

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 20, 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)
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County
Diego Leyva, P.E., City of Corpus Christi

Non-Voting Members Present:

Genevieve Bales, Federal Highway Administration Texas Division
Sara Garza, TxDOT – Transportation Planning & Programming Division

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 September 15, 2022, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the September 15, 2022, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Information Items

A. 2025 – 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Process Overview

Mr. Casper briefed on the 2025 – 2050 MTP development process and schedules. The 2025 – 2050 MTP is the Corpus Christi MPO’s long-range transportation plan, and it is required to be adopted in February 2025, but the current schedule is aimed at November of 2024.

This plan consists of foundational components based on the federally required planning process such as achieving national goals, implementing performance-based planning and programming through data analysis, forecasting, scenario planning, and involving the public in the transportation decision-making throughout the development of the plan as described in the Corpus Christi MPO’s Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD) and newly implemented Executive Orders.

The initial critical steps for the 2025 -2050 MTP are (1) adopting socio-economic control totals, (2) Corpus Christi MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) boundary update based on the 2020 Census result, and (3) Functional Classification of Roads. These three steps are more data-driven and technical, therefore general public participation is not expected; however, the information will be provided.

Subplans are the components of 2025 – 2050 MTP to achieve the national and regional transportation goals that include the following:

- (1) Coordinated Human Service Plan – this plan is developed by the Coastal Bend Council of Government for coordinated transit services among 11 counties, the Corpus Christi MPO will participate in their discussion as a non-voting member.
- (2) Two Regional Safety Plans: Safety Action Plan and Safe System Plan – the Corpus Christi MPO formed the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force and hired a consultant team to work on these plans. Safety Action Plan is not a requirement; however, development of the Safety Action Plan will provide opportunities for federal funds.

- (3) Micro-mobility Plan – the Corpus Christi MPO will develop a Micro-mobility Plan that encompasses pedestrians, small fully/partially human-powered vehicles (bikes, e-bikes, e-scooters, etc.) and specialized vehicles (wheelchairs, mobility-assistance devices, cargo bikes, etc.)
- (4) Regional Freight Plan – the Texas Freight Mobility Plan, *Texas Delivers 2050*, is expected to be adopted within a couple of months. The Corpus Christi MPO will develop the regionally focused freight/delivery of goods review and analysis.
- (5) Congestion Management Process (CMP) – the CMP is a continuous, systematic approach for achieving congestion reduction goals in the region. The development steps of CMP are listed in the Agenda Item 4A Attachment 1.

Other than these subplans, the 2025 – 2050 MTP must include:

- (1) Adopted Vision and Goals
- (2) Scenario Planning
- (3) Evaluation Criteria and Weighting for Performance-based Planning and Programming of Transportation Project selection
- (4) Regional Deficiencies
- (5) Interventions to address Regional Deficiencies
- (6) Project Scoring and Ranking
- (7) Financial Plan
- (8) Constrained Portfolios
- (9) Regionally preferred Portfolio Outcome Analysis and Mitigation Plan

After developing subplans and going through the above listed steps, the 2025 -2050 MTP will be adopted. Throughout the development of the 2025 – 2050 MTP, the public is welcomed and provided the opportunities to get involved. The Corpus Christi MPO is working with consultant teams on vigorous and meaningful public involvement, with special focuses on the underserved communities, limited English proficiency (LEP) populations, and other groups based on the federal regulations.

Even though the required adoption of the 2025 – 2050 MTP is February 2025, the development process requires considerable time and the Corpus Christi MPO staff would like to go through the development overview with the TAC as a preparation.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if the delay of 2020 Census affects the MPA boundary update and may cause the delay of the 2025 – 2050 MTP adoption. Mr. MacDonald answered that he expected the MPA boundary update wouldn't be dramatic and the Corpus Christi MPO would be ready for multiple scenarios.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested workshops for the 2025 – 2050 MTP due to the volume of this plan that the TAC must review and discuss. Mr. MacDonald agreed that the workshops are needed, possibly after each TAC meeting starting from the January 2023 TAC meeting. TAC members were agreeable to have the workshops

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired about the public involvement strategies, means and schedule. Mr. Casper answered that the consultant teams will work on the coherent and coordinated public involvement not only 2025-2050 MTP but all Corpus Christi MPO transportation plans and activities, and the initial plan and schedule will be shared with the TAC once it is developed. The Corpus Christi MPO is waiting for the approval of Non-Construction Advanced Funding Agreement (NCAFA) of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA), \$2 million, from TxDOT TPP Division for various consultant contracts including Public Outreach, and as soon as its approval, these necessary tools, data, and professional services could be started. Ms. Sales-Evans offered to follow up on the status of NCAFA with TPP Division.

