

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING NOTES  
Thursday, May 17, 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; Howard Gillespie, San Patricio 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- CRP; Richard Bullock, Coastal Bend Council of Government

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

**2. Introduction of visiting agency officials**

Mr. Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. David Krams introduced Mr. Kent Britton, Financial Controller, Mr. Sam Esquivel, Real Estate Service Manager, and Ms. Leslie Ruta, Revenue Accountant from Port Corpus Christi (PCC).

**3. Public Comments**

Mr. Sullivan requested public comments for any agenda items. There was no public comment.

**4. Update on the Harbor Bridge Voluntray Relocation Program**

Mr. Sam Esquivel, Real Estate Service Manager for PCC updated the TAC on the implementation of the Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action**

**A. 2018-2020 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan**

Mr. Pollack updated the TAC on the efforts undertaken to maintain compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI). Title VI ensures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination. As a recipient of Federal Financial Assistance, the MPO must consider Title VI in all phases of planning. To certify continued compliance with Title VI, the MPO (a subrecipient of TxDOT) has updated its Policy Statement and developed a Title VI Plan that mirrors TxDOT's Plan.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend approval of the proposed 2018-2020 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan by the MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). Mr. DeLatte seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion Only**

**A. Draft 2019 TxDOT Unified Transportation Program (UTP)**

Mr. Pollack briefed the TAC on the forthcoming draft 2019 TxDOT Unified Transportation Plan (UTP), including discussion of candidate projects from the MPO's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that might be submitted and considered for inclusion in the draft UTP. Mr. Pollack lauded Ms. Sales-Evans for her foresight during the last amendment of the MTP in suggesting that the MPO leave unprogrammed freeboard in Category 2 and Category 4(3C) to allow flexibility to expand the scope of projects in the MTP and/or to respond to unique opportunities to leverage state funds. Mr. Pollack explained that such opportunities had arisen; Ms. Sales-Evans outlined five projects for which scope expansion and/or project acceleration is proposed:

CSJ	Project	Description	From	To	Proposed change
0074-06-241	I 37	Widen Freeway	Redbird Ln	Nueces River	Raise and elevate NB Bridge
1209-01-030	FM 893	Upgrade to 5 lane Rdwy Curb & Gutter	CR 3685 (Stark Rd.)	0.2 mile W of CR 79 (Gum Hollow)	Refined estimate
0101-04-906	US 181	Construct additional lane in each direction	FM 3239 (Buddy Ganem Dr.)	FM 2986 (Wild Cat Dr.)	Advanced from Long Range Plan Construct additional 1 lane in each direction
0180-10-082	SH 361	Upgrade & add direct connector	SH 35 Intersection	0.6 mile SE on SH 361	Advanced from Long Range Plan
0326-01-056	SH 286	Extend 4 lane divided freeway	FM 43 (Weber Rd.)	S of FM 2444 (S. Staples)	Expanded and advanced from Long Range Plan

Mr. Pollack pointed out that even with the opportunistic programming of additional funds in both categories, the MPO would continue to carry freeboard in both to enable the MPO to be similarly nimble and responsive to future opportunities. Mr. Pollack requested feedback from the TAC on the proposed allocation of some of the Category 2 and Category 4(3C) freeboard; all members expressed concurrence.

#### **B. Opportunities for Collaborative Regional Grant Pursuits**

Mr. Pollack introduced two newly available infrastructure grant opportunities to discuss potential candidate projects for collaborative proposals:

1. The Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Initiative is a \$60M program that supports model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve the safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure Return on Investment. The solicitation closes June 18, 2018.

Mr. Pollack stated that while the MPO does have a placeholder for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project on its MTP, that project is not well enough defined to meet the timeframe for this years ATCMTD opportunity. He suggested that the collaborative autonomous vehicle pilot between the RTA and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi could be good fodder for this funding source when the time is right.

Dr. Chong pointed out that the grant requires a minimum 50% non-federal match. Mr. Pollack commented that satisfying this requirement would for this reason likely require regional collaboration.

Dr. Chong stated that the ITS Regional Architecture Plan was completed around 2001 and the time may be opportune for an update. He stated that TxDOT’s new Traffic System Management and Operation may pose a new opportunity for leverage.

Mr. Pollack agreed that an update to the ITS Regional Plan would allow for a more systematic identification and scoping of individual projects. Ms. Sales-Evans inquired as to whether the creation of a specific working group was appropriate. Mr. Pollack suggested that the regional delegation to the Innovation Texas Alliance Mobility Summit might serve as a starting point for this group. Dr. Chong offered that the City of Corpus Christi had established a stakeholder group to develop the concept of operations for the deployment of its Traffic Management Center.

2. The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) \$1.5B Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program replaces the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program to support national infrastructure investments. The solicitation closes July 19, 2018.

