

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

**February 2, 2023**

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

TPC Chair Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland

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. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda**

None were made or offered.

**3. Approval of the January 5, 2023, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes**

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the January 5, 2023, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Olivarez Jr. seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. Adoption of 2023 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets**

For the past 10 years, federal regulations have required state DOTs, MPOs, and Transit agencies use performance-based planning to ensure investment decisions use adopted goals and performance measures. As presented in the January TPC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to adopt the Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets 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 and the Corpus Christi MPO staff and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended to support and adopt the State Performance Measures and Targets for 2023 and release the draft resolution for one-month public comment period.

The Safety (PM1) measures and targets are for achieving a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries. There are five individual measures for Safety: Number of Fatalities, Rate of Fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), Number of Serious Injuries, Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT, and Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries. The Agenda Item 4A memo provided the TxDOT's 2023 Safety Performance Measures and Targets on page 1 and relevant performance measures and targets for the Corpus Christi MPO region on page 2 for illustration purposes. The 2023 Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) was attached as a reference of how TxDOT sets these Measures and Targets.

Mr. Casper informed the TPC that the total number of fatalities on Texas roadways in 2022 already exceeded the 2022 Target, however; the number of serious injuries were lower than the target. The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed and launched the Crash Data Dashboard which shows regional crash data from 2017 to 2021. The Dashboard is available on the Corpus Christi MPO website. Interestingly, the number of fatalities has been increasing since the pandemic and this trend is happening not only in the Corpus Christi region but nationwide.

The Corpus Christi MPO did not receive any public comment on the Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Target and its draft resolution as of February 2, 2023.

**TPC APPROVED MINUTES**

Mayor Skurow inquired how the VMT is determined and how the increasing population is adjusted in these numbers. Mr. Casper answered that (1) the VMT is calculated by adding up all the miles driven by all the cars and trucks on the roadways. TxDOT uses a private company, INRIX, which calculated VMT by using a complex algorithm, and (2) these numbers are based on the VMT, for example, if the population in the region increases, the VMT will go up and vice versa.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to adopt the 2023 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets Resolution. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

### **A. New Harbor Bridge Update**

Mr. Olivarez provided the monthly update on the Harbor Bridge Project. The construction work is progressing on the North and South Towers, one of the issues TxDOT required Flatiron/Dragados to correct. The North Tower foundation footprint work is currently ongoing and after the North Tower foundation work is completed, the South Tower foundation work will be begun. TxDOT is expecting SH 286 and I-37 interchanges and North Beach area would be open after the roadwork is completed. The hiring effort is continuing and there is a job fair at the Port area on February 4, 2023.

Mayor Skurow mentioned that she receives many questions regarding the Harbor Bridge and requested Mr. Olivarez, if TxDOT can provide information on what the issues are and what is being done for these issues - in layman's terms, so the public knows what is going on. Mr. Olivarez agreed to prepare a narrative for the major five issues to share with the public.

### **B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Update**

Mr. Casper informed the TPC that Regional Traffic Safety Task Force would hold a meeting on February 2, 2023, after the TPC meeting. The agenda was provided for reference. As mentioned, the Corpus Christi MPO would introduce the newly developed and launched regional Crash Data Dashboard to the Task Force. The state-of-the-art crash analysis software, Vision Zero Suite, developed by DiExSys, would be presented. The software has the capabilities to analyze and diagnose crashes and provide potential solutions with a benefit and cost ratio for each solution. The Corpus Christi MPO would utilize this software to analyze intersections and road segments where fatal or serious injuries occurred. Also, since the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force is comprised of diverse members including Law Enforcement and Independent School Districts, the Corpus Christi MPO staff would analyze these members' locations of concern as well. The Regional Traffic Safety Task Force would be briefed on two safety plans, Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) and Regional Safe System Plan (SSP) that they would help the Corpus Christi MPO staff to develop. The RSAP is not required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) but having this plan opens eligibility for federal funding to the Corpus Christi MPO and our partner entities. US Department of Transportation (US DOT) just announced the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grants awarded projects and the list of awarded projects in Texas and the project descriptions is distributed as a handout. The City of Austin (\$22.8M), the City of Houston (\$28.8M), and the City of San Antonio (\$4.4M) are awarded the implementation funding and twenty-five entities received a total of \$16.7 million funding for developing their RSAP. The SSP is a required plan and the Corpus Christi MPO will work on it with a consultant team. Also, there is a statewide effort for roadway safety and the Task Force members would be informed of its current status.

Mr. Olivarez inquired if the RSAP is the deliverables that the Corpus Christi MPO or the partner agencies can apply for additional funding. Mr. Casper answered the Corpus Christi MPO staff is expecting to develop the plan by identifying at least 20 high crash locations and their solutions with the benefit cost analysis.

