

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, November 18, 2021**

**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  
Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority  
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County  
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)  
Sarah Munoz, P.E., City of Corpus Christi  
Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Governments

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 made or offered.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2021 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to approve the October 21, 2021, TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Munoz seconded, Mr. Howard abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 4 – Inclusion of Additional Transit Projects**

Mr. Casper briefed on the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)'s selection of four additional projects, two projects for the Rural Economic Assistance League (REAL) and two projects for the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL) through FTA 5310 Funds. These projects total of \$696,845. CCRTA also has three additional available sources of funding: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (\$16,359,362), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (\$6,857,205), and American Rescue Plan Act (\$17,644,591) to be included in the FY 2021-2024 TIP. These projects are placed in a pool for later use. CCRTA and the Corpus Christi MPO staff requested the TAC's recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) for approving the FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4. No public comment has been received as of November 18, 2021.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend the TPC to approve the FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**B. DRAFT Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) Category 9 Funding Project Call-for-Projects**

As discussed in the October TAC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO is expecting \$4.5 million in Category 9 funding for FY 2022 to FY 2025 and preparing for the Call-for-Projects for STBG-SA/CAT 9 program. The DRAFT STBG-SA Category 9 Funding Project Call-for-Projects Guidance and Procedures and the DRAFT Application Form were provided for soliciting the TAC members' comments and feedback for discussion in this November TAC meeting.

The Corpus Christi MPO received comments and suggested revisions to the DRAFT Application Form from Mr. Pollack who was absent from this meeting. Mr. Casper went through Mr. Pollack's comments and the Corpus Christi MPO's responses to his comments.

The application form was modified from the TxDOT's Rural STBG-SA Call-for-Projects and made suitable for the Corpus Christi MPO's use. The STBG-SA/CAT 9 program is federally funded, therefore the overall federal requirements and program guidelines cannot be changed, however; the following change was made:

- Remove "Applications in which Project Sponsors provide more than the minimum 20 percent local cash match will receive points as part of project scoring and evaluations." on Page 2, 7. Project Budget

**TAC APPROVED MINUTES**

Summary. The projects requesting more than 20% local match will be scored depending on the % of local funding as stated in the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO Call-for-Project 2021, criterion 5. Efficiently operate, and invest in, the surface transportation system.

- Remove “*Sponsors are limited in their maximum local match.*” on pages 2, 7. Project Budget Summary.

Mr. Pollack suggested utilizing elements of the Corpus Christi MPO’s Strategic Plan for Active Mobility for project selection eligibility criteria. The Corpus Christi MPO must follow the federal guidelines for this program and apply the systematic scoring system to all eligible projects. The Corpus Christi MPO’s Strategic Plan for Active Mobility was not adopted by all member jurisdictions and since this SGBT-SA/Cat 9 program has a wide range of eligible categories and projects, the Corpus Christi MPO won’t use it as an eligibility criterion, however; if applied projects are in the Strategic Plan for Active Mobility, the project will receive points described in the Competitive Evaluation Criteria 1. TAC members agreed that the Strategic Plan for Active Mobility has not been updated since 2016 and limiting or precluding potentially eligible projects should be avoided.

TAC members expressed their concerns about the application deadline currently set on January 31, 2022, due to the coming holidays. There are also concerns that entities not familiar with federal grants and their requirements may have difficulties filling out the application form. Mr. MacDonald explained the current Call-for-Projects schedule has already been delayed from the original schedule due to the cancellation of TPC meetings. Additionally, the Corpus Christi MPO was notified by TxDOT to nominate the Category 2 (Metro/Urban Mobility) projects as a lead agency, and Category 4 (Statewide Urban Connectivity) projects as a cooperating agency for TxDOT’s 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) by January 11, 2022. The FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development schedule also requires the Corpus Christi MPO to complete the project selection for Category 2, 7 (Metro Mobility/Rehabilitation) and Category 9 by March 2022 and go through public involvement in March to June 2022 as described in the Discussion Item 5B and 5C memos. Project selections for Category 2 and Category 7 are in total \$300 million and must be based on the federally required Performance-Based Planning Programming, thus a systematic project selection methodology including the project evaluation system needs to be established.

