

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

January 5, 2023

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum Determination

TPC Chair Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County

Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi

Mr. Dan Leyendecker, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E., TxDOT Corpus Christi District

Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E.; Craig Casper, AICP; Daniel Carrizales; Victor Mendieta; and Yoshiko Boulan

2. Election of Officers for the Transportation Policy Committee

In accordance with the Corpus Christi MPO Bylaws, the Transportation Policy Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its voting members during the first meeting of each calendar year.

Judge Krebs directed Mr. Leyendecker to run the process for the Election of Officers. Mr. Leyendecker read the Corpus Christi MPO Bylaws included in the Agenda Packet.

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to re-elect Judge Krebs for Chairperson, Mayor Guajardo seconded. Mr. Leyendecker also made a motion to re-elect Mr. Zahn for Vice Chairperson, Mr. Olivarez Jr., seconded. Both motions passed unanimously; Judge Krebs is re-elected as the TPC Chairperson and Mr. Zahn is re-elected as the TPC Vice Chairperson for the 2023 calendar year.

3. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda

None were made or offered.

4. Approval of the December 1, 2022, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the December 1, 2022, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Olivarez Jr., seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. 2023 Performance Measures and Targets

Mr. Casper briefed the TPC on the Corpus Christi MPO's 2023 Performance Measures and Targets and requested the TPC's approval to release the draft Resolution for the 2023 Adoption of Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets resolution for one-month public comment.

There are seven national transportation goals and the States and MPOs are required to establish Performance Measures and Targets for three national goals, Safety (PM1), Pavement and Bridge Condition (PM2), and System Performance and Freight Movement (PM3).

The Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets are adopted annually. The Corpus Christi MPO can establish its own Performance Measures and Targets or support and adopt the TxDOT's Performance Measures and Targets; the Corpus Christi MPO has historically been adopting and supporting the TxDOT Performance Measures and Targets. The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends to support and adopt the State Performance Measures and Targets for 2023.

Safety is one of the crucial considerations in transportation planning and operations for the State of Texas and the Corpus Christi MPO. The Texas Transportation Commission has set the goal of reducing the number of deaths on Texas roadways by half by the year 2035 and to zero by the year 2050.

TPC APPROVED MINUTES

Item 5A memo provided the TxDOT's 2023 Safety Performance Measures and Targets that the Corpus Christi MPO would adopt upon the TPC's approval. Item 5A also provides relevant performance measures and targets for the Corpus Christi MPO region for illustration purposes.

Mr. Casper informed the TPC that as of January 5, 2023, the currently available total number of fatalities on Texas roadways in 2022 is 4,341 and it already exceeded the 2022 Target of 3,272.

Mr. Olivarez Jr., commented that there are 107 fatalities as of January 5, 2023, for the ten Counties the TxDOT Corpus Christi District Engineer is in charge of, and this number shows how serious this issue is. The Safety Performance Measures and Targets play a very important role in transportation planning.

Judge Krebs stated that the need for public education on safety is essential to tackle this issue. The recent fatal crash that killed six people on US 59 was caused by wrongful passing in a non-passing zone.

Mr. Olivarez Jr., agreed and stated that TxDOT has been campaigning for fastening seatbelts for years and still see the staggering numbers of fatalities caused by not wearing seatbelts. Also, the number of fatalities caused by distracted driving is not declining although it has been a traffic safety focal point. The Safety Specialist at the TxDOT Corpus Christi District is working on safety improvement activities for the region including public education/awareness and reaching out to the local governments to coordinate. Mayor Guajardo agreed and supported regional coordination and cooperation. Mr. Olivarez Jr., also mentioned the Corpus Christi MPO's Regional Traffic Safety Task Force which is working on the safety issues in the region. These regional efforts will be of the utmost importance to reduce traffic fatalities.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Corpus Christi MPO staff has been working with a consultant firm and collecting the regional traffic crash data and its analysis. The findings will be presented to the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force in February. The Task Force is composed of diverse representatives such as the Police Departments, School Districts, and local governments, and their insights into regional safety are very much needed.

Mr. Leyendecker suggested that the top three causes of fatal crash can be released in the press conference for raising the awareness in public. Mr. MacDonald said that would be possible; recently there are joint releases by local entities and safety education can be done as well. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will present the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the TPC with these findings and recommendations for safety along with the consultant work deliverables and the safety plan development.

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the release of the draft 2023 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets Resolution for a one-month public comment period. Mayor Guajardo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

A. Harbor Bridge Project Update

Mr. Olivarez Jr., provided the monthly update on the Harbor Bridge Project. There is no major announcement on the current Harbor Bridge construction progress. The work is progressing on the South and North Towers including the Delta Frame section. The construction work was done six days a week, during both day and night in December, and now 24 hours and 7 days a week in January. The work on the foundations and demolition work would start soon. The effort to recruit labor forces also continues.

B. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants Update

As discussed for several months, the Corpus Christi MPO staff is working on the regional coordination for the federal transportation grant opportunities. The 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding opportunity was announced on December 14, 2022. The City of Corpus Christi and the Port of Corpus Christi applied for the 2022 RAISE grant. The Corpus Christi MPO staff requests the entities that are interested in applying for any grants to inform the

representatives of the Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants, so regional coordination will be discussed.

C. Census Urban Area Update

Mr. Casper reported on the status of the Census Urban Area determination. This Urban Area determination is important because the Census population number affects the Corpus Christi MPO and the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) federal funding levels.

The Census Bureau changed the criteria for how urban areas delineated from population density to housing units (regardless of the occupancy status) or population density (two and a half people per household.) The Census Bureau released the population numbers in December for each urban area but not the map showing the boundaries. The Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary should encompass the entire urban area plus the area that the 2050 Small Area Forecast states would become an urban area. The federal rules also allow the MPA to mirror the Metropolitan Statistical Area boundary and include all Nueces County and San Patricio County, but this change will not affect the Corpus Christi MPO's funding amount because that is determined by the population of the Census Designated Urban Area only.

Judge Krebs inquired what would be the next step. Mr. Casper answered that the next step is the Census Bureau's release of maps and then working with FHWA on the Adjusted Urban Area Boundary

Mr. Olivarez Jr., inquired about the expected duration of this process. Mr. Casper answered that within 180 days, the Corpus Christi MPO staff will adjust the Urban Area with the TAC, TxDOT, and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to make it a smooth boundary with functional classification changes. Mr. Casper mentioned that based on the State Demographer's growth forecast presented in the December TPC meeting, he would not expect a major change in the MPO boundary, however; the TPC could choose the Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) boundary or another boundary such as the consolidated metropolitan boundary like seven counties. MSA is the study area and larger than MPA.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Small Area Forecast Task Force will be formed and start discussing the forecasting growth in the region that is important for the Corpus Christi MPO's long-range transportation plan. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will provide any updates on the Census release information and our Urban Area designation.

7. Member Agency Statements for Items of Community Interest: Upcoming events or holidays and acknowledgement.

None was made or offered.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

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| A. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Workshop: | January 19, 2023 |
| B. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting: | February 2, 2023 |

9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.