

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

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

Chairperson Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:02 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

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 FEBRUARY 17, 2022 TAC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to approve the February 17, 2022, TAC Meeting Minutes. Ms. Munoz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

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

This item was discussed in the February TAC meeting. The TAC recommended the TPC to release these 2023 UTP candidate projects submitted by TxDOT Corpus Christi District for a one-month public comment period. There was no change or update on the funding forecast or proposed projects and the Corpus Christi MPO has not received any comments as of March 17, 2022. If approved by the TPC, these projects are included in TxDOT 2023 UTP as regional priorities for the next ten years.

Mr. MacDonald identified projects that need further discussion:

Project	Required discussion	Participating Agencies
FM 624 (Northwest Blvd.)	Project Scope/Funding	City of Corpus Christi, TxDOT – CRP, Nueces County (and Corpus Christi MPO)
SH 35	Project Limit/ Funding	TxDOT – CRP and Corpus Christi MPO
SH 361	Project Limit/Funding	TxDOT – CRP and Corpus Christi MPO
PR 22	Project Scope/Funding	City of Corpus Christi, TxDOT – CRP (and Corpus Christi MPO)

FM 624 project is currently programmed as one of the long-range projects in the Corpus Christi MPO’s 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), therefore, if the project is moved up to short-range (FY 2021-2024), an amendment needs to be made in the 2045 MTP.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend to the TPC the 2023 UTP candidate projects. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**B. FY 2021 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 5**

As previously discussed, the Corpus Christi MPO is anticipating an additional \$3.2 million Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding that is 100% federal fund and does not require the usual 20%

local match. The Corpus Christi MPO staff has requested \$2 million from the STBG funds to acquire the necessary tools, data, and projects for short and long-range transportation planning. The identified needs were listed in Item 4B memo. These transportation tools are for regional transportation planning and the Corpus Christi MPO will share the products with local partner agencies.

The additional \$2 million is identified as MPO-067, Implement enhanced tools and data analysis for use in short-range programming and long-range planning, in the attached Table 13a. This change should be included in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP as Amendment 5 and released to the public for one-month public comment period based on the Corpus Christi MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Ms. Munoz inquired how the rest of the additional STBG funding would be spent and if it would still be 100% federal and not require local match.

Mr. Casper answered that the remaining fund is still 100% federal and will be used for other transportation planning purposes based on the TAC and TPC discussions.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend to the TPC to release the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP Amendment 5 for a one-month public comment period. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **C. DRAFT FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1**

This item is accompanied by the previous discussion/action item. The additional \$2 million for planning tools, data, and projects must be also reflected in the FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as Amendment 1 and solicit public comment for one-month based on the Corpus Christi MPO's PPP. The changes are shown in the table in Item 4C memo; add \$2 million in UPWP Task 1.0 and remove \$40,000 from UPWP Task 4.0.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend to the TPC to release the FY 2021 – 2022 UPWP Amendment 1 for a one-month public comment period. Mr. Robinson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **D. DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

The Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop the UPWP laying out the planned transportation planning efforts and activities carried out by the Corpus Christi MPO staff for the subject fiscal years. The DRAFT 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP reflects the new requirements under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA/BIL) and Executive Orders, and Planning Emphasis Areas provided by FHWA/FTA. These requirements are listed in the Item 4D memo. The available funding for FY 2023 and FY 2024 has not yet been made available, therefore the DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP is based on the FY 2021 funding amount. The funding allocation for UPWP Tasks is also in the Item 4D memo. If the finding amount is officially determined, the funding allocation for each UPWP tasks will be updated.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend to the TPC to release the DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP for a one-month public comment period. Ms. Munoz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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

This item has been discussed in previous meetings and will continue to be discussed until the project selection process is established. As provided in February TAC, the most current funding estimate for FY 2023 – 2026 Category 2, 4, 7, and 9 totals \$151 million. The Corpus Christi MPO is also anticipating receiving the rollover funding for Category 7 and Category 9.

The attached Table 12 shows the projects currently in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP, mid-range (10 years), and long-range (more than 10 years) planning. As a first step for developing FY 2023 – 2026 TIP, these projects in the Table 12 need to be revisited. Projects in the current FY 2021 – 2024 TIP need to be updated with the most current status and should be removed from the table if it is already under construction or if it has some issue to move forward in the programmed year. For example, I-37 (MPO-002) project is already under construction, thus it should be removed from the table. Park Road 22 (MPO-016) project has been included in the FY 2021 – 2024 TIP but no additional scope of the project nor sponsoring agency is identified. If there is no update, this project should be removed from the table

as well. The sponsor agencies that listed their projects in Table 12 are requested to update the current status, cost estimate, readiness, and so forth of the projects for further discussion to select FY 2023 – 2026 TIP projects. Mr. MacDonald told the TAC that the Corpus Christi MPO staff is available for in-person meetings with each agency to discuss these projects and future projects as well.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired if there is a call-for-projects for FY 2023 – 2026 TIP project selection. Mr. MacDonald answered that for meeting the TxDOT's FY 2023 – 2026 TIP deadline, the Corpus Christi MPO proposed not conducting call-for-projects for this TIP cycle. The Corpus Christi MPO hired a consultant to establish a performance-based planning and programming project selection process for Category 2, 4, 7, and 9 for the next call-for-projects. This process will be available within a couple of months and ready to be used for the next funding opportunity. Also, the expected funding levels for the CATs 2,4, 7, and 9 are not yet officially available. Once the funding levels are finalized, the Corpus Christi MPO will conduct a call-for-projects with the new project selection tools.

