

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 21, 2020**

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

Mr. Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 (via Phone)
Gordon Robinson, PMP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

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

Public Comments opportunities were given via e-mail, phone, and mail until May 21, 2020 9:05 A.M. due to COVID-19; none were offered.

3. Approval of February 20, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the February 20, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Pollack seconded; motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

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

The Corpus Christi MPO adopted the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that is a 25-year long-range transportation plan in February. Now the Corpus Christi MPO is working on another federally required document, a 4-year short-range transportation plan. A TIP must include a fiscally constrained project list. The Corpus Christi MPO staff projected Transit projects in FY 2024 based on the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)'s FY 2021-2024 Financial Plan and FY 2021-2023 TIP projects; once the CCRTA officially adopts FY 2024 projects, any changes will be made through TIP amendment process. The same is expected for the other partner agencies; once their official budget and capital plans are adopted, the FY 2021-2024 TIP will be amended accordingly.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommended that the TAC recommend the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to approve release of the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP to the public. The public comment opportunities will be given if the TPC approves to release the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP to the public on June 4, 2020 through July 9, 2020. The document will be posted on the Corpus Christi MPO website. There will be three public meetings with in-person public comment opportunities: June 10, 2020 Public Meeting/Open-House, June 18, 2020 TAC meeting, and the July 9, 2020 TPC meeting.

TAC members were requested to review the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP for their comments before this meeting. Mr. MacDonald shared the following four comments from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Corpus Christi District:

- Harbor Bridge Park Improvement Project (MPO-009) in Table 12 2020-2045 MTP Fiscally Constrained Project List should be included in the FY 2021-2024 TIP
- Harbor Bridge Project (TxDOT-001) was already financially obligated and should be removed from FY 2021-2024 TIP
- IH-37 (TxDOT-002), SH 35(TxDOT-003), US 77 (TxDOT-004, 005, 006) are outside of the Corpus Christi MPO boundary and these projects will be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), thus these projects should be removed from the list, and
- the total project cost of US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program (MPO-008), \$71 million, needs to be verified.

Mr. MacDonald provided the Corpus Christi MPO staff's recommendations for these comments:

- Harbor Bridge Park Improvement Project (MPO-009) can be included in the FY 2021-2024 TIP with a funding adjustment of Category 7's \$1.7 million and \$3.5 million local fund from the City of Corpus Christi
- Harbor Bridge Project (TxDOT-001) is a project currently using or being reimbursed federal funds, thus it should be included in the FY 2021-2024 TIP
- IH-37 (TxDOT-002), SH 35(TxDOT-003), US 77 (TxDOT-004, 005, 006) will be removed, and
- the actual Category 7 money needed for US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program (MPO-008) is expected to be verified by the Port of Corpus Christi soon. The Corpus Christi MPO suggests amending the FY 2021-2024 TIP with the verified number as soon as it becomes available. However, the TIP table currently shows that the Category 7 funding of \$36 Million is reduced to \$31 million due to the re-allocation of \$5 million to the local/other funds category.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested to create a separate table to show the Harbor Bridge (TxDOT-001) in the FY 2021-2024 TIP to avoid any confusion and Mr. MacDonald agreed to separate this project from the list. She agreed that the US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program (MPO-008) can be amended later with the numbers provided by the Port of Corpus Christi.

Mr. Pollack inquired about the cashflow of \$31 million of Category 7 funds and whether all Category 7 funds must be used for the Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program or an installment plan is possible. If all Category 7 funds are spent on the US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program, it is possible that the Corpus Christi MPO is unable to move any Category 7 projects forward. Ms. Sales-Evans said that it is possible that all Category 7 funds are allocated to the US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program (MPO-008) except for these Harbor Bridge mitigation programs that are linked to the Harbor Bridge project, or the Corpus Christi MPO can request that TxDOT Austin develop a payment plan within a TIP or Unified Transportation Program (UTP) funding window once the final relocation program number is verified.

Ms. Sales-Evans provided the following additional comments on the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP:

- suggested changes should be made in all project list tables included in the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP to be consistent
- the two projects selected for the congestion management corridor, Park Road 22 (MPO-016) and SH 35 (MPO-018), require determining the scopes of what kind of improvements to make. It was suggested to add a language that clarifies some of phases of these projects that will occur during the FY 2021-2024 TIP
- Table 1 Category Funding for the Corpus Christi MPO FY 2021-2024 TIP shows available Category 12 funding for FY 2021-2024 as \$82.9 million; however, Category 12 funds are project specific and only \$33 million is given to the TxDOT Corpus Christi District in the 2020 UTP. The \$82.9 million needs to be verified.

Mr. MacDonald agreed that (1) all changes for consistency will be made in the tables, (2) "phases of project" will be added in the description and the wording changed from "selected projects" to "identified projects," and (3) the amount of Category 12 fund should be changed from \$82.9 million to \$33 million. These changes will be shared with TAC members before the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP is submitted to the TPC for their June 4, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Pollack inquired whether Exhibits 2-6 legend classifications can be reassessed for better understanding. Mr. DeLatte questioned if the Exhibit 2 and 6 color coding are accurate, and also stated that the colors of the Exhibit 4 legend are not matching.

Mr. MacDonald agreed that all exhibits will be reviewed and corrected as necessary and the legends will be revisited and discussed by the Corpus Christi MPO staff for a better description.

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend the TPC release the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP to the public after all suggested changes and corrections are made. Mr. Gillespie seconded; motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

A. TxDOT 2021 UTP Category 2 and Category 4U Funding Levels and Candidate Project Identification

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC members on the additional Category 2 (Urban Corridor) and Category 4U (Urban Connectivity) funding availability and the need of identify the projects for these funds. These funds can be used for the National Highway System and/or the State Highway System. The expected amounts are \$38 million for Category 2 and \$15 million for Category 4U. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is in discussions with the TxDOT Corpus Christi District about the candidate projects that must be in the 2020-2045 MTP. The FM 624/Northwest Boulevard project (MPO-033) is identified as a potential project.

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC that this available funding is from the FY 2020 UTP due to the TxDOT Corpus Christi District’s purposeful effort to make funding fully available in these categories or to allocate some of the funds to the other Corpus Christi MPO categories. Based on the discussion with TxDOT Divisions in Austin, the amount of 4U may be reduced from \$14.9 million to \$12.5 million. Further discussions with Austin during the development of 2021 UTP will give a better idea of the amount and project standing.

Mr. Casper stated that since the new Federal Transportation Bill is coming, the Corpus Christi MPO staff prefers having projects that complete the NEPA process and Preliminary Engineering and are shovel-ready when the funds becomes available.

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 2045 Corpus Christi freight data forecast information for the TAC members. Also, the information of Talking Freight Seminar: SHRP2 CP20 Project Spotlight – The Development and Implementation of a Ten County Freight Model held on May 20, 2020 was previously provided.

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

No statement was offered.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

A. FY 2021-2024 TIP One-on-One Local Government Meetings:		Various Dates
B. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting:	June 4, 2020
C. FY 2021-2024 TIP	Public Meeting/Open-House	June 9-10, 2020 (TBD)
D. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting:	June 18, 2020

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 A.M.