TAC Chairperson Mr. DeLatta suggested to (1) hold workshops in January and February and as-needed consultation by the Corpus Christi MPO staff for STBG-SA/Cat 9 Call-for-Projects, (2) postpone the Application deadline to March 1, 2022, select projects and recommend TPC on April 21, 2022, and obtain TPC’s approval for these projects on May 5, 2022.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to move the STBG-SA/Cat 9 Call-for-Projects application deadline to March 1, 2022, and continue to work on the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO Call-for-Project 2021 and the DRAFT Application Form in the next TAC meeting, select projects on April 21 and recommend to the TPC in May. Ms. Munoz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Regional Safety Task Force**

The Corpus Christi MPO is planning to create a Regional Traffic Safety Task Force. The primary purpose of this Task Force is to address regional safety issues through a collaboration of multi-agencies and set regional goals, objectives, and actions. This idea was presented to the TPC during their November meeting and the Corpus Christi MPO received the consensus to move forward. The potential members serving on the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force and the proposed tasks are listed in the memo and the Corpus Christi MPO requested the TAC to provide comments and suggestions.

Ms. Munoz suggested removing the City of Corpus Christi Engineering Services, and instead, add the City of Corpus Christi Planning Department. Mr. Gillespie informed that San Patricio County has no EMT/Fire Department and suggested replacing the San Patricio County Road Maintenance with San Patricio County Engineer. Mr. Casper thanked the TAC members for the corrected information. During the discussion, Mr. Casper suggested adding towing companies to the list and the TAC members agreed.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested removing “all” from Task 6. “*Serve as steering committee for all regional transportation safety campaigns and projects.*” She also inquired how this multi-agencies Task Force would work logistically. It is not easy to convene this multi-jurisdiction, agency, and department personnel. However, the Corpus Christi MPO would work with the members and establish logistics such as meeting schedules and procedures. There are various meeting platforms available such as Microsoft TEAMS, Zoom, etc., and the Corpus Christi MPO is confident it can accommodate the members’ busy schedules.

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The Corpus Christi MPO will present this action item to the TPC in December and obtain their approval, then request the TPC Chairperson Judge Krebs to issue a letter for these potential member agencies.

Ms. Munoz made a motion to recommend the TPC to create a Regional Safety Task Force. Mr. Gillespie seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacDonald also informed the TAC that the Texas Transportation Commission also announced the creation of a statewide Safety Task Force comprised of the TxDOT and representatives from each MPO on August 31, 2021. There was a Texas MPO (TEMPO) meeting on November 16, 2021, and Mr. Michael Morris, the North Central Texas Council of Government, reported on the status of this Task Force. According to Mr. Morris, the Statewide Safety Task Force has been formed and seven MPO members were nominated and selected for the committee, not each MPOs as initially announced by TxDOT. Mr. MacDonald has been reaching out to TxDOT and TEMPO on how the Corpus Christi MPO can get involved in this Safety Task Force effort. Mr. MacDonald will keep the TAC and TPC posted on any updates on this matter.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Weighting the Relative Importance of the 8 Goals and 3 Non-Goal Scoring Criteria**

The Corpus Christi MPO requested the TAC members complete and submit the weighting exercise before the meeting. In September, the TAC members were asked to do a pair-wise comparison of eight 2045 MTP goals. The TPC members also did the pair-wise comparison, and the results are combined as the TPC directed. This exercise is for weighting relative importance to these prioritized or ranked eight goals based on the TAC and TPC's pair-wise comparison results by assigning a total of 100 points to each goal: more points for more important and less point for least important. Also, there are three additional Non-Goal criteria for the TAC and TPC to weight to determine regional priorities.

