

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

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

2. Judge David Krebs, Chairperson, San Patricio County, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County, Chairperson  
Judge Connie Scott, Nueces County, Vice Chairperson  
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland  
Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E. Texas Department of Transportation  
Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority  
David Engel, Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Veronica Toomey, Coastal Bend Council of Governments

Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

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

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

None were made or offered.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE TPC JANUARY 4, 2024 RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Granado made a motion to approve the January 4, 2024 minutes. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Resolution of Appreciation for Dan Leyendecker**

Mr. Leyendecker was not present to accept the resolution.

**Discussion:**

None.

**Motion:**

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Dan Leyendecker. Mr. Granado seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**B. Adoption of 2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets**

Mr. Casper presented on the Adoption of 2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets. Federal Regulations direct MPOs and state Departments of Transportation to establish both performance measures to track, and targets to work towards for the national performance measures for Safety (PM1). MPOs are not evaluated directly on achieving the targets, therefore we have two options when setting targets for each measure; Establish our own Corpus Christi MPO numerical targets for each of the performance measures, or formally agree to support the TxDOT targets The Corpus Christi MPO has previously adopted resolutions supporting TxDOT's adopted Safety Targets for Performance Measure 1 (PM1). In May of 2019, the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) adopted Minute Order 115481, directing TxDOT to work toward the goal of reducing the number of deaths on Texas roadways by half by the year 2035 and to zero by the year 2050. TxDOT modified its performance measures and target calculations accordingly.

**Discussion:**

None.

**Motion:**

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the Adoption of 2024 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets. Mr. Engel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Regional Traffic Safety Planning Update**

Mr. Casper presented the Regional Safety Action Plan update. In the past 20 years, crash safety planning has become more collaborative and integrated at all levels, and the collection of data and tools to analyze the data related to crashes have become much more specific and detailed. The memo in the TPC packet describes several of the plans from each level that are considered during development of MPO safety plans. Crash data from 2023 has not yet been finalized but is available for individual queries. Crashes are classified according to the highest degree of injury suffered by someone in the crash using the KABCO scale.

**Discussion:**

Mayor Skurow asked Mr. Casper if the MPO had identified the high-injury network, and if they could provide a table with those start and end points. Mr. Casper confirmed that the MPO could share that information.

Mr. MacDonald highlighted the importance of leveraging federal, state, and local funds for safety projects, citing examples in Texas that allocated a total of \$40 million for Dallas, El Paso, and Houston in the last federal funding awards. He emphasized the collaboration between MPO, local governments, and TxDOT to access federal grant money. TxDOT's commitment to safety funding is reflected in their draft 2025 UTP document showing over \$17 billion in the 10-year UTP time period. The integration of this information into comprehensive local safety plans involves engineers, planners, and law enforcement.

Mr. Casper clarified that there are specific grants at federal and state levels to support safety initiatives, noting that the City of Corpus Christi and the Texas Department of Public Safety utilize such funds for non-infrastructure improvements, distinct from MPO funds.

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

Mr. Olivarez introduced 4 TxDOT employees who were presenting to the TPC:

- Mr. Ernest Longoria, Corpus Christi's Area Engineer,
- Mr. Robert Isassi, Sinton's Area Engineer
- Mr. Juan Marfil, Director of Transportation Operations, and
- Mr. David Pallotti Traffic Safety Specialist

Mr. Longoria discussed the TxDOT "End the Streak" campaign, highlighting its aim to address the alarming number of road fatalities in Texas since November 7, 2000. He emphasized the importance of public awareness and community involvement in reducing fatalities. He presented statistics from 2022, including 4,407 fatalities and major contributing factors such as distracted driving.

Mr. Issasi emphasized the three E's of road safety: Engineering, Enforcement, and Education. He discussed presenting the message to various cities and counties in the Corpus Christi District, emphasizing the simplicity of life-saving choices like wearing seatbelts.

Mr. Issasi and Mr. Longoria both emphasized the goal of achieving zero fatalities on Texas roads by 2050.

Mr. Juan Marfil presented on the Corpus Christi District Safety Planning activities. Mr. Marfil introduced the purpose district's four-year safety plan, emphasizing its focus on improving roadway safety. He highlighted the critical role of data, stressing the need to transform numbers into actionable plans. The

safety plan is described as a dynamic document updated annually with comprehensive data. Quarterly reviews are conducted to track progress and ensure alignment with safety goals, with the district's approach being data-driven, utilizing insights from the City Division to pinpoint hotspots and trends. Mr. Marfil also discussed the significance of narratives in comprehending crash details and formulating effective solutions. He underlined the monthly review of each fatality's narrative to propose preventive measures. Additionally, Mr. Marfil mentioned collaborative efforts with various offices, designers, and engineers to analyze trends and project needs. Projects are prioritized based on safety considerations, employing a lens to evaluate safety scores. Engineers' feedback and available funding play pivotal roles in prioritizing projects and ensuring the implementation of safety measures.

Mr. David Pallotti outlined his activities for the District which primarily involve grant management and community outreach education for TxDOT. He discussed the different types of grants TxDOT awards, like general grants child passenger safety, and project celebration grants for high schools. Additionally, he highlighted various community outreach efforts aimed at promoting road safety through campaigns targeting speed, pedestrians, motorcycles, and more. The goal is to educate the public and raise awareness about safety topics to reduce road incidents.

Mayor Skurow raised concerns about engineering solutions to prevent accidents, suggesting that data collection should include information about vehicle technology to analyze trends.

Mr. Olivarez emphasized the importance of law enforcement's role in capturing such data, while Mr. Casper commended TxDOT's efforts to update crash forms to incorporate this information. The staggering number of lives lost on Texas roads was highlighted, surpassing casualties from the Vietnam War.

Mr. MacDonald discussed leveraging big data and technology to improve road safety, including apps that detect abrupt vehicle stops and congestion using smartphone data. The ongoing challenge lies in harnessing technology effectively to inform drivers and all road users for improved safety.

### **C. New Harbor Bridge Update**

Mr. Olivarez provided an update on the Harbor Bridge project, highlighting the completion of the North Tower to its proposed height of 536 feet by the end of the month.

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

Mr. MacDonald briefly mentioned an update regarding federal transportation grants, noting the CCRTA's current application for an Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) grant.

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

Mr. Olivarez discussed the progress of the Regional Parkway project, emphasizing its importance and the ongoing environmental study. The discussion touched on the timeline and public involvement in the Regional Parkway project, emphasizing its lengthy but promising nature.

## **8. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.