

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

May 11, 2023

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

TPC Chair Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County

Mr. Charlie Zahn, Port of Corpus Christi

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland

Mr. Dan Leyendecker, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)

Judge Connie Scott, Nueces County



Judge David Krebs

Transportation Policy Committee Chair

Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization

July 6, 2023

Date

Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

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

2. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda

None were made or offered.

3. Approval of the April 6, 2023, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the April 6, 2023, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Leyendecker seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. FY 2022 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (APL) Approved by Resolution 23-06

Mr. MacDonald presented the TPC an action item, the FY 2022 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (APL) for review, discuss, to receive public comments, and for the TPC to release for a one month public comment period.

The APL is a list of federally funded projects in the Corpus Christi MPO's planning area that were obligated in the previous fiscal year. The APL includes the individual highway projects in the Corpus Christi MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) including TxDOT Corpus Christi District's grouped projects such as maintenance and operations, safety, and bridges.

The Corpus Christi MPO has posts the APL developed in cooperation with TxDOT and CCRTA on the Corpus Christi MPO's website annually. This year, TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) directed Texas MPOs to ensure the necessary public involvement process was followed similar to the TIP public processes. Based on the Corpus Christi MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), the APL is required to be published and made available for the public and to then be approved by the TPC.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is requesting the TPC to review, discuss, release the APL for a one month public comment period, receive public comments, then approve it in the June TPC meeting with DRAFT Resolution 23-06.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to release FY 2022 APL for a one month public comment period. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

TPC APPROVED MINUTES

Mr. Zahn inquired about the process of how transportation projects are funded and moved forward. There is a regional call for the Second Causeway to the Island led by State Representative Hunter, and he wanted to know how the TPC got involved in this process. Mr. MacDonald explained that the Second Causeway project has been on the Corpus Christi MPO's long-range plan's unfunded list. State Representative Hunter has been working with the Texas Legislature and TxDOT to advance the project through the planning process. TxDOT Corpus Christi District would begin an environmental clearance study for this project and include this project in their 2050 Statewide Plan and 10-year plan (UTP). All federally funded projects need to go through the required planning processes. This project will eventually need an environmental clearance, preliminary engineering, public involvement, and so forth and it would take a couple of years to be included in the 4-year MPO plan. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will work with the partner agencies and keep the TPC informed about the status of this project.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

A. New Harbor Bridge Update

There was no update on the New Harbor Bridge project.

B. Joint TxDOT and Corpus Christi MPO Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting Recap

Mr. Casper provided the TPC a recap of the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force (RTSTF) meeting held on May 10, 2023. The meeting was well attended, and the Task Force members shared great information. More than 2,000 traffic tickets were issued over two months and about ninety DWI drivers were caught on the Harbor Bridge or on its approaches since the Wrong-way Driver Coalition Task Force has formed and started its operation. Two wrong-way drivers were caught in April and another wrong-way crash was prevented. The current operation seems very effective. The statistics will be examined for more efficient use of current resources.

TxDOT Corpus Christi District staff presented their signage installation and striping on focused areas such as Power Street, Padre Street, Twigg Street and North Upper Broadway intersection, North Carancahua Street, and Buffalo Street for preventive measures on Wrong-way Driver crashes on US 181. TxDOT also briefed on their Pedestrian Prohibited Program on SH 358 (SPID) and SH 286 (Crosstown Expressway). This program is aiming at reducing the pedestrian fatalities on freeways by installing signages and shoulder pavement markings that make both the drivers and pedestrians attentive for safety. These markings were invented by the TxDOT Corpus Christi District staff.

Mayor Skurow inquired if pedestrians would be penalized for walking in these prohibited areas of freeways. The program appears more geared towards safety awareness and education purposes, but the Corpus Christi MPO staff would make the inquiry and report in the next TPC meeting.

