

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, December 16, 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  
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County  
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County  
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)  
Dan McGinn, AICP, 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 NOVEMBER 18 2021 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021, TAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Robinson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. ACTION ITEMS**

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

Mr. Casper briefed on the current status of the Weighting the Relative Importance of the 8 Goals and 3 Non-Goal Scoring Criteria. The Corpus Christi MPO received four responses from the TAC members and 85 responses from the public. The table in the Item 4A memo shows the considerable differences of the importance of these 8 goals among the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and the TAC members. The responses from the public also show the wide-spread results. Mr. Casper provided the data from the public responses:

Goals	Survey Results
Maintain infrastructure in good condition	17%
Protect communities, the natural environment, and historic resources	15%
Reduce congestion on regional corridors	14%
Provide an equitable transportation system regardless of age, ability, race, ethnicity, or income	13%
Reduce fatalities and serious injuries	13%
Efficiently invest in the surface transportation system	12%
Improve the regional economy	11%
Improve freight facility performance	6%

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if this exercise is only for Category 9 (CAT 9) or applicable for all categories, and if the public was asked the relative importance of these 8 Goals for CAT 9 projects only or all transportation projects. Mr. Casper stated that the exercise was intended for CAT 9 prioritization but the survey did not specify this was for CAT 9 only. Mr. Pollack commented that he thought this was for all transportation projects since the goals include “improve freight facility performance,” which is less relevant to the CAT 9 projects. Ms. Sales-Evans commented that each category has specific project eligibility and emphasis and it should be considered. Mr. MacDonald answered that all transportation

projects regardless the funding categories should be evaluated with these 8 Goals because: (1) these 8 Goals are stated in the Corpus Christi MPO’s 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as regional goals in transportation planning and (2) the Corpus Christi MPO is required to do the performance-based planning and programming. The Corpus Christi MPO was notified the current CAT 9 funding of about \$1.2 million is on the clock of being lapsed; thus the selection of CAT 9 projects in a timely manner is crucial, and establishing the scoring criteria needs to be understood and accepted by the TAC as a part of the process. Since the weight for each goal recommended by the TAC and approved by the TPC will be used for multiplying the raw scores for the total scores, this exercise is one of the key factors in the process.

Mr. Pollack asked why a more simple, straightforward scoring system cannot be used for the project selection and if the current scoring system can be switched to it. Mr. Casper answered it is not appropriate because the current methodology was recommended by the TAC and approved by the TPC, and the public was already participating in the process.

There were some discussions on how this public input could be reflected in the weighting. The TAC, TPC and the public are in consensus of “Maintain infrastructure in good condition” as the most important and “Improve freight facility performance” as the least important, and other 6 Goals are closely ranked in importance. Based on these results, Mr. DeLatte proposed to apply 20, 20, 15, 15, 10, 10, 9 and 1 for these 8 Goals. Ms. Sales-Evans proposed to tweak these numbers to make these weights more relative and Mr. DeLatte proposed to apply 25, 20, 15, 10, 10, 10, 9 and 1.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired how these 3 Non-Goal Scoring Criteria, Consistency with the 2045 Corpus Christi MPO MTP, Connectivity Enhancement, and Project Readiness and Deliverability can be applied. The DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO Call-for-Projects explains these criteria and points in detail on page 10, 13, and 14 respectively. Mr. DeLatte proposed to apply 20, 20, and 15 for the 3 Non-Goal Scoring Criteria.

Mr. DeLatte made a motion to recommend the TPC to approve the weighting the relative importance of the 8 Goals and 3 Non-Goal Scoring Criteria as discussed, apply 25, 20, 15, 10, 10, 10, 9 and 1 for the 8 Goals in the current order, and apply 20, 20, and 15 for the 3 Non-Goal Scoring Criteria. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded, Mr. Pollack abstained; the motion passed unanimously.

<b>Scoring Criteria – 8 Goals</b>	<b>Assigned Weight</b>
Maintain Infrastructure in good condition	25
Efficiently invest in the surface transportation system	20
Reduce fatalities and serious Injuries	15
Reduce congestion on regional corridors	10
Provide an equitable transportation system regardless of age, ability, race, ethnicity, or income	10
Protect communities, the natural environment, and historic resources	10
Improve the regional economy	9
Improve freight facility performance	1
<b>Scoring Criteria – Non Goals</b>	<b>Assigned Weight</b>
Consistency with the 2045 MTP	20
Connectivity Enhancement	20
Project Readiness and Deliverability	15

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

During the November TAC meeting, the Corpus Christi MPO reviewed Mr. Pollack’s comments and the Corpus Christi MPO’s responses to his comments on the DRAFT STBG-SA Category 9 Funding Project Call-for Projects Application Form and the following edits were proposed:

- 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 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.

The “*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 remains because the scoring system gives extra points for these projects. “*Sponsors are limited in their maximum local match.*” on pages 2, 7. Project Budget Summary should be removed, but the attached application form still has this sentence. The Corpus Christi MPO will remove it and send the updated application form to the TAC members and post it on the Corpus Christi MPO website.

