

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, April 15, 2021**

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

Mr. Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M.

TAC Members Present Virtually:

Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland  
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)  
Sarah Munoz, P. E., City of Corpus Christi  
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County  
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County

Leslie Lupa, Port of Corpus Christi  
Joel Quigley, MioVision

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**

None were offered.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 18, 2021 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Munoz made a motion to approve the March 18, 2021, TAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Pimentel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. DRAFT Update Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Mr. Casper provided the DRAFT Update Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan and briefly explained the purpose and structure of the PPP:

- The Corpus Christi MPO is responsible for developing a PPP (23 CFR 450.316)
- The Corpus Christi MPO's PPP defines the processes to provide opportunities to participate in the transportation planning and its decision making to any interested parties or potentially impacted citizens by identifying the outreach and involvement activities
- The Corpus Christi MPO's PPP put forth the following five policies:
  1. Actively engage the public in the transportation planning process according to State and Federal law,
  2. Keep the public informed of on-going transportation related activities,
  3. Encourage public involvement in the transportation planning process,
  4. Strive to continuously improve public participation,
  5. Ensure that no person, on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of the federally funded programs as a recipient of federal assistance.
- The Corpus Christi MPO follows the core values of public participation promoted by the International Association of Public Participation as listed in page 6.
- The Corpus Christi MPO demonstrates transparency, openness, humility, respect, honesty, reliability, flexibility, and resiliency for the effective public outreach.

Mr. Casper summarized each section in the Corpus Christi MPO PPP:

- *SECTION I. INTRODUCTION* outlines the definition of public participation in the decision making process,
- *SECTION II. FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS* listed all laws and provisions required the Corpus Christi MPO in terms of public involvement,
- *SECTION III. The ORGANIZATION OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI MPO* briefly explains the role and responsibility of the Corpus Christi MPO,
- *SECTION IV. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN* defines the Corpus Christi MPO's PPP goals and policies in terms of the federal requirements,
- *SECTION V. REVISIONS TO MPO DOCUMENTS* describes the process when the Corpus Christi MPO revises its documents,
- *SECTION VI. ACHIEVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION* lays out the strategies and approaches to realize the meaningful public participation, and
- *SECTION VII. OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION* specifies the methods the Corpus Christi MPO utilizes.

The Corpus Christi MPO is working to combine the Title VI program with the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Environmental Justice (EJ) processes, along with adding the new Achieving Racial Equity Executive Order all into one document. The MPO team hopes to present this unified anti-discrimination process at the May meeting for a recommendation to release for the one month public comment period.

Ms. Sales-Evans expressed some concern about the International Association of Public Participation's spectrum of Participation table on Page 6, the final step, Empower the Public Participation Goal "To place final decision-making in the hands of the public" is not possible with the current federal and state regulations that restrict final decisions to the TPC. The MPO staff agreed and suggested the item needs further discussion and a recommendation brought before the TAC in May including the options to either clarify the language or remove the empower column.

Ms. Sales-Evans also inquired if the documents would be translated in Spanish for LEP. Mr. MacDonald stated that the Corpus Christi MPO has been searching for translation service options, if possible, sharing the translation service available between the partner agencies is one of the possible options.

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend release of the DRAFT Update Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan by the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for the 45-day Public Comment Period. Ms. Munoz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. INFORMATION ONLY ITEM**

### **A. TAC Member Updates to their FY 2021-2024 TIP Projects in Tables 13a and 13b**

This information item gives the TAC members the monthly opportunity to inform the Corpus Christi MPO staff and the general public if there are any status updates on the FY 2021-2024 TIP Projects in Table 13a and 13b.

Ms. Sales-Evans gave updates for the following four TxDOT Sponsored projects:

1. SH 358 (SPID) Ramp Reversal (MPO-001) – Environmental clearance is done, remove NEPA from Project Phase,
2. I-37 (MPO-002) – let in May, remove NEPA and ROW,
3. US 181 (MPO-003) – under construction, remove NEPA, ROW, and Design,
4. FM 893 (MPO-006) – still working on ROW, drainage design, will follow up.