Ms. Sales-Evans also inquired how the FY 2023 – 2026 TIP projects can be programmed without new projects. Mr. MacDonald answered that the brand new projects need a minimum of 3 years to complete the environmental clearances and other requirements to be programmed in a fiscally constrained plan. To allocate the funding for all Categories, the Corpus Christi MPO staff suggested programming the Safety, Maintenance, and Operation type projects such as traffic signal coordination for the region. Operations projects should be on the regionally significant corridors shown in the map in Attachment 6. Safety projects can be any roadways in the MPO boundary and these types of projects are usually approved quickly.

Ms. Sales-Evans requested information on how other MPOs are processing these types of projects, so TxDOT-CRP can incorporate these into their plan. Mr. Casper said that he has been discussing with Ms. Longoria at the CRP District regarding these potential projects.

Mr. MacDonald requested the TAC to provide their comments and feedback on these operation and safety projects.

## **6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. 2022 STBG-SA/CAT 9 Call-for-Projects Update**

Mr. Casper provided the initial scoring by the Corpus Christi MPO staff for the 2022 STBG-SA/CAT 9 Call-for-Projects. There are a total of 7 projects submitted; 5 projects by the City of Corpus Christi, and 2 projects by the City of Portland. The total federal fund requested amount is approximately \$6.4 million. The Corpus Christi MPO's Call-for-Projects was for at least \$4.5 million and some projects may not be selected during this call-for-projects due to funding limitations.

Ms. Munoz asked if the remaining STBG fund of \$3.2 million (approximately \$1.2 million) can be used for these unselected CAT 9 projects. Ms. MacDonald answered yes for the CAT 7 funds as these are the most flexible. Also, the Corpus Christi MPO needs to identify exactly how much funding for STBG/CAT 9 is available.

Mr. DeLatte stated his objection to the selection process that these unselected projects need to wait for the next opportunity and reapply. If additional funding is anticipated, consideration should be given to these unselected projects. Ms. Munoz also echoed the burden associated with this Call-for-Projects process such as the manpower and time for preparing these applications and obtaining approval from the City Council, and so forth.

Ms. Sales-Evans proposed to select all projects and adjust the shortage of funding later when the actual STBG/CAT 9 funding including the rollover and additional monies becomes available since the most of projects received the same points.

Mr. MacDonald reminded the TAC that the purpose of this information item is asking the TAC to review the initial scoring done by the Corpus Christi MPO staff and provide the feedback or comments, specifically if the scoring is relevant and compliant to the Application Guidelines and the Scoring Process that were recommended and approved by the TAC and the TPC with required public participation process. Mr. MacDonald encouraged the TAC members to discuss with the Corpus Christi MPO staff if

they have concerns or issues with the scoring. This item will be discussed in the next April TAC meeting as an action item. The Corpus Christi MPO will provide the most current information on the STBG/CAT 9 funding amount and the appropriate process for the extra funding monies.

Ms. Munoz asked Ms. Sales-Evans if the multiple STBG/CAT 9 projects can be combined for one Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) for efficiency and cost-saving. Ms. Sales-Evans will check if it is attainable or not and inform the TAC and the Corpus Christi MPO staff.

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

Mr. DeLatte informed us that the City of Portland’s Memorial Parkway Hike and Bike Project Phase 1 project has been moved forward and the construction will start within 3 or 4 weeks.

Mr. Robinson informed that the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority is currently working on the Zero Emissions Fleet Plan.

**7. REGIONAL FREIGHT TOPIC**

**A. Port Authority Advisory Committee highlights**

Mr. MacDonald provided the March 8, 2022, Port Authority Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda. In this meeting, they discussed the 2024 – 2025 Texas Port Mission Plan and the 2023 Texas Freight Mobility Plan. The 2022 – 2023 Texas Port Mission Plan listed the 2022 – 2023 Port Capital Projects, Investment Report, Ship Channel Improvement, and Federal Apportionments for these projects. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is expecting the Port of Corpus Christi’s report on these projects and their new projects for 2024 – 2025 that should be included in the FY 2023 – 2026 TIP.

**8. TAC Member Statements on Local Agency Activities or Items of Interest**

Mr. DeLatte informed the TAC and the public that Mr. Gillespie, San Patricio County Commissioner Precinct 4 was reelected.

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC and the public that he and Mr. Casper had a meeting with the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) local chapter before the TAC meeting where they presented the Corpus Christi MPO’s roles and projects.

**9. Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

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|---|-----------------------|
| <b>A. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting:</b>        | <b>April 14, 2022</b> |
| <b>B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting:</b>             | <b>April 14, 2022</b> |
| <b>C. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting:</b>           | <b>April 21, 2022</b> |
| <b>D. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Work Groups Meeting:</b> | <b>April 21, 2022</b> |

Mr. MacDonald informed us that the TPC meeting would be held on April 14, 2022, instead of April 7, 2022. The Regional Traffic Safety Task Force meeting will be held right after the TPC meeting. The Corpus Christi MPO is considering establishing Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Work Groups for specific objectives and holding the meeting on the third Thursday after the TAC meeting.

Ms. Sales-Evans requested to send the calendar invite for the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force meeting.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 A.M.