

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING NOTES  
Thursday, June 22, 2017**

**1. Call to Order and Quorum determination**

Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Glen Sullivan, Nueces County; Gordon Robinson, Corpus Christi RTA; Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County; Raymond Chong, City of Corpus Christi; David Krams, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Paula Sales-Evans, TxDOT CRP District

Staff present: Jeff Pollack, Brigida Gonzalez, Daniel Carrizales, and Victor Mendieta

**2. Introduction of visiting agency officials**

Mr. Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

**3. Discussion Only:**

**A. FASTLANE and Other Federal Grant Opportunities**

Mr. Pollack commented that federal guidance as to potential funding for grant programs for transportation infrastructure projects has been scant, making it difficult for the MPO to forge ahead in identifying potential projects to be the subject of a collaborative grant pursuit. Mr. Pollack encouraged TAC members to continue to consider which regional priority projects might be appropriate fodder for a collaborative application if and when such an opportunity arises.

Given that policy decisions in the state and federal legislature will, in part, determine when such opportunities for supplemental funding are available, Mr. Pollack invited Tom Tagliabue, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the City of Corpus Christi, and Tyner Little, Director of Governmental Affairs for Nueces County, to share their impressions of the state legislative session.

Both Mr. Tagliabue and Mr. Little stated that, overall, there had been no boost in state transportation funding, but there had not been any loss in diversion (proposition) funding established during previous legislative sessions. Mr. Tagliabue remarked about the pervasive anti-toll and anti-passenger rail sentiments and the renewal of a bill that will defer sunset review of TxDOT for the next twelve years. Mr. Little highlighted the passage of Senate Bill 2205 related to the research and testing of autonomous vehicle technology on state highways.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action:**

**A. US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program**

Mr. Pollack referred to the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project table, reminding TAC members that \$20M in Category 7 funds had been programmed to support the US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program in the out years of the MPO's 10-year planning window. This programmed amount is based on a 50% participation rate by Hillcrest residents. Mr. Pollack pointed out that in previous meetings, the TAC had collectively acknowledged that additional funds may be allocated to the relocation program depending on the rate of participation.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated that recent dialogue between the state and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) had identified the need to make at least a portion of these programmed funds available within the four-year FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) window. Doing so will require shifting projects currently programmed with Category 7 funds on the FY 2017-2020 TIP to 2021 or beyond. Ms. Sales-Evans defined two possible scenarios for accomplishing this:

Scenario 1 would require pushing a total of six projects—including two Harbor Bridge parks mitigation projects—off of the four-year TIP in order to program a full \$20M for the relocation program in FY 2018-2020.

Scenario 2 would require pushing only two projects (Holly Rd. Phase I and Operational Improvements to SS 544) off of the TIP and would capitalize on projected Category 7 carryover to program \$15M for the relocation program in FY 2018-2020 along with an additional \$10M in 2021.

There was consensus among TAC members that Scenario 2 would sufficiently demonstrate to FHWA that the MPO was doing its due diligence to honor its commitment under the Harbor Bridge Replacement Project-Four Party Agreement while minimizing impact on critical local projects that are very close to fruition.

Mr. Pollack also requested—and received—clear acknowledgement and concurrence from the TAC that as continued implementation of the relocation program yields a clearer picture of the program participation rate, the TAC will likely need to revisit the MPO's Category 7 allocation in the out years of the 10-year planning window in order to re-program funds toward the relocation program at the appropriate level.

## **B. 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and FY 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments**

Mr. Pollack thanked TAC members and TxDOT District Staff for their time and energy over the past few months in refining the components of the proposed 2015-2040 MTP and FY 2017-2020 amendment package to reflect the detailed and intensive feedback received from FHWA during the MPO's Federal Certification Review. He commented that the complete amendment package represents a dramatically improved version of the MTP, 10-Yr., and TIP project list.

Dr. Chong inquired whether the approximately \$8M in Category 2 freeboard shown in the 10-year FY 2017-2026 planning window might be programmed to augment the budget for implementation of ITS improvements, currently programmed in FY 2024. Ms. Sales-Evans responded that the TAC could consider that allocation once the scope and need of the ITS project is better defined.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend that the TPC approve the submittal of the proposed 2015-2040 MTP amendment package as part of the August amendment cycle, pending the incorporation of changes discussed in Agenda item 4A to program Category 7 funds for the relocation program in the four-year FY 2017-2020 TIP. Dr. Chong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Staff Briefing:**

### **A. HazMat Data Collection Effort**

Mr. Pollack stated that attempts to work with the Port of Corpus Christi to solicit data directly from industry partners have not been as productive as hoped. Mr. Krams cited limitations with staff resources and suggested that the process might move forward on the basis of existing data. Mr. Pollack stated that he would reach out to partners at the Texas Transportation Institute and Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee to discuss alternative strategies for pursuing the needed freight origin/destination data, possibly including another round of grant applications.

### **B. Advisory on TxDOT Bike Count Pilot**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC of his pending appointment to the state Bicycle Advisory Committee. He also reported that the Corpus Christi MPO staff had, on the basis of its burgeoning bike count program, been asked to serve in a technical advisory capacity for a state pilot research program to explore various bike count hardware and methodologies.

### **C. Metropolitan Transportation Planning Contract**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that TxDOT has opted to extend the existing planning contract through FY 2018.

**D. Transportation Policy Committee Meeting – July 6, 2017**

Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC of the upcoming July TPC meeting.

**6. Future Agenda Items:**

There we none.

**7. Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

There we none.

**8. Adjourn.**