Mr. Pollack invited Ms. Leslie Ruta, Revenue Accountant for PCC, to update the TAC on the Port’s proposal. Ms. Ruta stated that the minimum grant size is \$5M and a 20% non-federal match is required. She reported that the Port is working on an application to support the redevelopment of Harbor Island

as a crude export terminal. Mr. Pollack stated that the size of the match requirement essentially necessitates that entities other than the MPO, which is federal funding, take the lead on any regional pursuit. He offered support in the form of letters of support from the MPO and/or individual jurisdictions.

Dr. Chong invited Mr. Tom Niskala, consultant to the City of Corpus Christi, to comment about the City's consideration of expansion and safety improvements to Up River Road from Navigation Boulevard to Rand Morgan Road as a possible candidate for a BUILD application. Mr. Niskala commented that the corridor is of regional significance given its importance to energy producers, but he pointed out that the number of pipelines in the corridor may be too much of an obstacle.

Mr. Sullivan commented that if that corridor is to be upgraded to the ideal section, it would likely necessitate right-of-way acquisition, which potentially further expands the number of pipeline interactions.

## **7. Freight Topics**

### **A. Port of Corpus Christi Truck Queing Project Collaboration**

The MPO is working with PCC to pursue supplemental funding and potentially leverage private sector contributions to expand the scope of the Port's truck queuing project on the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor to include Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and Connected Vehicle to Infrastructure (CVI) components.

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that MPO and PCC staff had met with staff from the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), which is under contract with TxDOT to deploy three ITS pilots in port areas. After the meeting, TTI drafted a report of findings for delivery to TxDOT and is awaiting feedback as to which pilot(s) TxDOT will fund.

In addition, Mr. Pollack reported that MPO and PCC staff have a WebEx scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> with MioVision about the potential for a pilot deployment of their state-of-the-art data collection and traffic management systems to enhance the truck queuing project.

### **B. Marine Highway 69 & StrongPort Workshop: May 16, 2018**

Mr. Pollack reported that on May 16<sup>th</sup>, he presented as part of a panel at a workshop held by TxDOT to advance and support freight logistics and opportunities for ports on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Texas and discuss the development of Marine Highway projects and other opportunities to strengthen ports and terminals along the corridor.

## **8. Member Agency Project Update**

Mr. Pollack explained that staff intends to develop an online map portal that depicts in real time the location and status of capital projects funded by the MPO. The *Member Agency Project Update* agenda item will present an opportunity for TAC members to report changes in project status.

## **9. Staff Briefing**

### **A. Request for Qualification (RFQ) to Select Coastal Engineering Service Provider**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select a Coastal Engineer to design a nature-based shoreline protection feature as part of the MPO's Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather pilot project had closed on May 11, 2018. MPO staff and City of Corpus Christi staff are scheduled to meet on the afternoon of May 17, 2018 to evaluate submittals with the objective of proceeding to scope and contract negotiation by the end of May.

### **B. Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) Workshop – April 25, 2018**

Mr. Pollack informed TAC members that MPO and TxDOT District staff had hosted a TASA Workshop on April 25, 2018. The overall intent of the workshop was to establish communication between the local sponsor and TxDOT-CRP staff to formalize the time frame over which key project milestones are to be met.

**C. Gulf of Mexico Climate Community of Practice Workshop: April 30 – May 1, 2018**

Mr. Pollack reported that he had recently attended the Gulf of Mexico Resilience and Climate Community Practice Annual Meeting, which had been held in Port Aransas. He stated that the meeting had featured policy makers, planners, and scientists from around the region and had affirmed that our region is very much on the national radar in terms of resilience planning.

**D. Election of a Vice-Chairperson for TAC**

Per MPO bylaws, due to the retirement of Mr. Glen Sullivan, the Chair of TAC, Mr. Brain DeLatte, the Vice-Chair, will assume the role of Chair, and it is thus necessary to elect a Vice-Chair to serve until the regular election for new Chair and Vice-Chair, to be held during the first meeting of the calendar year.

Mr. Pollack thanked Mr. Sullivan for his eighteen years of dedicated participation in the MPO.

**E. 2018 TxDOT Planning Conference – June 5 - 7, 2018**

Mr. Pollack reported that MPO staff will be traveling to the bi-annual TxDOT Planning Conference in Dallas in early June.

**F. Transportation Policy Committee Meeting – June 7, 2018**

Mr. Pollack reported that the next TPC meeting overlapped with the 2018 TxDOT Planning conference, and as such, the meeting would likely be cancelled or rescheduled.

**10. TAC Members' Comments and Concerns**

Dr. Chong reported that the City Manager of Corpus Christi, Ms. Maggie Rose, resigned from her position and Mr. Keith Selman will serve as interim City Manager.

He also reported that the City of Corpus Christi is working on Bond 2018 projects.

Mr. Robinson informed the TAC a new park-and-ride service from Aransas Pass to Port Aransas would begin Friday, May 25, 2018. The RTA shuttle will be given expedited passage on the Port Aransas ferry.

Ms. Sales-Evans expressed her appreciation to Mr. Sullivan for his years of public service.

**11. Future Agenda Items**

Ms. Sales-Evans and Mr. Gillespie requested Mr. Esquivel to do another presentation of the Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation program in approximately six months.

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.