

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 20, 2022**

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

Chairperson Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

TAC Members Present:

Chairperson Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland

Vice Chairperson Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County

Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County

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

Sarah Munoz, P.E., City of Corpus Christi

Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi (Alternate)

MPO Staff Present: Robert MacDonald, P.E.; Craig Casper, AICP; Daniel Carrizales; Victor Mendieta; and Yoshiko Boulan

2. Election of Officers

In accordance with the Corpus Christi MPO Bylaws, the Technical Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its voting members during the first meeting of each calendar year.

Ms. Munoz made a motion to re-elect Chairperson DeLatte for Chairperson, Mr. Gillespie seconded. Chairperson DeLatte made a motion to re-elect Vice Chairperson Robinson for Vice Chairperson, Mr. Gillespie seconded. Both motions passed unanimously; Chairperson DeLatte is re-elected for the TAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson Robinson is re-elected for the TAC Vice Chairperson for calendar year 2022.

3. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None were made or offered.

4. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2021 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairperson Robinson made a motion to approve the December 16, 2021, TAC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Pimentel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. ACTION ITEMS

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

This item and the next item, FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Selection Process, are closely related and were discussed during the December TAC meeting. The Corpus Christi MPO has been soliciting the TAC members' feedback and comments for the following suggested project selection process for both 2023 UTP and FY 2023-2026 TIP: (1) limiting the project selection from the 2020-2045 MTP Fiscally Constrained Project List as shown in Table 12 of the FY 2021-2024 Corpus Christi MPO TIP. The TAC evaluated, prioritized and recommended this list to the Transportation Policy Committee for approval as the region's priority project list, including the mid-range (10 years) and long-range (25 years) time frame two years ago, (2) the project sponsor entities will fill out the attached DRAFT CATEGORY 2, 4, AND 7 APPLICATION FORM for the most current information and status of each project.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented the following: (1) the projects selected for the first 4 years of the 2023 UTP are not automatically included in the FY 2023-2026 TIP, (2) combining Category 2, 4, and 7 into one application form is problematic due to the specific features for each funding category. The DRAFT CATEGORY 2, 4, AND 7 APPLICATION FORM seems to be still tailored for Category 9, and objectives for Category 2 and 4 such as connectivity and mobility are not fully reflected in this form, and the TxDOT Corpus Christi District typically uses Category 4 funding as supplemental funding for Category 2 projects,

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(3) suggest for changing “local” in the Funding Summary on page 2 to other term for clarification purposes.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the primary purpose of this DRAFT CATEGORY 2, 4, AND 7 APPLICATION FORM as proof of concept for collecting more current and detailed information for each project to aid the evaluation process. The information currently included in the TIP and UTP descriptions such as the project sponsor, project purpose, expected benefits, cost estimate, the status of the environmental clearance, Right-of-Way acquisition, etc., is insufficient to use in project evaluation and scoring. Next years’ process will facilitate projects that are not already included in the fiscally-constrained project list and will also be more rigorous and use better tools and data. Mr. MacDonald further discussed that the color of the funding is secondary to prioritizing the most beneficial projects. He suggested that only after the “best” projects are prioritized should the color of funding be determined. He agreed with the change of the term “local” and proposed to use “non-federal.” The Corpus Christi MPO staff checked other MPOs in Texas such as Capital Area MPO (CAMPO), and they use one application form for all funding Categories with a supplementary sheet if necessary. Mr. MacDonald will send CAMPO’s application form to the TAC members for reference.

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend to the TPC that they approve the general direction to nominate projects for the 2023 UTP as proposed by the Corpus Christi MPO with further discussion and modification to the application form. Mr. Gillespie seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

The suggested edits for the application form will be made, then finalized after further discussion by the TAC.

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

As mentioned in Item 5A above, because the schedule is very tight, the updated data and systematic project selection tools are not yet available. This includes the final Category 7 funding amount not being available until after February 2022. And so the Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends using the same process for both the 2023 UTP and FY 2023-2026 TIP: (1) limiting projects to those included in the FY 2021-2024 Corpus Christi MPO TIP Table 12, (2) using the same DRAFT CATEGORY 2, 4, AND 7 APPLICATION FORM for collecting the most current and accurate information on each project.

