

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, July 18, 2019**

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Quorum determination**

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

TAC Members Present:

Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi (9:03 a.m.)

Gordon Robinson, PMP, CCRTA

Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County (9:40 a.m.)

Sarah Munoz, P.E., City of Corpus Christi

Richard Bullock, Coastal Bend Council of Government

Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT-CRP

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E.; Daniel Carrizales; Victor Mendieta; and Yoshiko Boulan

**2. Introduction of visiting agency officials**

Ms. Debra Barrett, Mr. Roy Heistermann, Mr. Steve Elliott, and Mr. Michael Vanecek, representing San Patricio County Drainage District (SPCDD)

**3. Public Comments for Items not on the agenda**

Mr. DeLatte asked for public comments for items not on the agenda.

Ms. Debra Barrett from Edroy, Texas spoke regarding the need for a drainage project in San Patricio County and requested this project be added to Corpus Christi MPO's 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation plan (MTP). Mr. Heistermann, a consultant for the SPCDD explained that there are flooding issues in the Portland/Gregory area and they have been working on a conceptual design for the Gregory Bypass Drainage Channel/Gregory Flood Relief Project to divert water past US 181 to the existing ditch to prevent floods in the area. The SPCDD has secured funding for the portion of the project downstream of Green Lake, but they need approximately \$7 million to build the crossing of US 181. The SPCDD has been discussing this project with San Patricio County, TxDOT Corpus Christi District, and the Corpus Christi MPO.

Mr. DeLatte thanked Ms. Barrett for the public comment.

**4. Approval of June 20, 2019 TAC meeting minutes**

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the June 20, 2019 TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**5. Discussion and Possible Action**

**A. 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) DRAFT Air Quality Conformity Chapter**

The 2020-2045 MTP DRAFT Air Quality Conformity Chapter was distributed to TAC members for a 2<sup>nd</sup> review. Mr. MacDonald stated that if TAC members agree to recommend this chapter to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), it will be submitted at the August 1, 2019 TPC meeting for approval. Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC members that this chapter was initially reviewed by TPC and the TPC suggested that MPO staff reach out to the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for their review.

Mr. Pollack commented that the vigilant regional efforts to support the air quality activities to maintain the Air Quality standards should be inserted into this chapter. Mr. MacDonald stated that this action item is for a recommendation of the Air Quality Conformity chapter of the 2020-2045 MTP. The TAC will be able to provide language suggestions to revise this chapter in the future during the recommendation of the entire 2020-2045 MTP scheduled for November 2019. Mr. MacDonald encouraged continuous review and comment of each chapter by TAC members before the final recommendation of 2020-2045 MTP during the November TAC meeting.

Mr. Pollack motioned to recommend the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) DRAFT Air Quality Conformity Chapter. Ms. Munoz seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**TAC APPROVED MINUTES**

## **B. 2020 – 2045 MTP DRAFT Unconstrained Project List for MPO Funding**

The 2020-2045 MTP DRAFT Unconstrained Project List for MPO Funding was distributed to TAC members. This list has been revised with additional projects submitted by partner entities and ranked by the approved 2020-2045 MTP Project Prioritization Methodology and Performance Measures. This list includes all projects funded or expected to be funded by the Corpus Christi MPO's funding in 2020-2045 period. Some projects are already committed and would be removed from this list since they are under contract or construction. Mr. MacDonald stated that the Corpus Christi MPO's objectives today are to receive the TAC's recommendation on the project list and if possible, to comment on the project ranking using the technical score and the TAC members professional judgement. Either or both recommendations would be submitted to the TPC for approval at their August 1, 2019 meeting. Once the list of projects are ranked, the MPO staff would begin the process to apply funding to the projects and engage the TAC and TPC in the process through workshops and meetings.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested to make the project list complete by adding the project suggested by the SPCDD as "US 181 additional drainage crossing" and using an appropriate project description.

Mr. DeLatte inquired how this drainage project can move forward since the flooding issue is critical to the Gregory -Portland area. Ms. Sales-Evans stated that it may be possible that if some funds become available that (1) a change-order could be created within the current US 181 at SH 35 interchange project contract, or (2) to amend the US 181 project in the FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with possible additional funding from Category 7 allocations. Changing the work order of the current US 181 project is technically possible, however is exceedingly difficult because the program description and funding (Category 4 & 12) in TxDOT's Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) has been approved by the Texas Transportation Commission. Typically, it is very difficult to change or modify a project once it is programmed in annual UTP. Also, there is no additional TxDOT District funding available to handle drainage as a stand-alone project since District funding is designated for transportation improvements; however, Category 7 funding is relatively flexible for various kind of improvements.

Mr. MacDonald suggested to name the project the "US 181 Companion Drainage Project" to relate it to the transportation project and add it in the 2020-2045 MTP project list as a first step toward moving the project forward.

Mr. MacDonald provided the TAC members with the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2020-2045 MTP Resource Allocation Table. This will serve as a reference for overall funding of projects after ranking is complete. The table illustrates the Statewide Funding Authorization, TxDOT-CRP funding, Corpus Christi MPO funding based on the draft 2020 UTP. Corpus Christi MPO's projected funding amount for the next 25-year period is \$614,175,000. Mr. DeLatte asked if the Corpus Christi MPO's 10-year funding of \$245,670,000 is consistently apportioned annually. Mr. MacDonald answered it is usually consistent except for the strategic priority or discretionary funding that is used for special projects such as the new Harbor Bridge. The table shows that the projected 25-year funding of approximately \$615 million and a current total estimated project cost of \$711 million for the 2020-2045 DRAFT Unconstrained Project List, are close. This overall cost comparison is only the first step in the resource allocation process. Project cost estimates need to be refined and updated. The allocation of funding from Categories (1-12) need to be applied to those projects eligible for those restricted funds by category.

