

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

July 6, 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

Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi

Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E., Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District

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 May 11, 2023, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the May 11, 2023, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mayor Guajardo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2023 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD)

Mr. Casper presented the TPC with an action item, the Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2023 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD) for review, discussion, public comments, and release for a one-month public comment period.

The PAD is a document that addresses four federally required anti-discrimination areas: (1) Limited English Population, (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) Environmental Justice, and (4) Advancing Racial Equity. The Corpus Christi MPO must comply with federal anti-discrimination requirements and evaluate and improve the public involvement process to eliminate any participation barriers and allow disadvantaged communities into the transportation decision-making process as stated in the Agenda Item 4A memo. The previous PAD was adopted in 2021, and the document is required to be updated every other year.

The DRAFT 2023 PAD updates include new Executive Orders, EO 14008 for Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and EO 14091 for Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, and 2020 Census Data. The updates are shown in track changes in the attached DRAFT 2023 PAD. The official guidance for these two new EOs is not available yet. Once it becomes available, the Corpus Christi MPO will reflect these requirements.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Corpus Christi MPO staff recommend that the TPC release the DRAFT 2023 PAD for a one-month public comment period.

Judge Krebs asked if there is any public comment. None were offered.

Mayor Skurow made a motion to release DRAFT 2023 PAD for a one-month public comment period. Mayor Guajardo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. MacDonald presented the TPC with another action item, the FY 2022 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (APL) for review, discussion, to receive public comments, and for the TPC to approve by Resolution 23-06.

TPC APPROVED MINUTES

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), TxDOT Corpus Christi District's grouped projects such as maintenance and operations, safety, and bridges, and Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority's transit projects.

As briefed in the May TPC meeting, TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) directed Texas MPOs to ensure the necessary public involvement process 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 requested the TPC to release the DRAFT FY2022 APL for a one-month public comment period and TPC approved the request in the May TPC meeting.

The Technical Advisory Committee and the Corpus Christi MPO staff are requesting the TPC to review, discuss, and receive public comments, then approve it with Resolution 23-06.

Judge Krebs asked if there is any public comment. None were offered.

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2022 APL with Resolution 23-06. Mr. Olivarez, Jr., seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

A. New Harbor Bridge Update

Mr. Olivarez Jr. updated the TPC and the public on the New Harbor Bridge project. The North approach up to the main span towers are almost complete. The contractor is working on the two remaining spans to connect down to the retaining wall and the embankment area. Currently, two temporary cables are in place, but these will be replaced by permanent ones. The progress of cables is more than halfway. The progress of the north tower is more than halfway complete, the south tower is about halfway done. The temporary cables on the south tower would be seen soon. One of the design issues was the foundation work; the contractor is widening the foundation for adding a drill shaft to solve this issue. The foundation is doubled and tied to steel on both the north and south tower. The South approach is almost complete. There is a lot of work happening at the interchange area. An identical loop ramp will be constructed after the drainage work is finished. The new Harbor Bridge construction is progressing well.

Judge Krebs asked if there are any questions from the TPC members and the public. None were offered.

B. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Process Discussion

Mr. Casper briefed the TPC on the three major processes for developing the 2050 MTP.

The first major process is the Small Area Forecasting. The Corpus Christi MPO formed the Small Area Forecast Task Force that recommends the population and employment control totals in the region that is critical for future transportation planning. Usually, the population and employment forecast for each county is given by the State Demographer and these numbers are allocated to the sections called Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ). The Corpus Christi MPO staff invited the State Demographer to the December 2022 TPC meeting, and she explained the population forecast in Texas and in the Corpus Christi region. The Texas Demography Center's forecast was considerably lower than its previous forecast. The reason given is a drop in birth rates below the rate of population replacement. Also, there is a noticeable discrepancy in the population projection among the sources. For example, the City of Corpus Christi recently used the previous population forecast projected by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for their Area Development Plans (ADPs). This number is much higher than the current Texas Demographic Center's projection. The 10-year projection of population growth in the City of Corpus Christi by the TWDB is more than the total of two counties (Nueces and San Patricio) of the Texas Demographic Center's 25-year projection of population growth. The objective forecast is critical for the development of the Travel Demand Model (TDM) and future transportation planning for identifying the transportation needs in our region. The Small Area Forecast Task Force, the TAC, and the Corpus Christi

MPO staff need to establish the most objective and reasonable control totals. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will obtain a sophisticated urban planning simulation tool called UrbanSim. UrbanSim is a tool to analyze land use policies, infrastructure investment, zoning, and other factors in urban planning systems and develop multiple scenarios.

