

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING NOTES
RESCHEDULED Thursday, March 22, 2018**

1. Call to Order and Quorum determination

Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Glen Sullivan, P.E., Nueces County; Gordon Robinson, Corpus Christi RTA, Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland, Dr. Raymond Chong, P.E., City of Corpus Christi, David Krams, P.E., Port Corpus Christi; Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT- Corpus Christi District.

Staff Present: Jeff Pollack, Brigida Gonzalez, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, Yoshiko Boulan and Elena Buentello.

2. Introduction of visiting agency officials

Mr. Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

3. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Proposed FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Pollack explained that the proposed FY 2019-2022 TIP update includes two additional planning factors as required by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, as well as the addition of Transportation Alternative Set-Aside projects in FY 2019 and FY 2020. He reminded the TAC that the TIP represents the top four years of the MPO's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and he commented that this TIP update essentially shifts the four-year window of projects from FY 2017-2020 to FY 2019-2022.

The public notice soliciting public comment for the TIP update began on March 4th.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed TIP update by the MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Mr. DeLatte seconded; motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update & Public Notice

Mr. Pollack stated that because the update of the TIP will not be approved by the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) until after the May 27th deadline for implementation of FAST Act requirements, the TIP update necessitates an update to the MPO's PPP to include coordination with public ports and private providers of transportation. He explained that staff intends to do a more comprehensive update of the PPP later this year or early next, but the current update ensures FAST Act compliance in the interim.

The public notice soliciting public comment for this update, which is 45 days (as opposed to the 30 days typical of most MPO plans), began on February 18th.

Dr. Chong inquired as to where companies like Uber would fall in the PPP. Mr. Pollack confirmed that such entities would be encompassed in private providers of transportation.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed PPP update by the MPO TPC. Mr. DeLatte seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. Metropolitan Planning Process & Performance Based Planning & Programming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Mr. Pollack explained that the FAST Act requires the creation of a new Metropolitan Planning Process & Performance Based Planning & Programming MOU between the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA), Texas Department of Transportation-Corpus Christi District (TxDOT-CRP), and the MPO. Staff from the three organizations have collaborated on a working draft document and have defined a path forward, including presenting the draft MOU to the RTA Administration Committee on March 28th, to the RTA Board of Directors on April 4th, and to the MPO TPC for execution on April 5th.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend execution of the MOU by the MPO TPC. Mr. DeLatte seconded; motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Briefing

A. FY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Pollack reported that staff would be presenting the draft UPWP to the TAC at the April meeting. He reminded the TAC that the UPWP is the one-year plan and operating budget for the MPO; it specifies how FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds will be spent but does not directly address programming of capital expenditures. Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that, pending committee member feedback, staff proposes to implement a two-year (rather than one-year) UPWP, as is the practice in about 60% of the MPOs in Texas. Mr. Pollack explained that this change would simplify the administration of multi-year planning projects. He stated that there is no formal process required for implementing this change; the decision rests entirely at the local level.

Ms. Sales-Evans pointed out that the MPO used to have a two-year UPWP and transitioned to a one-year program during a period of heightened uncertainty about the availability of federal funds. She commented that from a planning perspective, aggregating funds over two years provides more flexibility because of the relatively small dollar amount available in a given year.

B. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Narrative Update

Mr. Pollack reported that staff had completed an updated draft of the MPO CMP narrative (per feedback received from FHWA during and after the MPO's Federal Certification Review in April 2017) and had delivered it to FHWA for review early in March; to date, no response has been received. Staff is eager to bring the updated narrative to TAC and TPC but would prefer to await concurrence from FHWA that the updated document satisfies federal requirements.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired as to whether the lack of feedback from FHWA jeopardizes the MPO's ability to comply with FAST Act requirements. Mr. Pollack responded that while having a compliant CMP is an overarching federal requirement, the FAST Act does not specify that it must be updated by May 27th, so the MPO's compliance with the FAST Act does not hinge on a timely response from FHWA.

