

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 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
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District
Sarah Munoz, P.E., City of Corpus Christi
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County

MPO Staff Present: Robert 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 August 20, 2020 9:05 A.M. due to COVID-19; none were offered.

3. Approval of June 18, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Pollack made a motion to approve the June 18, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Corpus Christi MPO staff presented the DRAFT FY 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to the TAC for review, comment, and recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for approval at the September 3, TPC Regular meeting.

The DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP was presented as an information only item in June TAC meeting. The UPWP is a single document that contains all local, regional, and state transportation planning activities in the MPO planning area, and the scope of work expected to be carried out by the Corpus Christi MPO for the next two years. Mr. Casper informed the TAC that based on the TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming (TPP) Division's formatting suggestion, the Corpus Christi MPO removed Task 6.0 Direct Expenses and added subtask 1.9 as Direct Expenses for transparency purposes. Other than this change, there was no significant changes made in the previous DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP.

The expected budget is approximately \$2.5 million due to the rollover fund from past years. The Corpus Christi MPO is planning to work on performance-based planning by collecting data and building models for the next long-range plan, 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The following comments and questions were submitted by the TAC on the DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP and discussed:

- Air Quality should be included in the Section I-E: Planning Issues and Emphasis

Mr. Casper explained that the Corpus Christi MPO region has been attaining the federally required air quality levels and keeping ozone concentration level much lower than National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the last 3 years.

Mr. MacDonald asked if the air quality emphasis should be considered in addition to the Federal requirements or something more the Corpus Christi MPO needs study. Since the area has been keeping the attainment status for years and the recent ozone concentration level is considerably lower than the required standards, it is difficult to justify spending additional PL funds for additional air quality issues.

TAC members suggested that the MPO continue the current on-going regional collaboration efforts to keep the attained air quality status. These efforts should be acknowledged and mentioned in the UPWP.

Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Casper assured that the Corpus Christi MPO's efforts to maintain the air quality attainment status are stated in the other sections in the DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP. The collection of air quality-related language will be presented to TAC after the meeting, and the connection to the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership's efforts will be added to the Section VIII: Partner Agency Planning Study Coordination.

- Which of the 11 bullet points listed in Section I-E: Planning Issues and Emphasis on page 7 and 8 are federal requirements?

The 11 listed bullet points are all federal requirements from SAFETEA-LU and FAST Act.

- The 6 principles listed on page 8 appear to be continuing, on-going priorities in the region, so can an explanation and background information on these principles be provided?

These 6 principles were adopted by US Department of Transportation, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and US Environmental Protection Agency as policies for transportation planning process.

- These planning issues, requirements, and principles should be linked to the Corpus Christi MPO's planning activities – how are these principles embodied in the actual work?

The Section E: Planning Issues and Emphasis is for the introduction of federal requirements and policies governing the MPO's planning activities and process; the expected planning activities are described under each subtask in detail. For Example, "Enhance the unique characteristics of all communities by investing in healthy, safe and walkable neighborhoods, whether rural, urban or suburban." This policy can be addressed as one of the criteria for the project selection process. Another example is addressing "Target federal funding toward existing communities through transit-oriented and land recycling to revitalize communities" by focusing on the existing community improvements rather than focusing on the newly developed subdivisions. The DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP is a documentation of the Corpus Christi MPO's budget and expected products of planning activities in the next two years. Typically, the UPWP does not specifically articulate how each task is linked to the federal requirements and policies. However, the Corpus Christi MPO's planning activities will be based on these requirements and policies and discussed in detail during TAC and TPC meetings as well as additional workshops.

- There are 3 agreements listed under F: CORPUS CHRISTI MPO AGREEMENTS. Are there other agreements that should be included in this section?

These 3 agreements are federally required Metropolitan Planning Process agreements and should be included in the UPWP.

- The 2019-2020 UPWP and Annual Self-Certification update in G. STATUS OF CORE CORPUS CHRISTI MPO PLANNING DOCUMENTS EXHIBIT 3. Planning Document Status is listed as June 2019. Is this correct?

The FY 2019-FY 2020 UPWP was adopted on May 3, 2017 and was supposedly updated in June 2019; the Annual Self-Certification is supposed to be done in conjunction with the new UPWP adoption. By adopting this FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP at the September 3, TPC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO's planning document status will be current.

- SECTION VI. TASK 5.0 – SPECIAL STUDIES, Subtask 5.2 Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Project – is this still active?

The project is still active, and the City of Corpus Christi put the project out for bid and the city will award the contracts. The Coastal Boundary Survey will be done in the next month and the project should be ready for construction. The role of the Corpus Christi MPO on this project will be monitoring how the resiliency mitigation design works after the construction.

Ms. Munoz informed the TAC that the City of Corpus Christi bid 3 sections on Laguna Shores Road and 2 sections were awarded to one contractor, the other section was awarded to a different contractor. She will provide more bid information to the Corpus Christi MPO, and the Corpus Christi MPO will send the updated information on this project to TAC members and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

- Remove the projects outside the MPO boundary in TxDOT Planning Effort under SECTION VIII. PARTNER AGENCY PLANNING STUDY COORDINATION, page 43.

