

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
(HCMPO)
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
August 18, 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, La Villa, McAllen, Mission, Palmview, Pharr, San Juan, Sullivan, TxDOT, Weslaco, Hidalgo County RMA and Valley Metro. Ex-Officio Members Present: None

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- None at this time.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from:

➤ **July 21, 2016**

Chairperson San Juanita Sanchez asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of July 21, 2016. **No corrections were noted to the minutes of July 21, 2016; City of Pharr made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2016, as presented by staff. HCRMA seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Chairperson San Juanita Sanchez noted that for presentation purposes, the next items on the agenda would be moved up:

H) Presentation: Multimodal Transportation- Increasing Access to Healthy Food & Physical Activity by Dr. Ann Millard and Evelia Castillo from Texas A&M.

- Dr. Millard noted as per CDC, national leadership and support for the implementation of a high-impact prevention approach to reducing new diabetes cases by using cost-effective, scalable interventions and prevention strategies directed towards the most vulnerable populations in the US who are most affected by, or at greatest risk for diabetes. Access to Physical Activity Opportunities would be recreation and fitness facility access, greater coordination between transportation planning and physical activity policies and programs. By working together with Texas A&M Public Health and Hidalgo County Coalition, our Goal is to increase access to healthy food and physical activity through environmental changes. Some strategies would be with Community coalitions, health promotion and Multimodal Transportation. Hand-out was provided to Policy Members present and is part of the Policy Packet.

Andrew Canon encouraged both Dr. Millard and Ms. Castillo to contact the HCMPO Staff and reach out to the Bike Ped Advisory Committee, 2) Transit organization with both Weslaco and McAllen, for Multimodal Transportation; and 3) Debra Franco the President of the South Texas Juvenile Diabetes Association.

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

- Hector Gonzalez, TxDOT, provided the Monthly Letting Report to members present and noted that projects are moving forward as expected. Some projects discussed were: 1) Rehabilitate Continuous Highway Illumination Project estimate came in lower than expected, any funds left over will go back to Prop 1; 2) Owassa Road – from Jackson Road to US 281 is expected to Let in December 2016; and 3) 365 Toll Project was originally scheduled to Let in November, has been moved to early FY2017. Monthly Letting Report is filed with the August 2016 agenda packet. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

C) Discussion and Action on the CMP Tier II

- Andrew Canon noted that staff is seeking approval of the CMP Tier II contract, the final deliverable, including a presentation to the HCMPO Policy, will be completed by December 27, 2017. The CMP Tier II study is 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. The consultant will submit monthly invoices for work performed under the terms of this agreement including a progress report detailing effort to date and current period. Invoices will include adequate documentation to justify the percent of work complete to date. Total amount of the contract is for \$224,580.65. **After some discussion on this item, City of Mercedes made a motion to approve the CMP Tier II contract as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by City of Pharr; and upon a vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

