

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 17, 2021**

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 Virtually:

Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland

Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)

Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi

Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County

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 MAY 20, 2021 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the May 20, 2021, TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Corpus Christi MPO FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3

Mr. MacDonald requested that the TAC to review, discuss and recommend the proposed Corpus Christi MPO FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment #3 to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). The primary purpose of this amendment is for clarifications of the Grouped Project Definition and Performance Measures (PM) 1, 2, and 3 targets per Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and TxDOT guidance. There have been no changes made since it was presented during the May TAC meeting. The Corpus Christi MPO opened the public comment period from May 13, 2021, until July 1, 2021, and has received no comment as of June 17, 2021.

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend TPC approval of the FY 2021-2024 TIP with Amendment #3. Mr. Gillespie seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

These clarifications and minor technical corrections as well as previously approved Amendments #1 and #2 would be incorporated into the Corpus Christi MPO FY 2021-2024 TIP as the first quarterly amendment after the TxDOT adopts FY 2021-2024 STIP.

The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting the possible future amendments of Category 9 (Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program) and Category 7 (Metro Mobility) and contacting TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division regarding these funding.

B. DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2021 Public Participation Plan (PPP)

In the April TAC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO provided the DRAFT Corpus Christi 2021 Public Participation Plan (PPP). The TPC approved the release of the 2021 PPP for 45-days public comment period on May 6, 2021, and the Corpus Christi MPO has been soliciting public comment until July 1, 2021.

There are additional paragraphs on Section V. REVISIONS TO MPO DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS; VI. Annual or Bi-annual Reports (page 19) and SECTION VI. ACHIEVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLANNING PROGRAMMING ROADMAP (pages 23 – 33).

After the TAC recommendation and the TPC approval of the 2021 PPP, the Corpus Christi MPO will contact State and local partner agencies, community groups, and the general public for their active participation

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in the Corpus Christi MPO's transportation planning decision-making process. The Corpus Christi MPO is seeking other partner agencies' support to disseminate the 2021 PPP.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend TPC approval of DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2021 PPP. Mr. Robinson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2021 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD)

In the May TAC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO provided the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO Program for Addressing Discrimination for review, discussion, and comments. As briefed in the May TAC meeting, Corpus Christi MPO 2021 PPP and Corpus Christi MPO 2021 PAD are closely linked documents; while the 2021 PPP describes the strategies, methods and procedures to involve public into the transportation decision-making process, the 2021 PAD lays out how the Corpus Christi MPO will serve disadvantaged populations such as low-income, racial minorities, and Limited English Proficiency populations to meet Title VI, Environmental Justice, LEP, and newly issued Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government (ARE) as a recipient of federal funds.

There is no change in the requirements or in the proposed MPO policies and procedures for Title VI, EJ, and LEP. However, the 2021 PAD provides much more detailed and specific methods, strategies, and procedures to achieve the requirements than the current plan that was adopted in 2018. Currently, no final guidance for the ARE is available; the 2021 PAD may be updated on the Racial Equity section when the final guidance becomes available.

Mr. DeLatte inquired how the Corpus Christi MPO would reach out to the public including the underserved population. Mr. Casper answered that the Corpus Christi MPO utilizes the traditional newspaper advertisements, the Corpus Christi MPO website, Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.,) and participating in the partner agencies' meetings and local community meetings and events for the public outreach. Also, the Corpus Christi MPO is currently updating the contact list and including more community groups such as housing associations.

Mr. Robinson offered to check the CCRTA's contact list.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired if the Corpus Christi MPO would translate all publications such as plans, public notices in Spanish. Mr. Casper answered that the current percentage of LEP population in the Corpus Christi MPO boundary is under the threshold that is required for the translation service. However, the Corpus Christi MPO is seeking the partnership or cooperation with the local partner agencies and contacting Spanish media.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend TPC approval of DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2021 PAD. Mr. Pollack 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

No update provided.

6. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC

A. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Freight Chapter Review and Discussion

Mr. MacDonald provided the 2045 MTP Chapter 9 Freight Planning and explained that the Corpus Christi MPO's intention to routinely review and discuss freight projects for 2050 MTP, specifically projects by the Port of Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi International Airport, State Freight Plan and Freight Network and so forth and requested to provide the information by the end of Calendar year 2021.

Mr. Pollack suggested incorporating the infrastructure improvements with technology, at minimum strategically addressing CV (Connected Vehicles)/AV (Autonomous Vehicles), into the Freight Chapter.

Mr. Casper agreed, and mentioned the full-size, self-driving trucks are on the road between Houston and Dallas and eventually into Oklahoma.

Mr. Pollack briefly explained the current Port of Corpus Christi's projects:

- The Ship Channel dredging project is fully designed in phases, the 1st phase is done, the 2nd phase is fully funded, but the 3rd phase is only partially funded. The Port expected that this project would be included in the last Presidential Budget, but it was not. This project has been delayed and it costs the Port quadrupled the project cost. This project is critical not only to the Port of Corpus Christi but also the Coastal Bend region, and the Port is seeking federal support.
- The Port has applied for Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grants for Avery Point Redevelopment, Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant for Rail Safety Improvements and System Efficiencies improvement project.
- The Port is evolving to the renewable energy and clean fuel hub. The Port had a Memorandum of Understanding with Ares Management to build a progressive and responsible infrastructure by adding hydrogen facilities and a solar infrastructure. Also, the Port is committing to reduce carbon footprint by utilizing proactive technology called “carbon capture.”
- The Port has applied for FY 2021 Port Security Grant Program and other than usual security vehicles and equipment, Port-wide “Digital Twin” System was added as one of the projects. This “Digital Twin” GIS-based model infrastructure project is less than \$1 million, and it has the asset management aspect with various technologies for smart infrastructure. This project could be a precursor for the mobility management and smart communities for this region as a test case. If the grant is awarded for this project, the Port will provide the quarterly updates.

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

Ms. Sales-Evans reported the TxDOT’s ADA Transition Plan that looked at the Rights-of-Way and inventoried needed curbed ramps, sidewalks, and other facilities. She suggested discussing how the cost and work of these ADA improvement can be incorporated into our transportation projects with the close attention to federal requirements such as TITLE VI and EJ for prioritization. Category 9 and Category 7 are suggested as potential sources for these projects due to their relatively flexible funding category definitions.

Ms. Sales-Evans also requested to discuss the TAC’s role to achieve the safety targets. Mr. Casper stated that the Corpus Christi MPO has been in the process of the on-call crash analysis with a consultant. It is necessary to work with the regional safety committee or the network group with law enforcement once the necessary data is collected. Ms. Sales-Evans pointed out that the safety education as well as infrastructure treatments are needed to reduce the crash rate. Mr. MacDonald assured that the TAC members’ active participation in the safety discussion.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired about the status of City of Corpus Christi’s Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) projects. There are three TASA projects the City of Corpus Christi was awarded: (1) Region-wide Bike Boulevard Wayfinding Initiative, (2) Schanen Ditch Hike and Bike Trail, and (3) Dr. Hector P. Garcia Hike and Bike Trail. The Region-wide Bike Boulevard Wayfinding Initiative project might lapse due to the expiration date of Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) and it is necessary to review and determine if the City of Corpus Christi still pursue these projects or not. Mr. McGinn answered that he would look into these projects with other departments and get back to the TAC.

Mr. MacDonald stated that the Corpus Christi MPO is planning to start the Call for Projects for TASA projects in July or August, and it could be several million dollars.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

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| A. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting: | July 1, 2021 |
| B. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting: | July 15, 2021 |

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.