee for their consideration and approval.
- 5th Annual Walk N Rolla Update – Andrew Canon noted that funds raised from the 5th Annual Walk N Rolla was \$9,300.00 and funds will be going towards the STJDA and thanked all the cities that were sponsors for this event. Presentation of the check to STJDA will be done in June during TPC Meeting.
- Andrew Canon has been appointed as Chairman to AMPO Board of Directors.

C. HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda de la Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget.

11) HCRMA Update

- Eric Davila with Hidalgo County RMA provided an update regarding HCRMA.

12) Valley Metro

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

13) Metro

- Sandra Gama gave a brief update on the Metro Report.

14) Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District

- No update was given at this time.

15) Old or New Business

- City of Edinburg noted that the city will build a 3-mile Hike and Bike Trail along Jackson Road with plans to eventually tie it into the University of Texas-Pan American's trail.

16) Adjournment

- **The meeting adjourn at 3:05 pm.**