The estimated Category 7 funding is \$38 million, plus the Corpus Christi MPO is expecting additional carry-over so more than \$40 million will be available over the 4 years of the TIP for Category 7 projects.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired how the Corpus Christi MPO allocates the \$40 million for the TIP (4-years) and UTP (10-years) timeframe. Mr. MacDonald stated that the Corpus Christi MPO would allocate all available funding amounts because (1) pooling fund is not allowed by TxDOT, (2) Category 7 Surface Transportation Block Grant funding is the most flexible and versatile among the federal funding categories, and (3) the Texas Transportation Commission launched the State-wide Safety Task Force and unused Category 5 and Category 7 funds may be used for this program. He also mentioned that these project selections can be changed at any time with TAC and TPC actions.

Mr. MacDonald stated that although the Corpus Christi MPO staff expects to program all of these funds, the more rigorous and flexible 2024 UTP process will allow different projects to be included and prioritized against all of these funds. The Corpus Christi MPO must go through all required steps such as public involvement process and the Draft FY 2023-2026 TIP should be approved by the TPC in June, thus project selection needs to be moved forward. If some changes are needed, TIP can be amended monthly and the STIP is amended quarterly.

Ms. Sales-Evans reminded the TAC members that after projects are included in the TIP, they fall under federal regulations and requirements.

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend the general direction to select projects for the FY 2023-2026 TIP as proposed by the Corpus Christi MPO with further discussion and modification to the application. Mr. Gillespie seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1

Mr. Casper explained that the FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP needs to be amended in order to (1) align staff time for expected work and products in FY 2022, (2) reflect the changes by 2020 Census data, (3) reflect new Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), include the efforts necessitated by new Executive Orders and the new required Planning Emphasis Areas, (4) match actual federal PL 112 and FTA 5303 (TPF) funding levels, (5) incorporate the findings of both the Corpus Christi MPO After Action Report and the Quadrennial FHWA-FTA Certification.

Within the above items, the Corpus Christi MPO staff identified more needs than existing TPF funding levels would finance. Serendipitously, there are \$3.2 million in Covid relief Category 7 funds that are available to the MPO that are 100% federal. By not having the usual requirement for 20% of non-federal match the MPO can utilize these funds for a once in a decade update to tools and processes. The Corpus Christi MPO proposed to use between \$1.5 million and \$2 million for hiring consultants to develop and implement tools for the regional performance-based planning and programming process. The 6A memo listed the expected deliverables from these consultant services as follows:

- An enhanced regional Travel Demand Model
- Meso-level traffic model for corridor level analysis
- Detailed selected intersection analysis for Congestion Management Process
- Region-wide crash analysis
- Development of Regional Safety Plan
- Regional Pavement and Bridge Model
- UrbanSim Socio-economic Allocation Model
- Resiliency and Mitigation Planning Coordination
- Resiliency Plan/HAZUS Model
- Complete Streets Plan and Policy
- Active Transportation/Micro-mobility Plan
- Region-wide walkability and bikeability scoring
- TIP Project Selection Tool

Ms. Sales-Evans asked about the process to include the Category 7 funds into the UPWP or the TIP. The Corpus Christi MPO has looked at the other MPOs in Texas that do this and will bring more detailed information for the next TAC meeting.

B. FY 2023 – FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

As mentioned in Item 6A, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop a FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP. The new FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP needs to describe the Corpus Christi MPO's Performance-based Planning and Programming (PBPP) planning work reflecting with the changes required by 2020 Census data, reflect new Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), include the efforts necessitated by new Executive Orders and the new required Planning Emphasis Areas, match actual federal PL 112 and FTA 5303 (TPF) funding levels, incorporate the findings of both the Corpus Christi MPO After Action Report and the Quadrennial FHWA-FTA Certification. Regional transportation-related studies and activities that are conducted by local and state agencies in the federal fiscal year 2023 and 2024 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024) need to be included in the FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP, and the Corpus Christi MPO requested the TAC members to submit their entities' planning activities anticipated in this time period.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Member Agency Project and Program Updates

Chairperson DeLatte informed that the City of Portland's Memorial Parkway Hike & Bike Trail Project started construction two weeks ago.

8. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC

A. 2045 MTP Freight Chapter Review for Updates for the 2050 MTP

The Corpus Christi MPO provided a link to the 2020 – 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Freight Chapter for review and comments. The development of the 2025 – 2050 MTP is coming up and the Corpus Christi MPO needs any information related to Freight, Freight Planning, and Freight Projects in the region.

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

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC that the Texas Transportation Forum will be held on February 6 through 8, 2022 and registration is open now.

10. Upcoming Meetings:

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| A. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting: | February 3, 2022 |
| B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting & CAT 9 Workshop #2: | February 17, 2022 |

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 A.M.