These projects outside the MPO boundary will be removed.

- The document is well-written.

Mr. MacDonald appreciates the review and comments.

- City of Corpus Christi has an additional planning study, "Downtown Visioning" that should be added under SECTION VIII. Also, these listed trail studies need to be verified and confirmed.

Ms. Munoz will provide the information after she confirms with the Planning Division.

Ms. Munoz made a motion to recommend the TPC approve the DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP after the City of Corpus Christi provides the additional comments on PARTNER AGENCY PLANNING STUDY COORDINATION electronically to the member agencies before submitting the DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP to TPC. Mr. Gillespie seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacDonald requested that TAC members submit the additional information and comments by close of business on August 26, 2020; since the Corpus Christi MPO typically send out the agenda packet to the TPC a week prior to the meeting. That date is August 27, 2020.

The Appendix G: Public Comments in the DRAFT FY 2021-FY 2022 UPWP will be updated with these comments submitted by TAC members.

B. National Highway System (NHS) Modifications

The National Highway System (NHS) are important roadways, all principal arterials and above, to the nation's economy, defense, and travel. The designation of NHS is linked to one of the important national goals, reducing the congestion, and National Highway Performance Program. Mr. Casper briefed the TAC that TxDOT is requesting TPC to approve the following recommended changes to the NHS based on the discussion and review between TxDOT TPP Division, TxDOT Corpus Christi District, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Texas Division, and the Corpus Christi MPO in the February 8, 2019 meeting. Ms. Thamizharasan, TxDOT TPP Division, and Nishant Kukadia from the TxDOT consultant joined the TAC meeting via phone in case any clarification is needed.

The recommended NHS changes are:

- Extend SH 357 (Saratoga Boulevard) 0.25 miles: connecting two major regional freeways SH 286 and SH 357 (Rodd Field Road)
- Extend FM 2444 (South Staples Street) 3.25 miles: linking the Southside community to downtown area, La Palmera Mall, and connecting to SH 286, recently received capacity/access-management improvement
- Remove Ayers Street between SH 358 and SH 286 3.4 miles from the NHS designation by downgrading from Principal Arterial – other to Minor Arterial: no major improvement plan, not providing regional/long-distance mobility, no impact the NHS routes continuity

The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends that the TAC recommend to the TPC the approval of the NHS changes request as presented.

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend to the TPC the proposed modification on the NHS.

Mr. Gillespie seconded; motion passed unanimously. The requested changes will be presented at the September TPC meeting with a resolution.

5. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

A. Various Updates from the August 3, 2020 TEMPO Virtual Meeting

Mr. Casper informed the TAC members the topics discussed in the August 3, 2020 TEMPO Virtual Meeting.

1. TxDOT suggested to loosen the target for Texas Travel Time Reliability due to the less reliable travel trend.
2. TxDOT reminded that Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) services are available for any MPO in Texas and encourages staff to take advantage of this service.
3. TxDOT TPP Division is reviewing UPWP formats and requested MPOs' participation for a review committee. Currently there are some inconsistencies in the UPWP format, especially Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston take different approaches, and TPP is working to make the format more consistent. The Corpus Christi MPO volunteered to participate, and the first meeting will be in the week of August 24th.
4. Census 2020 initial results are supposed to be submitted to the House of Representative in December this year. However, approximately 40% of Texans have not responded to the Census 2020. Texas could have three more House of Representatives seats if the correct Census information is collected. The timeframes for MPO designation implementation are set: the criteria for the Census Urbanized Area (UZA) will be published in the federal register during the summer of 2021, and the updated population and new UZA boundaries will be released in the spring of 2022. The Corpus Christi MPO is the slowest growing Transportation Management Area (TMA) MPO in Texas, the Ingleside and Aransas Pass urban area seems likely to be included into the Corpus Christi UZA after the 2020 Census based on past designation practices.
5. State requirements changes for open meetings do not impact the federal requirements and if an MPO is using online meetings due to the current pandemic, the Public Participation Plan must be updated. For example, the Alamo Area MPO laid out how the virtual meeting is operated.
6. Due to the drop in oil and natural gas production tax, there was an \$8 billion change in available funding. Due to the timing of the Comptrollers Report, 2021 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) has no significant change, but it will affect the transportation projects in the TIP in years 2022 and beyond.

6. Regional Freight Topic:

A. MOVE America Virtual Meeting Opportunity – September 1-3, 2020: <https://www.dot.state.tx.us/move-texas-freight/studies/default.htm>

The TAC serves as a Freight Advisory Committee and various freight topics are discussed every month. Mr. MacDonald provided the link for the MOVE America Virtual Meeting Opportunity.

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

No statement was offered.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting:	September 3, 2020
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting:	September 17, 2020

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.