

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 15, 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

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

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi

MPO Staff Present: Rob 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 May 19, 2022, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 25, 2022, TAC Special Virtual Meeting Minutes**

Mr. McGinn made a motion to approve the May 19, 2022, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 25, 2022, TAC Special Virtual Meeting Minutes. Mr. Robinson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

**A. Ad Hoc Committee for a Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grant Submittals**

This proposed Ad Hoc Committee for a Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grant Submittals was presented, discussed, and approved by Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) during their September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

The primary purpose of this Ad Hoc Committee is for maximizing the chance of being awarded federal grants by sharing information and discussing possible collaborating efforts in the region.

Mr. MacDonald explained the reason why the Ad Hoc Committee was proposed. Recently the Port of Corpus Christi Authority (the Port) and the City of Corpus Christi submitted applications to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. It is very rare for one city to be awarded multiple federal funds. Regionally collaborating projects tend to have more chance to be awarded. These federal discretionary grants are fiercely competitive; there is competition within the state as well as inter-state. This Ad Hoc Committee would strategically discuss projects that can be applied for jointly. For example, if the Port, the City of Corpus Christi, and the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) apply jointly for the electric charging station grant, they would have a higher chance to be awarded than individually applying for the same grant.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is soliciting the TAC members' input and comments on this matter.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired if this Ad Hoc Committee determines the regional priority among the potential grant projects or provides the technical assistance to apply for these federal grants.

Mr. MacDonald answered that the proposed Ad Hoc Committee is for the sharing of information, keeping regional dialogue, and coordinating the regional efforts to maximize the chance of being awarded federal grants.

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC that TxDOT hires consultants to apply for these grants and TxDOT Headquarters reviews and prioritizes the potential projects for these grants.

Mr. Pollack said that the Port is actively looking for any grant opportunities, Federal, State, or other. The Port has many projects ready for when grant opportunities become available. The Port staff prepares for the application internally. Currently, the Port is working on the application for the Department of

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Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The deadline is October 13, 2022, and it will be discussed in October's Port Commission meeting. He agreed that forming an Ad Hoc Committee would be beneficial but expressed concerns on the relatively short period of these grants, from Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to closing, and some grants are specifically designated for the ports, airports, and so forth.

Mr. MacDonald agreed that not all grants are applicable for this Ad Hoc Committee, yet this would be still helpful for the region to inform each other. The Corpus Christi MPO also needs to discuss and include all regional transportation projects in the long-range and short-range transportation plans as a Clearinghouse for this region.

Mr. Pollack suggested to include this item in the TAC agenda so it would be discussed monthly and when the NOFO is issued, the Ad Hoc Committee with all interested entities can meet and discuss and the TAC members agreed.

#### **B. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update and Process Review**

Mr. Casper briefed on the upcoming 2050 MTP update process. The current 2045 MTP was adopted in February 2020. Since air-quality attainment MPOs are required to update the MTP every five years, the Corpus Christi MPO needs to develop the 2050 MTP within 819 days. The MTP must address the seven national goals but also additional goals such as resiliency, reliability, environmental mitigation, travel/tourism, and Tailpipe Greenhouse Gas emission as listed in memo 4-B. He provided a summary of the most current MTP requirements from Federal Regulations. There will be some impact of new requirements. For example, addressing the Tailpipe Greenhouse Gas emission, the potential solution is switching gasoline and diesel vehicles to low emission vehicles and electric vehicles. Since the transportation funding comes from the gas tax, it would possibly impact the funding.

Mr. Casper also explained that the 2050 MTP needs to include individual plans for these requirements. For example, a Regional Safety Action Plan is required for one of the seven national goals, safety. The Corpus Christi MPO hires consultants and works on the development of these required plans. Currently, the Communication Plan and Safety Action Plan are under development as shown in Item 4B: Proposed 2050 MTP Update Schedule. The Regional Safety Task Force has been formed, a consultant team is working on the crash data collection and analysis, and detailed scope for the plan has been discussed. The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting extensive public outreach efforts including public meetings and open houses with a PR firm except for Thanksgiving – Christmas timeframe.

Ms. Sales-Evans mentioned that the functional classification review is needed after the 2020 census data becomes available. Mr. Casper said the Corpus Christi MPO will use socio-economic demographic data from the State Demographer, Woods and Poole, and the Texas Water Board for determining the growth allocation and urban density and to help designate the new Corpus Christi MPO boundary that will be adopted by the TPC and submitted to the Texas Governor. After these two steps, the functional classification will be reviewed and discussed. Ms. Sales-Evans emphasized the importance of some flexibility for the National Highway System (NHS) designation and functional classification for achieving these required goals, performance measures and targets. Mr. MacDonald agreed and assured that the meetings and workshops with the partner agencies would be held for the Corpus Christi MPO boundary and network.

There were questions regarding if the Corpus Christi MPO boundary is changed, as it affects the current 2045 and future 2050 MTP projects. Mr. Casper emphasized that all projects would be selected and prioritized based on the performance-based planning and programming criteria as discussed in Item 4C.

