

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization (HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2014

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairman Norberto Salinas called the meeting to order at 5:35 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: Alton, Donna, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo RMA, McAllen, Mission, Palmhurst, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, Hidalgo County, TxDOT and Valley Metro. Ex-Offio Members Present: HCCRD.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- Commissioner Veronica Whitaker of McAllen provided a presentation on "Run-Ride-Share Program" and asked the community to please be aware of pedestrians/cyclists on the road. This years' goal is to educate everyone and to lower crash rate fatalities. Several ghost ride bikes are located throughout various cities as a reminder of those that have been killed. A total of 10,000 decals for the Run-Ride-Share will be made available for patrol cars and transportation buses for McAllen and Weslaco to place on their vehicles. Decals will also be made available for other cities.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ May 15, 2014

Chairman Norberto Salinas asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections or additions were made to the minutes of May 15, 2014, ***The City of San Juan made a motion to approve the May 15, 2014 minutes as presented. The City of Palmhurst seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

B) Recognition of former Chairman

- Chairman Norberto Salinas stated that Guillermo Ramirez from Hidalgo is being recognized for his outstanding service of years on the Hidalgo County Transportation Policy Committee. ***Presentation of plaque only, no action taken.***

C) Election of Secretary of Policy Committee

- Mr. Canon stated that Guillermo Ramirez will no longer be serving on the Transportation Policy Committee, therefore; Mayor Salinas would be moved to Chairman, Mayor San Juanita Sanchez would be moved to Vice Chairman. The position of Secretary is vacant and will need to be filled. No discussion took place, ***Hidalgo County, nominated Scott Crane City of McAllen, as the new Transportation Policy Committee Secretary. The City of Palmhurst seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

D) Discussion & Approval of By-Law Amendment

- Statewide Official voting privileges - Mr. Canon stated that he had received letters from Representatives Martinez and Guerra requesting voting privileges on the Hidalgo County MPO, Transportation Policy Committee. As per the Bylaws and TAC Committees, the Bylaws and Procedures of the HCMPO were amended and approved as follows: "In addition, State Senator and State Representatives that represent the Metropolitan Area shall serve as Ex-Officio members unless a request is made in writing to the HCMPO Policy Committee to be recognized as a fully voting member at which time the Policy Committee shall vote upon the request of the State Official and should voting privileges be granted the state official shall have one (1) vote on the Transportation Policy Committee. Ex-Officio members shall have the same role as a regular member except that due to the fact they do not vote; their attendance shall not count in determining a quorum". After further discussion, ***The City of Alamo made a motion to not to approve the Amended By-Laws as presented. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

E) Discussion of Amending Voting Structure

- Mr. Canon stated that the Subcommittee reviewed the voting structure from other TMAs, and recommends as part of the formula, that cities with a population of one (1) to 50,000 should have a total of one (1) vote, and for entities with a higher population, the subcommittee thought it was more equitable to have votes broken down for every 50,000 in population would be one (1) vote. The entities/organizations with no population will remain with a total of one (1) vote each. After some discussion on this item, committee members recommended that no changes be made to the "Voting Structure" and it remains the same. ***Presentation only, no action taken.***

F) Discussion on MTP/Tip Amendments Public Involvement

- Mrs. De la Fuente stated that the MTP/TIP Amendments spreadsheet was provided for everyone to review. She briefly went through all of the changes that were made; and Ms. Maldonado went through the TIP Amendments changes as well. Ms. Maldonado informed the members that two (2) Public Hearings are scheduled for July 1, 2014 and July 10, 2014. ***Presentation only, no action taken.***

G) Monthly Letting Update

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

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

A. Directors Update

- Mr. Canon provided an update on the 2014 Texas Transportation Planning Conference he attended in Corpus Christi, Texas. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***
- Attending the House Transportation Finance Hearing in Austin on Wednesday, July 2, 2014; regarding Proposition 1. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***
- Letters were sent to the Senate Finance and Ways and Means Committees to address Highway Trust Fund (HTF), primary source of federal surface transportation funding revenue shortfall. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***
- Ms. Champine gave an update on the 5th Annual Border to Border Transportation Conference to be held November 18 - 20, 2014 at McAllen Convention Center. Looking for sponsors and/or presenters. Texas MPOs will be holding their meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, if anyone is interested in attending. ***Report only, no action taken at this time.***

- B. HCMPO Budget Report
 - Mrs. Linda de la Fuente gave a brief update on the budget.

- D. HCMPO Project Update
 - None at this time.

TAB V OFF SYSTEM REPORT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VI TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- Mr. Juan Sustaita gave a brief update; concerns were voiced regarding curve cuts.

TAB VII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT (HCCRD)

- James Edge gave a brief updated and stated that the Commuter Rail has a new website (hccrail.org)

TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)

- Mr. Pilar Rodriguez gave a brief update. Continue working on the Early Acquisition of SH 365.

TAB IX VALLEY METRO

- Maribel Contreras 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 San Juan made a motion to adjourn at 6:26 pm. Hidalgo County seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

The Honorable Scott Crane
Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Secretary