

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 20, 2020**

**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  
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County  
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County  
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – CRP  
Gordon Robinson, PMP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority  
Dann McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi (9:02 a.m.)  
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority (9:48 a.m.)

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

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

Mr. DeLatte asked for public comments for items not on the agenda. None were offered.

**3. Approval of January 16, 2020 TAC Special Meeting Minutes.**

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5: Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) New Projects**

Mr. MacDonald briefed the TAC members that the CCRTA requested to release the information regarding amendments of their FY 2019-2022 TIP with 29 additional projects for the public comment and the request was approved by the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). There was no public comment submitted to CCRTA or the Corpus Christi MPO during the public comment period. Mr. MacDonald requested the TAC members to recommend the amendments to TPC.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend CCRTA's FY 2019-2022 TIP amendment. Mr. Pimentel seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**5. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

**A. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development**

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC members on the FY 2021-2024 TIP Development including the requirements, process, and schedule. In essence, TIP is a federally required MPO's short-range (4 years) transportation plan that is developed in collaboration with State Department of Transportation and a Transit provider. The plan should be performance-based (Safety, Pavement/Bridge Conditions, System Performance), fiscally constrained, listing all federally funded transportation projects as well as regionally significant local/private transportation projects in MPO boundary. Mr. Casper provided the 2021-2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) timetable developed by TxDOT. Based on the timetable, the Corpus Christi MPO should develop the draft TIP by April, release it for the public comment in May 7 TPC meeting, and adopt it in June 4 TPC meeting to meet the June 22 deadline. Mr. Casper also distributed the draft *Process for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update: Overview of the FY 2021-2024 TIP* that defines the roles, requirements, funding mechanisms, project selection process, and guides the entire TIP development process from initial development through final adoption of TIP and beyond. The purpose of this guidebook is to establish comprehensive TIP development process documentation for the MPO staff, TAC, TPC, and the general public for better understanding and transparency.

Mr. Casper stated that the development schedule is tight, and project selection is a challenge due to the funding uncertainty.

Mr. MacDonald reminded the TAC members that the 2020-2045 MTP project list is included in the agenda packet. There were extensive discussions on the project identification in terms of short-range, mid-range, and long-range during the 2020-2045 MTP development. However, the locally and privately funded projects within the 2021-2024 range should be also identified and the Corpus Christi MPO asked the local entities to review their projects and list up the projects which should be in TIP and what year.

Ms. Sales-Evans pointed out the inaccurate funding amount makes it difficult for the TIP project list be fiscally constrained. There are TIP projects not obligated in the programmed year, but it is not certain if the fund is rolled over. She suggested to hold a workshop or create a subcommittee to go through projects status and get the accurate funding amount.

The Corpus Christi MPO needs to know the statewide Bridge or Grouped Projects as well as what projects are actually active. TxDOT-CRP and the Corpus Christi MPO staff agreed to have a meeting to identify all active projects. The Corpus Christi MPO asked the local entities to go through their projects and identify the projects still active in previous TIP.

Comments from the TAC members based on their initial review:

- 1-page executive summary can be beneficial for the general public
- Provide TIP 101 workshop for not only applicants, but TAC and possibly TPC
- Use word “reimbursement” instead of “grant” on projects to avoid confusion
- Raise the minimum threshold in federal/state funds from \$100,000 to \$500,000/\$750,000 or \$1,000,000 (\$500,000 is the agreed-upon amount after the discussion)
- Remove the paragraph on page 23, “For the Regional Share Call for Projects, **no single request for Corpus Christi MPO-allocated funding may exceed \$50,000,000**. In addition, the Regional Share request made for Corpus Christi MPO federal or state funding **may not exceed 50% of the total project cost submitted**. Of the required match for the federal sources of funding, 20% must be from non-federal sources to meet federal requirements.” Or add a general statement to assure the exceptional case would be considered by TAC such as “projects exceeding the limit requires additional discussion by TAC.”
- Project Readiness is an important element in the fiscally constrained TIP and should be referenced

Mr. Casper will revise the draft ***Process for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update: OVERVIEW OF THE FY 2021-2024 TIP***, by incorporating these comments and electronically distribute the revised one to TAC members for their review.

## **B. FY 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development**

Mr. Casper briefed the FY 2021-2022 UPWP development. The format is provided by TxDOT and the Corpus Christi MPO uses the same format with additional details. UPWP is a document listing Corpus Christi MPO’s expected products and services with budget. For example, the development of long-range plan starts in 2021 with refined modeling tool to appear in the UPWP as an expected product. UPWP is also used for unified transportation planning in the region, and the Corpus Christi MPO is required to list the local entities’ planning projects in UPWP and cooperatively work with these entities. Mr. Casper requested the partner entities to inform him regarding the concept of planning projects planned in 2021 and 2022 as well as if there is anything the entity and the Corpus Christi MPO can work collaboratively.

## **6. Regional Freight Topic:**

### **A. Corpus Christi International Airport (CCIA) Freight Information**

The TAC serves as a Freight Advisory Committee and various freight topics are discussed every month. Mr. MacDonald provided the CCIA’s freight information for mail and cargo from 2017 to 2019. Also, the CCIA’s short and long-range Capital Improvement Plan this month. The CCIA information is included in the 2020-2045 MTP.

Mr. MacDonald encouraged the TAC members to bring any freight topics to discuss in TAC meetings.

**7. Member Agency Statements for Items of Interest: Projects, Events, and Activities**

Ms. Sales-Evans informed that the Texas Transportation Forum was held in San Antonio in February and explicit emphasis was on freight in terms of connectivity and transportation in the discussion. The Port of Corpus Christi is receiving the distinct attention for their role as an economic engine in Texas. A big emphasis is also on Safety, and TxDOT's "End the Streak" campaign. Mr. Casper shared the information provided in the forum that offenders fall through the court system and repeat the offence. Also 10% of fatal accidents is caused by the distracted drivers who were on the phone. These facts make it difficult to achieve the safety goals.

Mr. McGinn reported that the City of Corpus Christi starts two corridor studies by Asakura Robinson Company LLC: Interstate 37 Corridor Plan and the Farm-to-Market 624 (Northwest Blvd.) Corridor Plan.

Mr. Robinson informed that the CCRTA's Express Shuttle to Port Aransas will be offered from March to October this year. The shuttle runs from both Southside and Staples Station and stops in Ingleside and Aransas Pass.

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC members that the Port of Corpus Christi Commission authorized to enter into a Master Service Agreement with Freese and Nichols to conduct Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor Mobility Assessment, Planning, and Conceptual Design. The Port was awarded \$17M Federal Grant for the first of four redevelopment phases of the Avery Point Terminal. The Port is also seeking to get another \$93M Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant for the other phases in the Avery Point Terminal project. The application deadline is February 25, 2020.

Mr. Pimentel reported on the Nueces County's Capital Improvement Program status.

Mr. DeLatte informed the TAC that the City of Portland split the Public Works Department into two separate departments, Public Works and Development Services. The jobs will be posted soon, and he asked to spread the word.

**8. Upcoming Meetings:**

<b>A. Transportation Policy Committee:</b>	<b>Regular Meeting:</b>	<b>March 5, 2020</b>
<b>B. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>	<b>Regular Meeting:</b>	<b>March 19, 2020</b>

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 a.m.