The discussion on the DRAFT STBG-SA Category 9 Funding Project Call-for-Projects Application Form was continued in this meeting. Mr. Pollack made the following suggestions:

- Eliminate 6. Project Description on Page 1
- Add “Dollar value” in front of Local Match and add “minimum” in front of 20%
- Remove “On Street” from Bicycle Facilities and use the names of facility types used in the Corpus Christi MPO’s Strategic Plan for Active Mobility
- Correct the application due date of Category 9 Process Timeline for 2022-2025 Funds in the DRAFT STBG-SA Category 9 Funding Project Call-for-Projects from January 31, 2022 to March 1, 2022.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented that the application form was based on the TxDOT’s Rural STBG-SA program, and it uses bike facility names used by credible organizations such as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) so it can remain as is. Mr. Pollack stated that the facility names used in the Corpus Christi MPO Strategic Plan for Active Mobility were from the bicycle experts, and assured the TAC that he has been serving the TxDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and these terms are used by them as the standards.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented that the local sponsors’ notion of environmental clearance and federal environmental requirements are different and she wanted to make sure it is addressed. She also commented on item 22. Project Timeline on Page 7, “*Several activities should be accomplished concurrently (such as environmental documentation, PS&E development, railroad coordination, and property acquisition)*” and pointed out that environmental documentation and property acquisition cannot occur at the same time. Mr. Casper explained that the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law changed the requirement and it can be now done simultaneously. Ms. Sales-Evans suggested changing ‘should’ to ‘could’, removing the property acquisition and parenthesis in this sentence. She also pointed out that the last sentence in the second paragraph on Page 14 in the STBG-SA Guidance is repeated twice and should be removed. Mr. MacDonald assured her that all needed information including federal requirements are provided in the DRAFT STBG-SA Category 9 Funding Project Call-for-Projects.

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend the TPC the STBG-SA/Cat 9 Call-for-Projects Application Form with the revision listed above in the bullets. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

The Corpus Christi MPO will (1) correct the application due date in the Category 9 Process Timeline for 2022-2025 Funds, (2) remove the repeated sentence on Page 14, and (3) insert the Weighting Table result into 8 Goals and Non-Goal tables on Page 27 and send it to the TAC members.

### **C. 2022 Adoption of Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets**

The Corpus Christi MPO is required to adopt Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets annually. The memo provided the TxDOT’s established Safety Measures and Targets for 2022 that the Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends to adopt. The memo also provides the Corpus Christi MPO’s Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets that are State Targets modified to be relevant to the Corpus Christi MPO region for illustrative-purposes only. This Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets, if recommended by the TAC, will be submitted to the TPC with Resolution for adoption. The Corpus Christi

MPO requested the TAC to review the Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets and the draft Resolution 22-02.

Mr. Pimentel made a motion to recommend the TPC adopt the TxDOT 2022 Safety (PM1) Performance Measures and Targets. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

The Corpus Christi MPO was requested by the TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming (TPP) Division to nominate Category 2 projects as the lead agency and Category 4 projects as a supporting agency (the lead agency is TxDOT Corpus Christi District) for the 2023 UTP by January 11, 2022. The Corpus Christi MPO is also required to develop FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and select Category 7 and Category 9 projects.

The estimated funding for Category 2, 4, 7 and 9 are provided in the memo. The Corpus Christi MPO proposed the submission of attached Project Application Form, revised from the CAT 9 Project Application Form for other categories, for the projects currently listed in the 2045 MTP. The purpose of the submission of the Application Form is to enable the Corpus Christi MPO to obtain the project details and current status for project prioritization and selection process discussion.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented that each funding Category has specific definitions and requirements, thus requiring different Application Forms tailored by the Category specifics. Since the deadline is so close, she suggested holding workshops and sponsor agencies' revisits of projects for its cost estimate and project scope. Mr. MacDonald agreed and stated that the Corpus Christi MPO would schedule workshops and special meetings to discuss Category 2, 4, 7, and 9 projects selection and how to allocate funding.

### **B. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Selection Process**

As mentioned in Item 5A, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop a FY 2023-2026 TIP. This will be discussed in the individual meetings with partner agencies, workshops, and the upcoming TAC meetings. More details will be provided in the next TAC meeting and Workshop #1 scheduled on January 20, 2022. Mr. Casper informed the TAC that the Corpus Christi MPO is currently working with a consulting firm to establish a data-driven systematic project selection process that would be available in late Summer 2022 and possibly ready to use it for the 2023 project selection.

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. UPWP Partner Agency Planning Study Coordination and Update**

Mr. Casper requested the TAC to bring all current and new transportation-related planning efforts anticipated in the region from 2022 to 2024 that the Corpus Christi MPO needs to list these efforts in the FY 2023-2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The *PARTNER AGENCY PLANNING STUDY COORDINATION* section excerpted from FY 2021-2022 UPWP was provided to the TAC for updates, status reports, and for 2022-2024 listing purposes.

### **B. Member Agency Project and Program Updates**

The City of Portland will have a preconstruction meeting for the Memorial Parkway Hike and Bike Trail this week.

The Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) has awarded a contract to Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. for the Long-Range System Plan.

## **7. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC**

### **A. Pavement and Bridge Conditions (PM2) and System Performance and Freight (PM3) Progress Report Source Document.**

The Corpus Christi MPO provided a link to FHWA's *Transportation Performance Management State Biennial Performance Report for Performance Period 2018-2021, 2020 MID PERFORMANCE PERIOD*

(MPP) *PROGRESS REPORT* exported on November 18, 2020 as information. The Pavement and Bridge Conditions (PM2) and System Performance and Freight (PM3) Performance Measures and Targets will be discussed by the TAC in the January meeting.

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

None were made or offered.

**9. Upcoming Meetings:**

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|---|-------------------------|
| <b>A. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting:</b>                      | <b>January 6, 2022</b>  |
| <b>B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting &amp; CAT 9 Workshop #1:</b> | <b>January 20, 2021</b> |

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M.