Mr. Casper asked if there is any question regarding the Small Area Forecast. None were offered.

The second process is the development of the Active Transportation Plan, Micro-mobility Plan, and Complete Streets. This plan focuses on the transportation needs of all transportation modes such as pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, e-scooters, and so forth. The Corpus Christi MPO is required to incorporate this plan into the long-range transportation Plan. The Corpus Christi MPO formed the Active Transportation Plan Stakeholder Group for this plan and the first meeting with the consultant team, Freese and Nichols, was held on June 15, 2023.

Mr. Casper asked if there is any question regarding the development of the Active Transportation Plan. None were offered.

The third process is the development of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) scoring tool. The selection of transportation projects that use federal funds is based on the performance-based evaluation using the goals and objectives and corresponding performance measures adopted in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is working with a consultant team to develop the scoring system with a number of scoring criteria, so that the transportation projects in the TIP meet the federal requirements and the Corpus Christi MPO's goals and objectives. The consultant team is working on developing a simple yet thorough application system so that objective scoring is done efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Olivarez Jr. inquired if these tools would be obtained by the Corpus Christi MPO. Mr. Casper answered that the Corpus Christi MPO owns these products, and the partner entities can utilize these products as well.

Mr. Casper informed the TPC and the public that the Agenda Item 5B memo includes links to these plans, requirements, and other relevant information, and he encouraged them to visit these sites.

Mr. MacDonald commented that this is just a snippet of the overall 2050 MTP development process to allocate approximately \$5 billion in federal funding to our region over the next 25 years. All eligible projects need to be submitted, scored, and prioritized based on the objective criteria. Small Area Forecast Task Force members are comprised of a wide range of people such as a representative from the School Districts, Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, and they will discuss not only the population growth, but also how the population is allocated in the region. This process is challenging but interesting.

Mr. Craig further commented that the forecasting process involves not only population but households and employment and the composition of households such as a nuclear family, retired, and so forth will impact the travel demand in the region. More discussion will follow as these task forces and consultant teams work on each plan.

Mr. Olivarez, Jr. commented that the project selection would use systematic scoring, analytics, and data but also other factors such as readiness, environmental work, and budget will affect the result.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the scoring tool the Corpus Christi MPO would obtain is available for the partner agencies to score their projects and the tool would be helpful to make their internal decisions.

C. 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 U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) developed a new grant dashboard and added a new feature to the US DOT Grant Navigator that provides additional information on applying for grants.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the National Infrastructure Project Assistant Program (Mega) and the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program were provided. The deadline for these programs is August 21, 2023. Also, there is a new NOFO for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) program. This program combined two grant programs, Reconnecting Communities Pilot program and Neighborhood Access and Equity (NAE) program. All NOFOs are attached. The FY 2023 Low or No Emission Vehicle Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program and FY 2023 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) awarded projects were announced. Attachments 4 and 5 show the awarded projects in Texas. The Corpus Christi MPO FY 2023 Competitive Grant Summary Table is updated monthly and provided to the TPC and TAC.

Judge Krebs asked if there are any questions from the TPC members and the public. None were offered.

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

Judge Krebs introduced the newly selected Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)'s Chief Executive Officer, Derrick Majchszak.

Mr. Majchszak stated that he has been working for the CCRTA for more than six years. Before CCRTA, he worked for the Fort Worth Transportation Authority for eleven years. Mr. Majchszak said it is his honor and privilege to work with the TPC and the communities.

TPC members congratulated him for being appointed as the new CCRTA CEO.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

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| A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting: | July 12, 2023 |
| B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Workshop: | July 20, 2023 |
| C. Small Area Forecast Task Force Meeting: | July 27, 2023 |
| D. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting: | August 3, 2023 |

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.