

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 17, 2022**

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

Chairperson Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

TAC Members Present:

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

Vice Chairperson 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

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

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 JANUARY 20, 2022 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Munoz made a motion to approve the January 20, 2022, TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

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

Mr. MacDonald provided the TxDOT 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Development PowerPoint presented in January Texas Transportation Commission meeting. We are now at the “Determine funding distribution by UTP category” stage in the UTP Development Process on Page 4. There is a comprehensive year-long Timeline that shows the UTP development schedule with key actions by month on page 5. TxDOT Headquarters would finalize statewide prioritization and scoring of mobility projects in February. The Item 4A memo provided the updated funding forecast provided by TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division on February 4, 2022. Based on their forecast, the Corpus Christi MPO will receive \$137 million Category 2 funding, \$68 million Category 4 funding, \$111 million Category 7 funding, and \$12 million Category 9 funding for FY 2023 through FY 2032, for a total of \$329.5 million. Category 1 funding is for TxDOT Corpus Christi (CRP) District that covers 10 counties and the District will determine how this funding is used, typically as supplemental funding for other Categories. Attachment 4 shows the projects TxDOT-CRP District submitted to TPP as the potential 2023 UTP projects, totaling \$241.5 million.

Mr. MacDonald stated that some of these proposed projects need further discussion: (1) FM 624 (CSJ#0989-02-057) is funded with Category 2, 4, and 7. Category 7 funding distribution will be discussed during the FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project selection, (2) SH 35 (CSJ#0180-06-118) and SH 361 (CSJ#0180-10-082) need to verify both projects are completely in the MPO boundary.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated that among these proposed projects, FM 624 (CSJ#0989-02-057) and PR 22 (CSJ# 0617-02-073) need further discussion with the City of Corpus Christi regarding the project scope, intention, design, and related matters. Also, due to the newly requested SH 286 (CSJ#0326-03-103) project, SH 35 (CSJ#0180-06-118) and SH 361 (CSJ#0180-10-082) projects might be delayed a year or so based on the funding forecast and fiscally constrained requirement.

Mr. MacDonald requested that the TAC recommend to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) to release the proposed 2023 UTP projects for a one-month public comment period.

**TAC APPROVED MINUTES**

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired if the DRAFT Application Form is needed for the 2023 UTP Projects. Mr. MacDonald said that the Corpus Christi MPO would not require the Application Form for 2023 UTP projects nomination since (1) the timeline was very tight, (2) Development of the 2023 UTP is TxDOT-led process. The data-driven systematic scoring tools based on the Performance-Based Planning and Programming and other federal requirements will be available and the Corpus Christi MPO will use these tools and application form for 2024 UTP.

Mr. Robinson made a motion to recommend to the TPC to release the nominated projects for 2023 UTP for a one-month public comment period. Mr. Gillespie seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. FY2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Selection**

Mr. Casper explained the FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Project Selection Process. As discussed in the previous TAC meetings, the Corpus Christi MPO proposed (1) no Call-for-Projects for FY 2023 – 2026 TIP but to use 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Project List for project selection, (2) requiring an application form for collecting the most current project information, (3) no new project added for FY 2023 – 2026 TIP at this time but prioritizing the existing projects in the 2045 MTP and FY 2021 - 2024 TIP. As mentioned in Item 4A, the new funding estimates became available and the table for Fiscal Year 2023 through 2026 has been updated and provided in the Item 5A cover memo. The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting approximately \$151 million for Category 2, 4, 7, and 9 for Fiscal Year 2023 through 2026. The total Category 7 funding is \$44.7 million, and this fund can be used for projects such as maintenance, operation, and safety at various locations on the Corpus Christi MPO's regionally significant corridor in the Congestion Management Process (Attachment 8) or supplemental funding for other Categories. The intent of the Corpus Christi MPO staff is to secure all Category 7 funding for the existing prioritized projects and possibly the safety, maintenance and operations TIP line item until updated or new CAT 7 projects are identified.