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to include the US 181 Companion Drainage Project in the 2020-2045 MTP DRAFT Unconstrained Project List for MPO Funding. Mr. Pollack seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired that if there are opportunities to add/remove projects from the 2020-2045 MTP Unconstrained Project List for MPO Funding once this list is recommended by TAC to TPC for approval.

Ms. Munoz stated that the City of Corpus Christi is currently undergoing a major planning evaluation and needs time to finalize their project submittals. Mr. MacDonald answered that this list will continue to be a working document and until the final approval and adoption, there are opportunities to modify; however, the deadline to approve the entire 2020-2045 MTP is December 2019.

Mr. Pollack commented that the Regional Parkway project segments should be separated and considered as individual construction projects. Further, the NEPA process for each segment should be listed individually and independently from construction. Mr. MacDonald commented that the Regional Parkway could be treated as a single project in a 25-year long-range plan with, the phasing considered when the project is placed in the short-range planning TIP document. Mr. Pollack stated that the relative priority of each segment is highly variable, and the Regional Parkway Feasibility Study completed in 2013 recommended to treat each seven segments as an individual project to get the maximum flexibility for funding and prioritization.

Ms. Munoz commented that the Regional Parkway is a very important project for the City of Corpus Christi, and the City has been discussing to move this project forward within 5 years.

Mr. DeLatte stated that the Regional Parkway project involves multiple entities and it is important to know the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s requirements and objectives and the positions of involved entities regarding this project.

Mr. Gil Hernandez, Corpus Christi City Council District 5, made a public comment that the new Del Mar College Southside Campus at Rodd Field Road and Yorktown Boulevard is expected to bring a considerable traffic increase around the area, and the Rodd Field Road extension is a part of Regional Parkway project as Segment B. He supports segmentation of the Regional Parkway Project by priority, so the phases of the project can move forward, and requested the TAC give a high priority to the Rodd Field Road extension project.

The segmentation of Regional Parkway needs to be further discussed in the separate workshop as well as updating the descriptions and cost estimates of each project listed in the 2020-2045 MTP.

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend the 2020-2045 DRAFT Unconstrained Project List for MPO Funding with the provision that there are opportunities to make administrative changes on this list such as adding new projects, determining to segment/not segment the Regional Parkway Project, and updating the cost estimates after the August 1, 2019 TPC meeting. Ms. Munoz seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The Corpus Christi MPO will submit the revised DRAFT Unconstrained Project List by adding the US 181 Drainage project, separating the Regional Parkway project into segments, and updating the cost estimates to TPC on August 1, 2019 TPC meeting for an approval. In a separate TAC workshop(s), the project rankings and funding allocation will be discussed.

## **6. Information Only**

### **A. FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: Administrative Amendment #1-CCRTA Projects**

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC members of the CCRTA's request to amend their FY 2019-2022 TIP projects. The amendments aligned FTA Section 5307 fund apportionment year and these changes were made by TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division on June 20, 2019. There is no change in project scope or cost.

## **7. Freight Topics**

### **A. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Talking Freight Seminar: The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Freight Transportation and Land Use on July 17, 2019 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.**

FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations and the Office of Planning hosted the "Talking Freight" seminar: The Impact of Emerging Technologies on Freight Transportation and Land Use on July 17, 2019. Mr. MacDonald stated that there were three presentations covering emerging technologies in freight planning such as driverless/autonomous vehicles and drones and it was very interesting. These presentations are available, and Mr. MacDonald will send these to TAC members.

## **8. Member Agency Project Updates**

Mr. Robinson informed the TAC that the CCRTA's autonomous shuttle in Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) will finalize the bus stops and hopefully start operation in Fall. The CCRTA is also planning an on-demand flexible bus service between TAMU-CC campus/housing area to retail stores in Flour Bluff such as HEB and medical facilities.

Mr. DeLatte reported that the City of Portland signed two Bike/Pedestrian Projects, Memorial Parkway Hike & Bike Trail Phase 2 and Portland Bicycle Lanes Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT.

Ms. Munoz informed the TAC that the City of Corpus Christi will hold two public meetings, Six-Points Intersection Street and Signal Improvement on July 22, 2019 and Bond 2018 Airline Road Improvement Project (SPID – McArdle) on July 25, 2019.

Mr. Pollack informed the Texas Innovation Alliance Summit will be held around late October – early November this year. The CCRTA's autonomous vehicle in TAMU-CC will be the great regional showcase to share in the Summit. Mr. Pollack will send more information regarding this Summit once the agenda is finalized.

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC members that the TxDOT TPP Division notified him of the expiring Category 9 (TAP) funding; the Corpus Christi MPO has approximately \$388,000 of expiring funding in September 2019. The Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT TPP Division discussed and are expected to be able to use the older federal TAP funds on the two Portland bike projects Mr. DeLatte just discussed. This allows the Corpus Christi MPO to not lose the \$388,000 in federal TAP funds.

Ms. Sales-Evans reminded the TAC on the critical aspect of these awarded TAP projects is to move them forward to obligate the funding through the AFAs and not lose the funds.

## **9. Upcoming Meetings:**

- A. TPC Regular Meeting: August 1, 2019**
- B. TAC Regular Meeting: August 15, 2019**
- C. TAC MTP Workshop: August TBD, 2019**

## **10. TAC Member Comments**

None offered.

## **11. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.