Ms. Munoz updated the Harbor Bridge Hike and Bike – Connectivity (MPO-007) – this project will go to contract in the next couple weeks. She will follow up on other Transportation Set Aside (TASA) projects.

Mr. MacDonald thanked Ms. Sales-Evans and Ms. Munoz for the updates. He also informed the TAC that the Table 13a and 13b need the most correct information. The Corpus Christi MPO is working to make some changes in Table 13a and 13b per FHWA guidance.

## **B. TxDOT Annual Traffic Counts Review Process**

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC that the Corpus Christi MPO received the 2020 ArcGIS Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) review map from TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division. The Corpus Christi MPO reviewed the data jointly with the TxDOT Corpus Christi District staff and submitted comments by the required deadline, April 9, 2021. This is an information only item for sharing data with partner agencies and to collect local insights.

Mr. DeLatte commented if any analysis was conducted on the reason why the overall 2020 count was much lower than 2019; he pointed out the count on US 181 was down 20% from 2019. Mr. MacDonald said that the Corpus Christi MPO submitted the exact question to the TxDOT TPP Division. He would inform the TAC once he received an answer from TPP.

## **6. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC**

### **A. The Port of Corpus Christi Joe Fulton International Corridor (JFITC) MioVision ITS Hardware presentation**

The TAC serves as a Freight Advisory Committee and various freight topics are discussed every month.

Ms. Lupa, Port of Corpus Christi Strategic Planner, and Mr. Quigley, MioVision gave a presentation for the real-time data collection along the JFITC with MioVision's TrafficLink Platform.

The Port installed the TrafficLink Platform at 4 intersections on JFITC to collect the real time multi-modal traffic data. MioVision TrafficLink Platform uses advanced traffic artificial intelligence to capture multiple real-time data streams and provides analytics, dashboards, and key performance indicators. The Port of Corpus Christi uses the data for freight signal priority, safety measures, inventories, security, and so forth. The overall cost of equipment installations and 10 years data analytics contract was about \$200,000.

Mr. MacDonald thanked Ms. Lupa and Mr. Pollack for the very interesting presentation. The Corpus Christi MPO has a considerable number of corridor of notes and corridor of concerns that need to be addressed in the Congestion Management Process, and collecting accurate data is essential. He also mentioned the regional ITS system in the MPO boundary is another important task the Corpus Christi MPO needs to work on.

Mr. Pollack stated that deploying the ITS system in the region improves transportation safety and mobility. It is necessary to consider the cost to not install ITS architecture as well as the cost to install in terms of the benefits and drawbacks. The Texas Innovation Alliance is aiming at integrating advanced communication technologies into transportation infrastructure and the Port of Corpus Christi's MioVision ITS can be the test case for the Costal Bend Region that will be utilized by local partner agencies.

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

Mr. Casper informed the TAC about the US Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants opportunity. This grant has merit criteria for its project selection: safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation and partnership. The priority goes to the projects that can demonstrate improvements to racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change, and create good-paying jobs. He asked the TAC members to inform the Corpus Christi MPO if they need any help in applying for this grant.

## **8. Upcoming Meetings:**

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| <b>A. Transportation Policy Committee:</b> | <b>Regular Meeting:</b> | <b>May 6, 2021</b>  |
| <b>B. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>    | <b>Regular Meeting:</b> | <b>May 20, 2021</b> |

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC members about a possible special TAC meeting for FY 2021-2024 TIP amendment. The Corpus Christi MPO is working with FHWA and TxDOT for FY 2021-2024 TIP and if FHWA requires a formal amendment for these changes, the Corpus Christi MPO will set up a special meeting. TAC members will be notified as soon as it's determined.

## **9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 A.M.