The provided 2050 MTP Update Schedule is just an overview, and each task has an individual schedule. As the development of 2050 MTP progresses, the Corpus Christi MPO will provide these schedules in detail.

#### **C. Performance Measures Update**

Mr. Casper briefed on the Performance Measures Development Process Update. There are currently five Performance Measures: Safety, Pavement and Bridge Conditions, System Performance and Freight, Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), and Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan. PTASP

and TAM Plan are developed by the CCRTA in cooperation with the Corpus Christi MPO. The tentative schedule for these performance measure targets is provided in the Item 4C memo. After this agenda packet was distributed, the Federal Transit Agency changed the due dates for PTASP and TAM Plan from October 1, 2022, to December 1, 2022, with new requirements. PTASP needs to be updated annually, TAM Plan needs to be updated every four years with the submission of annual asset inventory data and narrative report. These Performance Measures and Targets are the basis for the project selection and prioritization for the MTP and 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Corpus Christi MPO has been supporting and adopting the state targets. Currently, the Corpus Christi MPO is working on the data collection and tools for Performance-based Planning and Programming, but these are not yet available. Once these data and tools become available, the Corpus Christi MPO staff will inform the TAC and discuss if the Corpus Christi MPO would establish its own Performance Measures and Targets. As discussed in 4B, the designation of NHS is important in terms of Performance Measures and Targets since the Pavement and Bridge Conditions (PM2) and System Performance and Freight (PM3) Performance Measures and Targets are only applicable for NHS and the funding is provided only for projects on the current NHS.

Ms. Sales-Evans mentioned that the TxDOT's 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) development has started and the District and the Corpus Christi MPO need to nominate Category 2 and Category 4 projects around October – November to the TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming (TPP) Division. Mr. MacDonald mentioned that the steep inflation rate causes drastic project overruns and it is a challenge to fulfill fiscally constrained planning requirements. The Corpus Christi MPO staff needs to look at these first with the available funding forecast. Ms. Sales-Evans mentioned the nomination of projects would occur before the funding forecast information becomes available. She wanted to make sure there are no new projects added for 2024 UTP nomination. Mr. Casper proposed a traffic signal modernization project for 2024 UTP, because it is a needed investment for traffic congestion and operation, cost effective and safety and operations projects are incorporated as a group into the MTP. Mr. MacDonald reminded that adding new projects needs certain steps and an approval from the TPC. The Corpus Christi MPO is aware of the schedule and this 2024 UTP project discussion item will be brought to the TAC over the next couple of meetings.

#### **D. Member Agency Project and Program Update**

The Corpus Christi MPO staff provided FY 2023-2026 TIP Fiscally Constrained Highway Project List for sponsor agencies' updates on their projects.

The City of Portland's FM 893/Moore Avenue project (MPO-006): The consultant team met with TxDOT staff for finalizing the utility relocation (removal of gas pipe) 2 or 3 weeks ago, it should be completed by the summer of 2023.

The Corpus Christi MPO's Planning Tools and Studies (MPO-067): The Corpus Christi MPO is working on the Non-Construction Advanced Funding Agreement (NCAFA) with TxDOT for this \$2 million project. The detailed documentation of each project scope, duration, and cost estimate is required and Mr. Casper is compiling this required information in the TxDOT format. Once NCAFA is completed and signed, the Corpus Christi MPO will inform the TAC and TPC.

The City of Corpus Christi's Harbor Bridge Hike and Bike Connectivity (MPO-007) and Harbor Bridge Park Improvement (MPO-009) are under design by the contractor phase and 70% complete. Ms. Sales-Evans requested to inform them once these projects are ready to move to construction for the Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) process. Yorktown Boulevard Project (MPO-024) is under design development between Rodd Field to Mud Bridge.

Mr. Gordon informed us that the CCRTA would start GoPass Mobile Ticketing Application on October 1, 2022. This system is developed by the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), using a phone app to pay the fare.

**5. Regional Freight Topic**

**A. Texas Delivers: 2050 Texas Freight Mobility Plan**

A weblink of the August 22, 2022, Texas Freight Advisory Committee meeting was provided. This presentation covers freight data, network, policies, and so forth with infographics that would be included in the Corpus Christi MPO's 2050 MTP Freight Chapter after the plan is finalized and approved on October 5, 2022.

**B. Port Authority Advisory Committee September 13, 2022 Meeting at Port of Corpus Christi**

Mr. MacDonald informed that the Texas Port Authority Advisory Committee was held at the Port of Corpus Christi on September 13, 2022, and provided the agenda (attachment 5B). The Port of Corpus Christi has a couple of significant projects in the 2024-2025 Texas Port Mission Plan. This would be also included in our 2050 MTP. Mr. Pollack would present and inform the TAC about these projects.

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

Ms. Sales-Evans introduced Mr. Mike Walsh, Deputy District Engineer, and Mr. Gabriel Longoria, Traffic Operation Project Development Engineer from TxDOT-CRP. The TAC member welcomed them.

**7. Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

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| <b>A. Transportation Policy Committee:</b> | <b>Regular Meeting</b> | <b>October 13, 2022</b> |
| <b>B. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>    | <b>Regular Meeting</b> | <b>October 20, 2022</b> |

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.