The Corpus Christi MPO provided the Alamo Area MPO's Application Form as a reference as requested in the January TAC meeting. The AAMPO's Application Form is also multi-category (Category 2, 4, 5, 7, and 9) and consists of "base" application sections and "supplemental" information sections that require much more detailed information depending on the type of project.

Ms. Sales-Evans expressed her concern that one application form would not fit all Categories, and it may be unable to capture Category specific criteria, features, and amenities, etc. Category 2 and 4 funding are specifically for State Highway System and addressing mobility and connectivity, while other Categories are for its own specific goals.

Mr. MacDonald requested that the TAC consider and provide their input for the appropriate Application Form for this process if they want an individualized application form for each Category, a multi-categories application form like the Corpus Christi MPO is proposing, or a "base" and "supplemental" information application format like the AAMPO's Form. Since the project selection for the FY 2023 – 2026 should be moved forward, and the new Infrastructure Bill (IIJA/BIL) will provide considerable funding opportunities, the decision on the application form is urgent.

Mr. Casper mentioned the Department of Transportation (DOT)'s RAISE Grants are accepting applications as the first discretionary funding program under IIJA/BIL with new requirements and criteria for the selection process.

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the Corpus Christi MPO staff and the TAC that TxDOT typically hires a consultant to analyze and implement agency-wide requirements and process when a new Transportation Bill is enacted.

Mr. MacDonald requested the TAC to review the DRAFT FY 2023 – 2026 TIP Document (weblink was provided) for the discussion in the next TAC meeting.

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

As mentioned in the January TAC meeting, 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 IIJA/BIL requirements, include the efforts necessitated by the new Executive Orders and the new required Planning Emphasis Areas, match actual federal PL 112 and FTA 5303 (TPF) funding levels, and incorporate the findings of both the Corpus Christi MPO After Action Report and the result of 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.

A joint letter from FHWA and FTA Regional Administrations that guides the Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) for MPOs and State DOT for planning and research programs was provided to the TAC. Mr. Casper briefly explained the major emphasis areas: (1) Climate Changes – greenhouse gas reduction, net-zero emissions, resiliency plans, alternative fuel vehicles, etc., (2) Equity and Justice 40 – support the underserved communities and disadvantaged populations, reduce public transportation fares, improve non-motorized transportation, safety plan for all road users, etc., two Executive Orders are issued that require 40% of Federal Investments goes to underserved communities., (3) Complete Streets – this concept is streets of network that all users, pedestrian, bicyclists, transit riders, ADA, freight-related, etc., feel safe, comfortable, and accessible, (4) Public Involvement – increase meaningful public involvement, specifically integrating Virtual Public Involvement to keep and increase the public participation, (5) Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) and US Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination – coordinate with DOD representatives for infrastructure and connectivity needs on STRAHNET, (6) Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination – infrastructure and connectivity needs related to access routes to Federal lands, (7) Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) – implementation of PEL to consider environmental, community, and economic goals, (8) Transportation Planning Data – data sharing among the transportation planning agencies.

Our region has the Naval Air Station – Corpus Christi (NAS-CC), the Port of Corpus Christi, and the Padre Island National Seashore that all relate to emphasis area DOD Coordination and FLMA. For example, Waldron – Yorktown is a potential roadway for the STRAHNET and DOD linkage. The Corpus Christi MPO will discuss with TxDOT for data sharing, and acquire the necessary data for transportation planning.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired when the Corpus Christi MPO will develop the Active Mobility Plan Phase 2 or a plan for pedestrians. The number of pedestrian fatalities is quite high in this region. Mr. Pollack said that the Corpus Christi's Active Mobility Plan should not be named Phase 1, since the plan is not only related to the bicyclists and bicycle network, but also includes pedestrian paths, ADA compliance, and specific locations on Safe Route To School, etc.

