

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2013

TAB I ROLL CALL

Chairwomen Diana Martinez 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, Hidalgo County, Hidalgo, Mission, Palmhurst, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. There were no Ex-Offio Members present.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

- December 13, 2012

Chairwomen Diana Martinez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. ***The City of Hidalgo made a motion to approve the minutes: December 13, 2012 as presented. The City of Palmhurst seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

B) Discussion and Approval of Executive Session

- Chairwomen Diana Martinez called an Executive Session in to order to discuss the yearly evaluation of the Transportation Director. ***The City of Alton made a motion to go into Executive Session. The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***
- ***The City of Mission made a motion to come back from Executive Session. The City of Alton seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried.***
- Chairwoman Diana Martinez stated that after discussion, the members made a decision to approve a 3% raise for the Hidalgo County MPO Transportation Director. ***The City of Alton made a motion to approve a 3 percent pay increase presented with the Transportation Director's Evaluation. The City of Palmhurst seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

C) Discussion and Approval of FY2013-2016 TIP Amendment #3 & FY2010-2035 MTP Amendment #10

- Linda de la Fuente gave an update on amendments made to the FY 2010-2035 TIP and FY2010-2035 MTP. She stated that approval is needed to meet the February 1st submission deadline to TxDOT. She stated that changes to the TIP/MTP included revised costs based on unforeseen increases on project lettings. City of Hidalgo asked if there were comments from the public and if enough outreach was done to notify the public of the public meetings. Mr. Andrew Canon stated that no comments were received. Mr. Canon also stated that public notices announcing public meeting dates were placed on the MPO website, newspapers and other social media sites, announced at citizens' advisory meetings, and packets were sent to city halls and libraries. ***The City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the FY2013-2016 TIP Amendment #3 & FY2010-2035 Amendment #10 as presented. The City of Mission seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

D) Discussion and Approval of Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

- Mr. Luiz Diaz gave an update on the Thoroughfare Plan. He stated that there were two submissions to be added to the plan. Mr. Diaz stated that staff recommended approval of the plan. Upon approval, the Thoroughfare Plan will be taken for approval at the County Commissioner's Court. ***The City of Hidalgo made a motion to approve the Thoroughfare Plan Amendment as presented. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

E) Discussion of 5310 Designation of Recipient

- Mr. Canon stated that under MAP-21 legislation, the 5310 program will now require a new designation in large urbanized areas instead of providing a single apportionment to the State. He also stated that grant funding can not be awarded without a designated recipient on file with FTA. Mr. Canon stated that after consultation with the transit providers, there was a general consensus that the LRGVDC should be the recipient for our urbanized area. ***The City of Palmhurst made a motion to approve the 5310 Designation of Recipient as presented. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

F) Discussion of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

- Ms. Karina Maldonado stated that the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan was provided for everyone to review. She stated that the plan fulfills requirements under Title VI which prohibits discrimination based on national origin. Ms. Maldonado mentioned that Executive Order 13166 identifies differential treatment towards LEP individuals as discrimination. She stated that LEP individuals are those with the inability to speak, read, write or understand English. Ms. Maldonado stated that the plan describes measures the MPO takes or will take to address incorporating LEP populations into the planning process, including the translation of vital documents. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

G) Discussion of Criteria of Enhancement

- Mr. Canon stated that the preliminary criteria for project selection were presented for everyone to review. He discussed the point system that will be used for project selections for the Transportation Enhancements Program Call, now named Transportation Alternative Funding under MAP-21 legislation. Mr. Lopez of the City of Edinburg requested a summary of the types of projects submitted. Mr. Canon stated that project submissions were dynamic, however that the funding may restrict selection to one project. Mr. Mario Jorge gave a brief explanation of the Enhancement program process. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

H) Discussion of FY2014-2015 UPWP

- Mr. Canon stated that in preparation for the FY2014-2015 UPWP, a call for planning projects or studies is open for any members of the policy committee to submit. He stated that a call for studies was opened up to member of the TAC at their recent meeting, however there have been no submissions as of yet. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

I) Discussion of HCMPO Policy Training

- Mr. Canon reminded policy member that the Policy Training Workshop is scheduled for January 30th and 31st, starting at 5:30pm at the HCMPO Conference Room. He mentioned that dinner would be provided on both days. The training is open to new Policy members or members wanting to refresh their knowledge of the MPO. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

J) Update on HCMPO Certification

- Mr. Canon gave an update about the details of the upcoming Federal Certification scheduled to take place on the week of February 18-21, 2013. He mentioned that the FHWA and FTA will meet with Chairwoman Diana Martinez during this time. Mr. Canon encouraged other members of the policy committee to meet with the FHWA as well. He mentioned that two public listening sessions have been scheduled for February 19th, 2013 at the UTPA ITT building at 5:30pm and on February 21st, 2013 at 3:00pm prior to the TPC meeting in the HCMPO Conference Room. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

K) Monthly Letting Report

- Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, gave a brief update. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

- A. Calendar: February 2013 & March 2013
 - Mr. Canon stated that the calendars were provided for everyone to review. He reiterated that the dates of Federal Certification are scheduled for the week of February 18th to 21st, 2013. He mentioned that public listening sessions are scheduled for February 19th at the UTPA ITT building at 5:30pm and on February 21st at 3:00pm prior to the TPC meeting. Mr. Canon stated that he will be out the week of March 4th to March 8th, 2013.
- B. Legislative/ RTAP Update
 - No reports were given at this time.
- C. HCMPO Budget Report
 - Mrs. Linda de la Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget.
- D. HCMPO Project Update
 - No reports were given at this time.
- E. Director's Update
 - Mr. Canon gave an update on the Transportation Research Board Conference he attended from January 13th-18th, 2013. He also mentioned that a briefing will be held in Austin, Texas on February 6th concerning I-69. Mr. Canon stated that he will be attending this event.

TAB V OFF SYSTEM REPORT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VI TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- Mr. Juan Sustaita, P.E., gave a brief update.

TAB VII HCRMA REPORT

- Mr. Pilar Rodriguez, HCMRA, gave a brief update.

TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB IX VALLEY METRO

- Mr. Tom Logan gave a brief update.

TAB X METRO

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XI OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB XII ADJOURNMENT

- *The City of Edinburg made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 pm. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*