

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024**

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

Charles W. Zahn, Jr., Vice Chair, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Charles W. Zahn, Jr., Vice Chair, Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland  
Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus  
Judge Connie Scott, Nueces County

Ms. Veronica Toomey, Coastal Bend Council of Governments

Ms. Alexandra Fielder, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Daniel Carrizalez, and Karla Carvajal, MBA

**2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

Judge Scott nominated Judge Krebs to be the TPC Chair. Mr. Zahn Seconded. The vote was unanimous, Judge Krebs remains as Chair.

Mayor Guajardo nominated Judge Scott as the TPC Vice Chair. Mayor Skurow seconded. The vote was unanimous, Judge Scott is the new Vice Chair of the TPC.

**3. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None were made or offered.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE TPC OCTOBER 12, 2023 RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Guajardo made a motion to approve the December 7, 2023 minutes. Judge Scott seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Resolution of Appreciation for Charles W. Zahn Jr.**

**Discussion:**

The Corpus Christi MPO recognized the outstanding Regional Leadership in Transportation provided by Charles W. Zahn, Jr. Judge Scott read aloud the resolution, which was subsequently moved for approval by Judge Scott and seconded by Mayor Skurow.

**Motion:**

The vote to approve the resolution was unanimous. Following the resolution's approval, the Transportation Policy Committee and Corpus Christi MPO Staff presented Mr. Zahn with an Eagle with American Flag statue as a token of appreciation and recognition for his dedicated service in advancing regional transportation.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. TxDOT End the Streak Campaign Presentation**

This item was tabled for next month's meeting.

**B. New Harbor Bridge Update**

This item was tabled for next month's meeting.

**C. DRAFT 2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets**

Mr. Casper discussed the federal regulations requiring the use of performance-based planning by state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) during project selection. He outlined the seven national goals (The topics of those seven goals are safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freedom, economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays) framing the process, with a focus on the highway safety goal for this session. Texas MPOs are given the option of either adopting their own set of goals to frame project selection or to support TxDOT's goals. Mr. Casper stated that the Corpus Christi MPO has always supported TxDOT's goals. Despite Texas adopting a goal to halve fatalities by 2035 and reach zero by 2050, recent data shows an increase in fatalities. Mayor Skurow expressed interest in specific plans for achieving safety goals, including driver education and engineering controls.

Mayor Guajardo raised questions about the reasons behind accidents, suggesting a breakdown of categories such as impaired driving and distractions like phone use. Mr. Casper acknowledged the focus on impaired driving and mentioned that Texas addresses specific areas like drivers over 75. Mayor Guajardo also discussed the changing dynamics of young drivers, with fewer showing interest in getting their licenses early. The conversation highlighted the importance of understanding and addressing factors contributing to accidents, such as seatbelt usage and backseat safety. Mr. Casper concluded with plans to delve deeper into specific strategies and statistics in the next session, addressing concerns related to driver education, age-related issues, and emerging trends in driving behavior.

#### **D. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions on the National Highway System (NHS) Overview**

Mr. Casper discussed the environmental sustainability goal (goal number six) outlined by the USDOT, emphasizing that TxDOT must adopt a greenhouse gas reduction goal by February 1, aligning with the vision of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. The Corpus Christi MPO has 100 days after TxDOT's adoption to formulate and adopt its own goal, which must support TxDOT's objectives and aim for zero emissions by 2050. Although there are no penalties for non-achievement, Mr. Casper anticipates a smoother path due to the region's slower growth rate.

Mr. MacDonald added that accepting federal transportation dollars implies a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. He highlighted the need to measure emissions, integrate them into the 2050 metropolitan transportation plan, and consider them alongside other performance measures. While there are no penalties, Federal Highways and Federal Transit may review the long-range plan. The challenge lies in determining the best approach for calculating and integrating emissions, with the possibility of seeking assistance from the air quality partnership. The discussion anticipates a calculation process given the region's slower growth compared to larger cities like Dallas or Houston.

#### **E. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Recap from December 13, 2023**

Mr. MacDonald provided a briefing on the recent Corpus Christi MPO Regional Traffic Safety Task Force meeting, emphasizing its significance in addressing safety concerns. The Task Force, a collaboration between the Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT, combines efforts to address engineering, education, outreach, and enforcement aspects of safety. The focus includes addressing issues like wrong way drivers, with the Harbor Bridge as a notable example. The Task Force engages with local governments, inquiring about their Vision Zero initiatives and strategies for enhancing safety, including considerations like traffic signal timing.

Mr. MacDonald highlighted ongoing efforts, such as a \$300,000 investment in a Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) being developed by consultants, staff, and various stakeholders. The RSAP aims to explore demographics, policy considerations, and align with the long-range 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Task Force convenes regularly, bringing together approximately 50 participants from engineering, planning, law enforcement, and other areas to collaborate on safety

initiatives. Mr. MacDonald encouraged further engagement, indicating that more safety-related updates will be provided in the upcoming agenda item related to federal grant funding opportunities.

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

Mr. MacDonald provided an update on the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) coordination of local governments pursuing federal transportation dollars. The TAC tracks grants, and the meeting discussed the current grants, including the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant due at the end of February 2024. Safety initiatives were highlighted, such as the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program, where Texas cities like Houston, Dallas, and El Paso received funding for safety improvements. The Corpus Christi MPO is developing a Regional Safety Action Plan to propose projects for federal funding, addressing proven countermeasures like raised medians and Hawk systems.

Mr. MacDonald presented the planning grants awarded in Texas for Safety Action Plans, mentioning that the Corpus Christi MPO used 100% federal COVID relief funds (CRRSAA) for its plan, avoiding the requirement for 20% local money. The goal is to identify safety improvement projects for local governments and TxDOT to apply for significant federal safety funds. The meeting discussed various grants, emphasizing the competitive landscape and potential opportunities for the region.

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

Mr. Zahn invited questions or comments from the attendees and then proceeded to discuss local agency activities of interest. He shared information about TxDOT's allocation of \$63.8 million to upgrade the ferry landings in Port Aransas, as reported in the local media. He concluded by announcing that the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 1.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS**

<b>A. Active Transportation Plan/Micromobility Plan</b>		<b>Public Meetings</b>	<b>January 16-17, 2024</b>
<b>B. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>		<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>January 18, 2024</b>
<b>C. Transportation Policy Committee:</b>		<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>February 1, 2024</b>
<b>D. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>		<b>Regular Meeting/Workshop</b>	<b>February 15, 2024</b>

**8. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.