C. FHWA Grant: Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program

Mr. Pollack reported that the MPO was selected from a pool of national applicants for an FHWA grant to support the design of a nature-based shoreline protection feature. He stated that the project team includes a diverse and interdisciplinary complement of experts, including two Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi professors, a staff member from the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and City of Corpus Christi Engineering staff. The non-federal match requirement will be met with partner staff time. Mr. Pollack explained that the MPO will use the federal funds to procure a coastal engineering consultant to design the shoreline protection feature, the construction of which will be included in the scope of the City's bond-funded reconstruction of Laguna Shores Road. He stated that this program will bring positive national attention to the Coastal Bend as a region that is being proactive and innovative in its efforts to enhance the resilience and durability of its coastal infrastructure.

Mr. Krams inquired about the habitat component of the project. Mr. Pollack responded that the preliminary working concept for the shoreline protection is for the installation of Reef Balls or some equivalent structure in the subtidal zone to attenuate wave energy and allow for additional sediment deposition in the lee of the break water; thus, allowing natural recruitment of marsh vegetation to enhance marsh development along the shoreline.

Mr. DeLatte asked whether the project is multi-phase. Mr. Pollack responded that the installation of the shoreline protection would be a single phase.

Mr. DeLatte inquired as to whether the MPO would contract the design engineer or whether the City would do so. Mr. Pollack responded that the MPO will procure, contract, and manage the coastal engineer, who will produce plans and specifications for the shoreline protection feature that will be rolled into the City's plan set for the roadway reconstruction project. The City will be responsible for procuring a contractor(s) for permitting and construction of the roadway project and shoreline protection feature; the scope of work

for the coastal engineer will include some technical assistance to the City with regulatory permitting and construction administration.

Mr. DeLatte asked whether staff plans to establish an MOU with the City of Corpus Christi. Mr. Pollack replied that such an agreement to define roles and responsibilities had not yet been discussed but would be pursued.

Marisa Alaniz, E.I.T., Project Engineer II for the City of Corpus Christi, stated that the City expects to have a habitat mitigation requirement because of the roadway project, and, in so much as this shoreline protection feature would be part of the requisite habitat creation, the City would not have the option of abandoning this component of the project.

Mr. Pollack added that the MPO will have an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT to define the terms of delivery of the grant funds.

Mr. DeLatte stated that his recommendation would be that a letter of intent or MOU be established between the MPO and City of Corpus Christi to ensure that the project will be built.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked whether the lessons learned and methods to be applied are applicable to other locations beyond this project, which Mr. Pollack confirmed, and she stated that there may be other projects to which the design of the shoreline protection feature could be applied to satisfy FHWA if for some reason the Laguna Shores Rd. project was not constructed.

Mr. DeLatte stated that it is a fantastic project and it would be fantastic to apply lessons learned in other locations.

Mr. Robinson congratulated staff on their success in the grant.

D. FHWA Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination Workshop

Mr. Pollack reported that he will be participating in FHWA's Multi-jurisdictional Coordination Workshop in Houston on March 28th and 29th. He stated that there will be strong freight and rail representation at the event. He commented that an invitation had been delivered by FHWA to Mr. John LaRue, Executive Director of Port Corpus Christi, and he had forwarded the meeting announcement to Mr. Sean Strawbridge, CEO and Mr. Charlie Zahn, Chairman of the Port Commission. He explained that it would be great to have representation from the Port, as the increasing automation of freight movement from ports onto the state and interstate highway system will be a central topic of discussion; increased automation will change the flow of good and thus highlights the importance of accounting for goods movement from ports other than the Port of Houston.

E. Transportation Policy Committee Meeting – April 5, 2018

5. TAC Members' Comments and Concerns

Dr. Chong reported new appointments in City of Corpus Christi: Mr. Daniel McGinn as Planning Director and Ms. Nina Nixon-Mendez as Director of Development Services.

David Krams asked what public comment had been received regarding the PPP. Mr. Pollack responded that one individual representing a non-profit mobility provider had visited with MPO staff about broader mobility coordination issues but that no other comments have been received to date.

6. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

7. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were none.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.