### **C. Small Area Forecast Task Force Update**

As approved in the December TPC meeting, the Small Area Forecast Task Force would be formed. The invitation letters signed by the TPC Chair, Judge Krebs, were mailed and currently, about 20 people have accepted and joined this Task Force. The kick-off meeting is to be held on February 16, 2023, right after the TAC meeting, and the draft agenda is provided for reference. They would look at the

demographic forecasting such as population, employment, housing, and so forth that would be the foundation of the Corpus Christi MPO's long-range transportation plan, the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Corpus Christi MPO would use multiple sources and data such as the State Demographers, TxDOTs, the private sector, and the Water Board's forecast to prepare several scenarios. Mr. MacDonald welcomed the TPC members' comments on this Task Force and their participation.

#### **D. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants Update**

As mentioned in Item 5B, Regional Traffic Safety Task Force, US DOT announced the SS4A awarded projects recently. This grant is for the safety plan implementation and the safety action plan development. The City of Austin, Houston, and San Antonio received a large amount of funding for their safety action plan implementation. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is working on the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) with the Planning (PL) Funds and is getting ready to receive the implementation funds for the region through partner agencies and whoever is eligible to apply. The 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant funding opportunity was announced on December 14, 2022, and the application deadline is February 28, 2023. The US DOT now provides a schedule of these discretionary grants so the applying entities can have more time for planning; the link is provided under Attachments 3. Corpus Christi MPO staff would provide updated information on Federal Discretionary Grants such as Notice of Funding Opportunity and Notice of awarded projects to the TPC.

#### **E. Census Designated Urban Area Update**

The 2020 Census Urban Area map was released in January 2023 and Mr. Casper pointed out that there are five or six places where the Census Urban Area is outside of the current Metropolitan Planning Area boundary. As the first step after the Census Urban Area designation, the Corpus Christi MPO staff needs to adjust the Census Urban Area and create the Adjusted Urban Area by smoothing out the boundary to a single contiguous area based on the discussions with State and local entities following FHWA's requirements. For example, part of Flour Bluff is considered a rural area surrounded by urban areas. The new Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary will include areas forecast in the Small Area Forecast to reach urban density by 2050. That is why the Small Area Forecast Task Force is very important in the Corpus Christi MPO's transportation planning process. This process needs to be completed within a year from January 12, 2023. If there isn't agreement on the Adjusted Urban Area, then the Census Urban Area becomes the official designated Urban Area. If this happens, some projects become ineligible for Corpus Christi MPO's funding. The Small Area Forecast Task Force is kicking off this month.

Mr. Olivarez, inquired about the Corpus Christi MPO's Study Area and Metropolitan Area Boundary in the relation to the Regional Parkway. Metropolitan Area Boundary is the area the Corpus Christi MPO is responsible for carrying out the transportation planning process. The Corpus Christi MPO Study Area is wider than the Metropolitan Area Boundary and includes the whole of Nueces County and San Patricio County. Mr. Olivarez asked about the possibility of the Corpus Christi MPO expanding its Metropolitan Area Boundary to the Study Area. There has been a lot of discussions on the Regional Parkway lately. From TxDOT's perspective, the project is not a part of the State Highway System, thus it is not a TxDOT project. However, the project has been in the Corpus Christi MPO's long-range transportation plan. If the Corpus Christi MPO expands its boundary to the Study Area, there are projects eligible for the Corpus Christi MPO's Category 2, 4, and 7 funding, including the Regional Parkway.

Mr. Casper explained that the TPC could choose to use the Metropolitan Statistical Area that includes the whole of Nueces and San Patricio County, then the TPC would be comprised of the current members, and new members from Robstown, Ingleside, Ingleside on the Bay, and Port Aransas. All these areas would compete for funding. As mentioned previously, the Corpus Christi MPO staff, TxDOT staff, and partner agencies as well as the Small Area Forecast Task Force would discuss extensively to

determine the Metropolitan Area Boundary, and TPC members will be informed and receive the recommendation from the TAC.

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

Mayor Skurow congratulated Judge Krebs' reappointment as First Vice Chairman of the Executive Board and Mr. MacDonald's election as the new executive member of the Advisory Board for the Coastal Bend Council of Government.

**7. Upcoming Meetings:**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>A. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Workshop:</b>    | <b>January 19, 2023</b>  |
| <b>B. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting:</b>          | <b>February 2, 2023</b>  |
| <b>C. Regional Small Area Forecast Task Force Kick-off Meeting:</b> | <b>February 16, 2023</b> |
| <b>D. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting:</b>          | <b>March 2, 2023</b>     |
| <b>E. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Virtual Meeting:</b>       | <b>March 2, 2023</b>     |

**8. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.