Mr. Casper stated that as soon as the funding becomes available, the Corpus Christi MPO will start the development of a micromobility plan for all users with the new Infrastructure Bill requirements.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired how these disadvantaged communities can be linked to specific roadways. Mr. Casper answered that the Corpus Christi MPO is still studying Justice40 and how to implement it and its requirements and guidance. So far, the Corpus Christi MPO is identifying these underserved and disadvantaged communities geographically with data to make the connection for the next MTP project selection process.

There is a link to the DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP in the memo Item 5B that Mr. MacDonald requested the TAC to read and review by the next TAC meeting and provide the comments for discussion.

### **C. FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment**

As mentioned in the January TAC meeting, an amendment to the current FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP is needed to (1) reflect the new Infrastructure Bill (IIJA/BIL) requirements, changing in funding and regional priorities, and so forth, (2) realign staff time to subtasks based on the 2045 MTP After Action Report and these above-mentioned new changes, and (3) incorporate the identified needs for planning capabilities. Currently, the Corpus Christi MPO has \$3.2 million Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds and is planning to use approximately \$2 million for the necessary planning capability investments. The identified needs are listed in the Item 5C memo; the detailed scope of service and product costs will be presented to the TAC and TPC. The Corpus Christi MPO asks the TAC for their review and comments on

**TAC APPROVED MINUTES**

the proposed deliverables and the DRAFT FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP with Amendment 1 (link was provided). The regional transportation planning efforts by the partner agencies are also needed to be updated. The City of Corpus Christi provided the current status of these planning efforts. The Corpus Christi MPO will have separate meetings with other partner agencies. This item will be discussed in next TAC meeting and submitted to the TPC at their April meeting.

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Federal IIJA/BIL Grant Opportunities Process Fact Sheet**

Mr. MacDonald provided “BULDING A BETTER AMERICA” FACT SHEET: Competitive Infrastructure Funding Opportunities for Local Government for the TAC members’ reference. There are 25 infrastructure funding opportunities including transportation, and TAC members are encouraged to explore the potential projects applicable for these grants.

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

Mr. Gordon reported that the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) hired Nelson Nygaard Consulting for their Long Range System Plan and closely working with the Corpus Christi MPO. Due to the pandemic, the ridership of CCRTA has drastically decreased and they are working on how to get the ridership back with this plan.

## **7. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC**

### **A. 2022 Port Performance Freight Statistics Program: Supply-Chain Feature**

There is a provided link to the 2022 Port Performance Freight Statistics Program: Supply-Chain Feature published by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics in January 2022 as one of the Regional Freight Topics. The Port of Corpus Christi is included in the Top 25 Ports by Total Tonnage in 2020.

Mr. Pollack mentioned that the statistics provided in these reports are sometimes not accurate. If the number shown in this report is not correct, he will provide the correct number to the TAC.

### **B. Driverless Trucks Set to Take Over Roads in Texas**

A link to Driverless Trucks tested in Texas article was provided as another Regional Freight Topic. Texas is the state that autonomous trucking businesses are interested in due to the number of truck drivers, weather, foreign trades with Mexico and Canada, and major freight hubs like Dallas and Houston.

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

Ms. Sales-Evans reported to the TAC that the Texas Transportation Forum had great presentations and found the robotic delivery vehicles to be especially interesting. She inquired as to how this technology can be implemented in the infrastructure and these newly required “Complete Street” concept.

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC that the first Regional Safety Task Force meeting is planned for March 3, 2022, right after the TPC meeting.

## **9. Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <b>A. STBG-SA (CAT 9) Call-for-Projects Workshop #2</b>                         | <b>February 17, 2022</b> |
| <b>B. STBG-SA (CAT 9) Project Application Due</b>                               | <b>March 1, 2022</b>     |
| <b>C. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting:</b>                      | <b>March 3, 2022</b>     |
| <b>D. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting &amp; CAT 9 Workshop #2:</b> | <b>March 17, 2022</b>    |

## **10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 A.M.