

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 12, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

TPC Chair Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland

Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E., TxDOT - Corpus Christi District (CRP)

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

Ms. Veronica Toomey, Coastal Bend Council of Governments

Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Victor Mendieta, and Karla Carvajal

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the September 7, 2023 minutes. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1

Amendment 1 to the FY 2023-2026 TIP was presented by Mr. MacDonald to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for review, discussion, and possible action. Public Notice #23-3 related to the DRAFT FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment 1 is provided as Attachment 1. This item is a companion agenda item to the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1.

Discussion:

None.

Recommendation:

The Corpus Christi MPO staff and TAC recommend that the TPC review, discuss, receive public comments, and approve the DRAFT FY 2023-2026 TIP with Amendment 1.

Motion:

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2023-2026 TIP with Amendment 1. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1

Mr. MacDonald gave a brief update on the proposed UPWP Amendment 1. This Amendment increases the 100% federal funds as part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) to \$3,179,828 for the MPO Planning Tools and Studies project. There have been no public comments received to date. This item is a companion document to Item 4B, the FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1.

Discussion:

None.

Recommendation:

The Corpus Christi MPO staff and TAC recommend that the TPC review, discuss, receive public comments, and approve the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program with Amendment 1.

TPC APPROVED MINUTES

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program with Amendment 1. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. 2020 Corpus Christi MPO Adjusted Urban Area Boundary

Mr. Casper updated the TPC on the next steps for adjusting the Corpus Christi 2020 Census Urban Area. The Census Bureau released the map of Census Urban Areas on January 12, 2023. Attachment 1 depicts the new Census Designated Corpus Christi Census Urban Area, along with both the Robstown Census Urban Area and the Aransas Pass--Port Aransas--Ingleside Census Urban Area. Attachment 2 depicts the DRAFT Adjusted (smoothed) Urban Area that TxDOT has proposed. Mr. Casper informed the TPC that the MPO has had 2 meetings with TxDOT and an in-person meeting with representative with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). They have a tentative agreement on 24 of the 28 possible adjustments. He also mentioned that October 30, 2023, is the deadline to propose changes to the DRAFT Adjusted Urban Area.

Discussion:

Mr. Leyendecker inquired what the term for updating the urban area boundary was.

Mr. Casper stated that the urban area boundary is updated every 10 years.

Mr. Leyendecker asked if the boundary could be extended to the Nueces County boundary.

Mr. Casper relayed that discussions with FHWA made clear that this area was unnecessary and not to be included in the urban area.

Recommendation:

The Corpus Christi MPO staff and TAC recommend that the TPC approve the Adjustments to the 2020 Census Urban Area as shown in Attachment 1 and forward these to TxDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

Motion:

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the Adjustments to the 2020 Census Urban Area. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Household Travel Survey

Mr. Casper gave a brief update on the Household Travel Survey. He explained that the survey is underway at this time. TxDOT and the Corpus Christi MPO are conducting a Household Travel Survey in the two-county region. A consultant team is leading the effort under contract with TxDOT. The Household Travel Survey provides essential information on behavior characteristics that are used to develop travel demand models and in the overall transportation planning process. Those members of the public agreeing to participate are assigned a one-day travel period and asked to track all trips for each member of the household during that period. Participants use a smartphone app, website, or other methods to record where, when, how, and why they travel. The information is anonymized and used to calibrate the regional travel demand model. Results from the survey are expected to be available for development of the update of the travel demand model for the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

B. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Resiliency Plan Phase 1

Mr. Casper provided an overview of Phase 1 of the MPO Regional Resiliency Plan, highlighting its alignment with the budget approved by the TPC. He emphasized the collaborative approach adopted by the MPO, avoiding redundant efforts by leveraging insights from resiliency plans of various local agencies.

C. 2024 Corpus Christi MPO Functional Classification (FC) Update

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is beginning to update the federal functional classification of roads in the region. As discussed in the Public Participation Program adopted in July 2021, the Corpus Christi MPO will create a Functional Class Working Group made up of City, County, and TxDOT staff to review the data and propose updates to the federal functional classification of regional roads. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 required the use of FC to update and modify the federal-aid highway system, a requirement that is still effective today. Under federal statutes and regulations, state transportation agencies have the primary responsibility for designating and updating public roadway FC in rural and urban areas to clearly define the role each element of the roadway network plays in serving various travel needs. The functional classification determines eligibility for federal funding, it influences roadway design and may impact the relative score of proposed projects on each roadway.

6. REGIONAL GRANT COORDINATION TOPIC

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

Mr. MacDonald conveyed that there has been limited federal-level grant activity. Additionally, he noted the CCRTA's proactive approach in seeking grants and extended his well-wishes for their success in securing these awards.

7. TPC MEMBER STATEMENTS ON LOCAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mr. Olivarez provided a comprehensive update regarding the progress of the Harbor Bridge project. Notable highlights include the recent opening of Leopard Street bridge as part of the construction updates, with plans to open Breakwater Avenue within the forthcoming weeks. Additionally, it was conveyed that the completion of the interchange is scheduled for January. Furthermore, Mr. Olivarez discussed design concerns and the commitment exhibited by Flatiron & Dragados, culminating in the signing of a settlement agreement with these stakeholders, thereby ensuring that potential legal disputes are avoided. The allocated payments, while accounting for past obligations, are strategically earmarked for future project advancements.

Mr. Leyendecker updated TPC members on two resolutions that the RTA passed to apply for federal grants to add a new bus stop in the Robstown area that will help with balancing the urban and rural delivery of service and to support bus rapid transit services.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Small Area Forecast Task Force:	Meeting	October TBD, 2023
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	October 19, 2023
C. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	November 2, 2023
D. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Meeting	November 8, 2023

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 pm.