

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 16, 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:

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)
Sara Munoz, P.E., City of Corpus Christi
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County
Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Government (Non-voting member)

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 JUNE 17, 2021 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to approve the June 17, 2021, TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Munoz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Traffic Crash Data Analysis and Regional Traffic Safety Task Force

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC about the Corpus Christi MPO's two safety-related activities:

- Collecting crash data and its analytics by DiExSys' Vision Zero Suite software. DiExSys is a company specialized in road safety analytics and integrating statistical modeling and quantitative risk analysis by utilizing multiple principles such as traffic engineering, economic analysis, geographic information systems, and information technology. The Vision Zero suite is an application that determines a "normal" crash and an "abnormal" crash by using predictive analytics and diagnostic pattern recognition for each intersection and roadway type. This application has been successfully used by four countries, eight state DOT's, numerous local governments, and planning entities. The Corpus Christi MPO is scheduling a TEAMS meeting with DiExSys to present the Vision Zero Suite application. The date and time for the TEAMS meeting will be notified to the TAC members and other regional partners once it is determined.
- Proposing the creation of a Regional Traffic Safety Taskforce as an ad hoc committee as a regional coordination effort. The main purposes of this Taskforce are investigating traffic safety issues, proposing the programs that improve safety in the region and leading the Corpus Christi MPO's Safety Performance Measure (PM 1) efforts, including but not limited to a development of the Regional Traffic Safety Plan. The Regional Traffic Safety Taskforce proposal will be presented to the TPC after the TAC and other regional partners' input.

B. Results of the TAC Member Pair-wise Comparison of 2045 MTP Goals

The Corpus Christi MPO is planning to issue the Call-for-Project for STBG-SA/CAT 9 discussed as Item 4-C. The Corpus Christi MPO sent a Survey Monkey link to the TAC members to exercise the Pair-wise Comparison that determines which 2045 MTP Goals are more important than others.

There are four tiers in this Pair-wise Comparison:

Tier 1 – Safety and Maintenance

Tier 2 – Congestion and Efficiency

Tier 3 – Equity and Investment

Tier 4 – Economy and Freight

So far, safety is identified as the most important goal among the 2045 MTP by the participated TAC members. The Corpus Christi MPO is planning to ask the TPC members, regional partner agencies, stakeholders, and the general public to complete this pair-wise comparison survey to identify the regional priorities and requested the TAC members' feedback, opinion, and concerns.

TAC members' comments are as follows:

- More descriptions or some examples for these MTP goals are needed so that the general public can understand what exactly these goals are. For example, questions like "Efficiently invest the surface transportation system" are probably not familiar to the general public.
- Going through 28 questions is time-consuming, especially for the general public who are not familiar with the transportation language. It may be better just simply ask to rank the eight goals from most important to least important.
- Some questions seem to be co-related and complementary and not relevant to compare, for example, "Improve freight facility performance OR Improve the regional economy."
- Some goals are not directly related to CAT 9 eligible projects.
- This comparison cannot work for the weighing and ranking of CAT 9 projects due to the nature of CAT 9 projects.

The Corpus Christi MPO will revisit the Pair-wise Comparison structure with these comments and get back to the TAC members.

In the next step, these criteria will be ranked by allocating a total of 100 points. Based on the ranking, the criteria will be scored by the Corpus Christi MPO staff with the 0-5 scoring system for each category that is described in the Item 4-C attachment: *DRAFT CORPUS CHRISTI MPO CATEGORY 9 PROGRAM GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT SET-ASIDE (CATEGORY 9) PROGRAM*.

C. Program Guidance and Procedures: Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) Funding (Category 9) Call-for-Projects

As discussed in Item 4-B, the Corpus Christi MPO is planning to issue the Call-for-Projects for STBG-SA/CAT 9. The attachment: *DRAFT CORPUS CHRISTI MPO CATEGORY 9 PROGRAM GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT SET-ASIDE (CATEGORY 9) PROGRAM* explained the responsibilities of sponsor agencies, eligible projects, entities, selection process including the criteria, scoring, and so forth in detail. The anticipated funding amount is approximately \$4,500,000 for 4 years from FY 2022 to FY 2025 with a \$2.3 million carryover that includes the projects awarded but not obligated.

The current schedule of STBG-SA/CAT 9 Call-for-Project is as follows:

- November 4, 2021 – Call-for Project issued
- January 17, 2022 – Deadline for the Call-for-Project application
- April 7, 2022 – Selection of Projects approved by TPC

The TAC members' comments for the *DRAFT CORPUS CHRISTI MPO CATEGORY 9 PROGRAM GUIDANCE AND PROCEDURES: SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT SET-ASIDE (CATEGORY 9) PROGRAM* are as follows:

- The maximum awarding amount for infrastructure projects is currently \$200,000, but some sponsors preferred bigger amounts to participate in the TASA program due to the considerable burden needed for adhering to federal requirements and the cost-performance perspective,

- The weighing and ranking scoring system does not seem relevant, it is better to pre-categorize the eligible projects by its nature and score and rank with relevant criteria,
- The maximum awarding amount for infrastructure projects is currently \$200,000 which works well for some sponsors to budget the required local match,
- The project readiness, specifically “complete the environmental review” should be verified,
- The Corpus Christi MPO should avoid the risk of losing funding by selecting projects awarded but not obligated.

There is an inquiry regarding the outreach efforts to the eligible entities. The Corpus Christi MPO is updating the contact list that covers not only the eligible entities but also the wide range of stakeholders and requested the partner agencies’ help to expand the list. Also, the Corpus Christi MPO is planning to attend the local meetings and spread the word for the STBG-SA Call-for-Projects.

- An early public meeting/workshop, preferably after the Call-for-Projects is issued, was suggested for the entities not familiar with the STBG-SA program and its process,
- Another public meeting/workshop before the deadline would be helpful for review and assistance.

The Corpus Christi MPO will determine the dates for the pre-submittal workshop and possible public meetings/workshops and notify the TAC members, regional partners, and stakeholders.

D. TxDOT/MPO Safety Task Force (TxDOT link below)

On August 31, 2021, the Texas Transportation Commission announced a new task force to be comprised of representatives from TxDOT and the MPOs. The Task Force is responsible for identifying and funding safety projects from Category 5 (CMAQ), 7 (Metro-Mobility), and 8 (Safety).

The TxDOT/MPO Safety Task Force has a two-year term to develop a short-term plan that is immediately implementable and a long-term plan that identifies funding sources, establish metrics to measure effectiveness, and so forth.

The details of this TxDOT/MPO Safety Task Force are not yet available. While working closely with the TxDOT-CRP, and other Texas MPOs (TEMPO), the Corpus Christi MPO needs to verify the remaining CAT 7 funding that is tied to the Harbor Bridge Relocation Program.

5. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC

A. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) New requirement: State Freight Plan

Mr. MacDonald provided the Texas Freight Advisory Committee’s State Freight Plan development schedule presented in the Texas Freight Advisory Committee meeting held on August 24, 2021. According to the schedule, the Draft Final Plan will be ready around September 2022.

The Texas Freight Advisory Committee also discussed new requirements for the State Freight Plans with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). IIJA is not yet authorized, and these requirements may be changed accordingly. Current Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act will be expired on September 30, 2021.

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

No statement was offered.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting: | October 7, 2021 |
| B. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting: | October 21, 2021 |
| C. Traffic Crash Data Analysis | TEAMS meeting: | TBD, 2021 |

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 A.M.