May is Bicycle and Motorcycle awareness month and drivers are asked to pay attention to these modes of transportation. TxDOT's Click It or Ticket Program would start soon in cooperation with local law enforcement departments. This program is for educating drivers and passengers on the importance of wearing seatbelts.

C. Small Area Forecast Process Update: Regional Control Totals

Mr. MacDonald briefed the TPC on the Small Area Forecast Task Force activities. The Task Force was created in December last year with TPC approval, comprised of a wide range of entities including local Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, School Districts, local governments, and others to discuss the future growth in the region. The Corpus Christi MPO will develop transportation scenarios based on the Regional Control Totals that would be recommended by this Small Area Forecast Task Force. The Corpus Christi MPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will be developed based on the data from Texas State Demographer, Woods and Poole, and other available sources on future growth, specifically population and employment, with this Task Force members' regional input.

Dr. You, the lead scientist of the Texas State Demographic Center, presented the Population Trends and Projections for the Texas and the Corpus Christi MPO Area at the December TPC meeting last year. Most Texas MPOs use the Texas State Demographer's projection as the official future growth source to

develop their long-range transportation plans. However, these projection numbers can be challenged if there is supportive evidence.

Attachment 3 shows the 2020 through 2050 population projections for Nueces, San Patricio, and Aransas Counties. The focus years are 2035 and 2050 as indicated on the table. Mr. MacDonald pointed out that the Texas State Demographer's population prediction for Corpus Christi region was over 600,000 when the 2045 MTP was developed; however, within five years, the prediction dropped to just over 450,000. This population decrease at the county-level needs to be examined with the local agencies.

Over the next couple of months, the Regional Control Totals would be discussed by the Small Area Forecast Task Force and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and submitted to the TPC as their eventual recommendation. The Corpus Christi MPO hired a consultant firm to lead this effort with their professional knowledge and resources to allocate the regional control totals to smaller geographic areas of the MPO region. The scope of services for this work is attached as a reference. Mr. MacDonald pointed out that the scope include various tasks such as land use forecast, socio-economic forecast, population forecast, and the development of scenarios based on these forecasts. The consultant firm will present their final deliverables to the TPC.

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

Mr. MacDonald briefed the TPC on the Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants updates.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant Program (RTEPF) and Promoting Resilient Operations, and Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Program (PROTECT) were provided. The Corpus Christi MPO staff anticipates the Port of Corpus Christi will pursue the RTEPF grant opportunity. No information was provided from any entity who is interested in and apply for the PROTECT grant at this time.

Currently open grant opportunities other than RTEPF and PROTECT are Safe Streets and Road for All (SS4A), FEMA Transit Security Grant, and Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant. The CFI grant application deadline is May 30, 2023. The Coastal Bend Council of Government and two other entities are interested in this grant. The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends these entities to discuss and jointly apply so the chance of receiving this grant will be better as a result of regional coordination.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff updates and provides the Grant Information monthly to the TAC and TPC.

6. Proposed Executive Session

Judge Krebs announced that the Committee would go into Executive Session under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to discuss the annual evaluation of the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director and will return to open session upon the conclusion of the Executive Session. The TPC meeting recessed at 11:27 a.m. The TPC went into Executive Session at 11:29 a.m. The TPC returned from Executive Session at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened at 11:59 a.m.

7. Possible Actions to Amend the Employment Contract of the Transportation Planning Director

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to increase the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director's salary to \$161,500 based on the Annual Evaluation. Mr. Zahn seconded; the motion passed unanimously. The Committee thanked Mr. MacDonald for his superb jobs as the Transportation Planning Director of the Corpus Christi MPO.

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

None were offered.

9. Upcoming Meetings:

A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting:

May 10, 2023

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| B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Workshop: | May 18, 2023 |
| C. Regional Small Area Forecast Task Force Kick-off Meeting: | May 18, 2023 |
| D. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting: | June 1, 2023 |
| E. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Virtual Meeting: | June TBD, 2023 |

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.