D) Discussion and Action on the UPWP

- Linda De La Fuente noted that staff is presenting Amendment #3 of the FY 2016-2017 UPWP for Policy Members' present to review and approve. Staff noted that approval is for the adjustments to the 2016-2017 UPWP in preparation for 2016 Annual Expenditure and Performance Report. There are some activities that were expected to take place this fiscal year, which are now taking place until FY2017. Some of these include, purchase of furniture which has been delayed due to carpet replacement in several of the offices, along with the painting. The other change is also, the In-house staff analysis for model work, corridor study, and dynamic traffic assignments activities, which were to take place in FY 2016, but after receiving an updated model, this will now be done by TTI, which will push back this analysis to FY2017. **No further discussion took place on these items; City of Mercedes made a motion to recommend approval of the Amendment #3 of the UPWP, 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 Resolution Opposing the Recent Administrative Efforts by the Texas Department of Transportation to no Longer Apply the Economically Disadvantage County Program to Off-System (Non-TxDOT Roadways) Transportation Projects Throughout the State and More Specifically Hidalgo County MPO**
- Andrew Canon noted that he has spoken with State Representative Armando Martinez, regarding this issue, and the representative is standing fast that the EDC will not be dissolved. Staff noted that the following cities have already shown their support by expressing its' opposing in a form of a Resolution. The following cities have already approved their Resolution: Alton, Edcouch, Elsa, Hidalgo, Mercedes, McAllen, Mission, Palmhurst, Pharr, San Juan, Weslaco, and County of Hidalgo. Staff is recommending to have the Policy Board also approve a resolution. Once received these resolutions will be hand-delivered to James M. Bass, TxDOT Executive Director in Austin. **After some discussion on this item, TxDOT for the record noted that TxDOT has not seen the letter from Administration regarding this issue and will be abstaining on this item. No further discussion took place on this item, Hidalgo County made a motion to approve Resolution Opposing the Recent Administrative Efforts by TxDOT to no longer apply EDC Program to Off-System (Non-TxDOT Roadways) as presented by staff. The motion was seconded by the City of Mercedes; and upon a vote, the motion passed. TxDOT abstained.**
- F) Discussion on the Initial 2016 Thoroughfare Plan Amendments Process**
- Luis Diaz noted that HCMPO is starting the Annual Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Process. Staff reminded local entity representatives to review their designated areas' existing thoroughfare plan map to recommend the needed thoroughfare plan emendations to the network. The process will include a series of meetings encouraging coordination between entities. The first meeting was scheduled on August 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at HCMPO. Subsequent meetings will be scheduled; notification will be sent via email. There is a digital copy of the current Thoroughfare Plan on the HCMPO website in PDF and also available for interactive viewing on the new GIS Server Mapping Application called U.M.A.P. (United Metropolitan Area Planning). All Amendments to the Hidalgo County Thoroughfare plan map must be accompanied by a signed approved resolution from the entities governing body. The deadline for Thoroughfare Plan Amendment Submissions is set for December 16 2016. Thoroughfare Plan submissions will be presented in February 2017 as an action item to both the TAC and Policy Committees; and in March 2017 to the Hidalgo County Commissioner Court for approval at the county level. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**
- G) 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. Staff concluded and noted that the next Performance Measures' meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The subcommittee members has begun 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.**
- H) Presentation: Multimodal Transportation- Increasing Access to Healthy Food & Physical Activity (Dr. Ann Millard and Evelia Castillo)**
- Already discussed at the beginning of the agenda.
- I) Discussion of Precinct #2 Regional Linear Park Project (MPO Staff)**
- Vice Chairman Ambrosio Hernandez noted that a meeting was held with Mayor San Juanita Sanchez, Commissioner Cantu, Judge Ramon Garcia, Andrew Canon, TxDOT and Mayor Hernandez on July 27, 2016, to clarify the roles with each entity involved with this project and to determine how best to move forward with the Regional Linear Park Project on a timely manner. As a follow up of the meeting and for clarification purposes, the factors the County agreed upon are as follows: 1) City of Pharr will not be responsible financially of the Regional Linear Park Project; 2) Precinct #2 shall provide all safety measure put in place (911 Phones), Law Enforcement; 3) Precinct #2 will maintain the Maintenance of the Park; 4) Precinct #2 will fund the \$950,000, city's portion; and 4) Route, project shall not be on Moore Road. TxDOT noted that due to the revisions/environmental, the project will not let until November 2016.

TAB IV STAFF REPORTS

A) Calendars Report

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

Month of September 2016:

- TAC Meeting – Scheduled for September 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM
- BPAC Meeting – Scheduled for September 7, 2016
- TPC Meeting – Scheduled for September 15, 2016

1. Director' Updates

- TEMPO Workshop – CAT 2 – August 8-10, 2016 - Update was provided to members present.
- BTAC Meeting – September 5-6, 2016 - Several HCMPO Staff members to attend BTA C Meeting scheduled in El Paso, Tx.
- Tools of the Trade (TRB) Conference – Charleston, SC – September 12-15, 2016

B) HCMPO Budget Report

- Linda De La Fuente gave an update on the HCMPO Budget and noted “still below budget” year to date. **Report filed with TAC Packet**

TAB V TXDOT CONSTRUCTION REPORT

- Rene Garza with TxDOT gave an update and provided a report of all completed and pending projects for the month of August 2016. **(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

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

TAB VIII METRO

- No report provided by representative. **(Report part of the Packet)**

TAB IX OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- TxDOT noted that a “Risk Assessment Workshop” is scheduled for August 24, 2016 from 2pm – 4pm at their Pharr District Office. This workshop is intended for LG staff only, not consultants. Due to space restrictions, we are limiting attendance to no more than 3 staff members per LG listed.

TAB X ADJOURNMENT

- **No other items were discussed; the City of Mercedes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 pm. City of Pharr seconded the motion; and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

ATTEST: _____
Transportation Policy
Committee (TPC) Secretary