

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 15, 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

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County

Gordon Robinson, AICP, PMP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

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

2. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None were offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 2020 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the August 20, 2020 TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Process Debrief for the 2045 MTP, FY 2021-2024 TIP and CMP

Mr. Casper explained the need for revisiting and reexamining planning processes such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Congestion Management Process (CMP) after they are completed. The Corpus Christi MPO is planning to distribute a survey that asks the honest opinions and input on the process for each of these major documents and will incorporate the survey results into the next MTP, TIP, and CMP development. The survey is a short-answer/essay format, not a multiple choice format, and completely anonymous. The survey will be distributed within one week or so after the internal review; then the survey is also distributed to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). After reviewing the feedback, the Corpus Christi MPO will lay out proposed adjustments to the next MTP, TIP, and CMP processes. The FY 2023-2026 TIP development is within two years range and this survey result will especially be a critical element of it.

Mr. Pollack suggested that there should be an option to be anonymous or identified for following-up purpose. The Corpus Christi MPO will make the option available.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested to hold off the recommendation to the TPC until the initial survey results become available and the TAC members agreed. Mr. MacDonald requested the TAC members to inform their respective TPC members regarding the survey.

In terms of the MTP and TIP development process, Ms. Sales-Evans stated that the FY 2021-2024 TIP approval has been delayed, possibly until the summer of year 2021. The pandemic and economic circumstances impacted the funding flow, and the uncertainty will affect both the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendments and the FY 2023-2026 TIP development. Based on these circumstances, she suggested the following during the discussion:

- Revisit the projects in the MTP and reprioritize the projects with updated information such as cost and timeline if necessary
- Verify the current status of Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) projects
- The delivery of the projects, especially Category 7 and TASA, which are sponsored by the local governments and off-system, may be challenging
- The high turnover rate at the local governments also makes difficult to retain the information on projects

Mr. Pollack offered that he could provide necessary information on TASA projects as a former Corpus Christi MPO Director who was involved in the project selection process and the current City of Corpus Christi's Transportation Advisory Commission member.

Mr. MacDonald assured that the Corpus Christi MPO pays close attention to the current situation and is prepared for the FY 2021-2024 TIP amendments. The federal surface transportation funding has been extended by a continuing resolution through September 30, 2021 and the funding amount is 19.46% of FY 2020 funding. Also, the Corpus Christi MPO has been discussing with the TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division about the TASA projects to avoid any funding lapse. The Corpus Christi MPO are planning to hold individual/group meetings and workshops to address these concerns and issues, and whenever new information becomes available, it will be shared.

Mr. Casper suggested that the regular status updates will keep the project information up-to-date. Mr. DeLatte mentioned that the TAC used to do it monthly and suggested to reimplement it at the most reasonable frequency, either monthly or quarterly.

Mr. DeLatte suggested to discuss a systematic process of TASA projects within the region for more efficient handling of funding.

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC members that he attended the TxDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee which is discussing streamlining the TASA program and there are 3 potential major reforms: (1) not requiring in-kind match, (2) funding construction project only (no funding for design only project), and (3) install an incremental administration fee, and suggested these as discussion topics.

Mr. MacDonald also suggested to discuss a systematic call-for-project process for all categories. These suggested topics will be brought back to the TAC for further discussions. Mr. MacDonald thanked the TAC members for the insightful discussion.

5. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC

A. Autonomous Freight: Trucking Services

The TAC serves as a Freight Advisory Committee and various freight topics are discussed every month. Mr. MacDonald provided the articles on autonomous trucks in Texas this month. This testing seems focusing on the middle-miles, from one warehouse to the other warehouse, not on delivering in urban area.

Mr. Pollack informed that during the Texas Mobility Summit held in last year, the trend in autonomous vehicles in last 2 years is shifting from personal vehicles to freight vehicles. This is due to (1) the lag of development of smart infrastructure, manufacturers are designing their technologies for the status-quo infrastructure, (2) the rethinking of truck parking, if the truck parking is placed close to the off-ramp, it is better to switch the trailer from the vehicle to the driver very near the exit. Historically, the truck parking is considered as the drivers' amenities at off the highway, but the efficient and safe freight transportation would occur near the highway by identifying and designating spaces to make the transition.

The smart infrastructure that makes autonomous driving possible in a big state like Texas is a challenge and there are still safety concerns such as technology glitches. Also, the off-ramp truck parking will create the issue of who will establish and maintain these facilities on highway.

Mr. Casper informed the TAC members that the webinar he and Mr. MacDonald viewed showed three trucks on the I-10 corridor from Laredo – San Antonio/Austin – Houston – Dallas. First truck has the driver, second truck is empty, and the third truck had a recorder.

Mr. Pollack mentioned that the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor is the perfect site for the ITS-related experiment.

Mr. MacDonald said this freight item is an item to open dialogue and requested the TAC members to bring any freight topics that are related to our regional planning.

6. Member Agency Statements for Items of Community Interest: Upcoming events, holidays, or acknowledgements

Mr. Robinson informed the TAC members that CCRTA will provide a free ride to election poll locations on November 3rd.

Mr. Casper informed the TAC members that Mr. Bullock, the Coastal Bend Council of Government (CBCOG) representative, retired and Ms. Emily Martinez, Director of Planning & Economic Development will join the TAC.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting:	November 5, 2020
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting:	November 19, 2020

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.