There were only two submissions from the TAC members and the intended outcome from the TAC meeting was unattainable. Mr. Casper will revise the weighting exercise table and distribute it before the next TAC meeting. Mr. DeLatte requested the TAC members to complete the exercise before the next TAC meeting.

### **B. TxDOT 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) MPO Project Selection Process**

As mentioned in Item 4B, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to nominate Category 2 projects for 2023 UTP by January 11, 2022. Mr. MacDonald provided the TAC members with an e-mail from TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division regarding the 2023 UTP Development, and the 2022 UTP development schedule as a reference. Based on the 2022 UTP development schedule and precedent pattern, the UTP is adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission every August. The UTP is a mid-range planning and programming document that connects TxDOT's long-range plan and State TIP or STIP. The Corpus Christi MPO is forecasting about \$130 million funding for Category 2 for the next 10-years from FY 2023 to FY 2032. The STBG-SA/CAT 9 project selection, 2023 UTP Category 2 project selection, and FY 2023-2026 TIP project selection will occur in a very short period of time through June 2022. The Corpus Christi MPO will bring this item back in the next meeting with more details.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested adding a footnote for Category 1 funding forecast in *TxDOT 2023 UTP Funding Estimate for Corpus Christi MPO* that clarifies the amount is for 10 counties and the Corpus Christi MPO will receive approximately 10 to 15% of the total CAT 1 amount.

### **C. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development**

Mr. MacDonald provided the FY 2023-2026 TIP Development schedule provided by TxDOT. As mentioned during items 4B and 5B, the Corpus Christi MPO needs to nominate Category 2 projects for 2023 UTP (10 years) by January 11, 2022, and program Category 2, Category 7 and Category 9 projects into FY 2023-2026 TIP by mid-March.

With the ongoing project selection for STBG-SA/CAT 9, the deadline for these Cat 2 and Cat 7 project submissions are very tight. The Corpus Christi MPO anticipates special meetings/workshops to make these deadlines.

Mr. MacDonald suggested as an option to utilize the 2045 MTP Table 12. 2020-2045 Fiscally Constrained Project List as a springboard for Cat 2 and Cat 7 project selection because the TAC members went through the project prioritization process in 2019 for the 2020-20245 MTP.

This item will be also brought back to the next TAC meeting.

## 6. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Federal Certification Review Initial Observations and Comments

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC on the Federal Certification Review (FCR) conducted virtually from October 26 through October 28, 2021. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), TxDOT, and CCRTA representatives were present. Three TPC members were interviewed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, October 28, 2021.

The overall evaluation was very positive. The Corpus Christi MPO's Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD) that compiles the Environmental Justice (EJ), Limited English Proficiency (LEP), Title VI, and Achieving Racial Equity (ARE) into one comprehensive document was commended highly by the FHWA's Public Outreach expert. The final FCR report will be delivered to the TPC Chair, typically in six to eight months.

### B. Member Agency Project and Program Updates

No updates.

## 7. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC

### A. Freight Infrastructure Design Considerations April 2021 Executive Summary

Mr. MacDonald provided a link to TxDOT's *FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS* published in April 2021 as reading material for the TAC members as an ad-hoc Freight Advisory Committee.

### B. The Economic Role of Freight in Texas April 2021 Executive Summary

Mr. MacDonald also provided a link to TxDOT's *THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF FREIGHT IN TEXAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*. This is also published in April 2021. This is an executive summary of freight and Texas economy information for each TxDOT District and Texas overall.

### C. The Economic Role of Freight in the Corpus Christi District April 2021

This is the excerpt of the TxDOT Corpus Christi District in *THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF FREIGHT IN TEXAS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY* shared in item 7B. It showed the economic impact of freight in the Corpus Christi District.

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

None were made or offered.

## 8. Upcoming Meetings:

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting:	December 2, 2021
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting:	December 16, 2021

The tentatively scheduled CAT 9 Workshop #1 on December 16, 2021, has been cancelled as discussed in item 4B.

## 9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 A.M.