B. TxDOT 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Process Overview

Mr. MacDonald briefed on the upcoming TxDOT's 2024 UTP process. The UTP is TxDOT's 10-year transportation plan, and the Texas Transportation Commission adopts the UTP every August. The Corpus Christi MPO will select Category 2 projects with TxDOT-CRP coordination and the TxDOT-CRP will select Category 4-Urban projects with the Corpus Christi MPO coordination for the 2024 UTP. As the TAC reviewed, discussed, and recommended Category 2 and 4 projects to the Transportation Policy

Committee (TPC) for the 2023 UTP, the Corpus Christi MPO expects the nomination of candidate projects around November. The selection of projects must be a performance-based scoring process as federally required.

The current 2023 UTP funding for Corpus Christi MPO is shown in the Item 4B memo. If there is any update on these funding, the Corpus Christi MPO will inform the TAC. Also, the 2023 UTP development schedule is provided as attachment 1 for reference. The Corpus Christi MPO staff expects there will not be much change in the schedule or process for the 2024 UTP development.

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC and the Corpus Christi MPO staff that the submission of potential Category 2 and 4 projects to TPP are expected to happen in December. Also, she informed the TAC members that there are some changes with the projects currently included in the 2023 UTP: the SH-361/SH-35 project in Gregory may require a new scope and design to align with Spur 202, and the SH 358 Ramp Reversal project and SH 286 Extension project’s estimated project costs may need to be increased due to inflation.

Mr. MacDonald suggested a workshop for 2024 UTP projects nomination in November. Detailed information will be provided once developed.

C. Member Agency Project and Program Update

Ms. Sales-Evans introduced Mr. Marfil and Ms. Garza from the TxDOT-CRP District. Ms. Garza presented the Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) 2022 System Program Call. This federally funded, state administered program is directed by Texas Strategic Highway Safety Plan, to achieve significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on and off system public roads.

There are 11 emphasis areas in 2022 – 2027 Texas State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP):

- (1) Roadway & Lane Departure
- (2) Speed Related
- (3) Intersection Safety
- (4) Occupant Protection
- (5) Impaired Driving
- (6) Distracted Driving
- (7) Vulnerable Road Users (pedestrian)
- (8) Vulnerable Road Users (Pedal cyclist)
- (9) Post-Crash Care
- (10) Younger Drivers
- (11) Older Driver

Program funds cover 90% of project construction costs, State/Local Governments covers the remaining 10%. Advanced Funding Agreements between TxDOT and Local Governments are required. If Safety countermeasures are designated as eligible and TxDOT Traffic Safety Division approves, projects may be 100% federal funded.

During FY 2022 – 2024, the City of Corpus Christi (total \$719,381), Nueces County (\$106,023), and San Patricio County (\$29,343) were awarded through this program.

The funding is divided to Targeted (specific locations/hot spots) and Systemic (proactive, implement improvements correlated to specific crash types), and the following allocation is available:

FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025		FY 2026	
Targeted	Systemic	Targeted	Systemic	Targeted	Systemic	Targeted	Systemic
\$3,866,635	\$3,790,241	\$3,712,665	\$3,874,216	\$5,336,561	\$3,959,871	\$5,423,293	\$4,047,239
\$7,656,876		\$7,586,881		\$9,296,432		\$9,290,532	

This is an annual program, usually the call for projects is open in September. Ms. Garza requested the TAC members and the Corpus Christi MPO to disseminate this opportunity to their departments, partner agencies, and encourage them to apply. The necessary data/information as well as help and support for applying to this program will be provided by TxDOT-CRP. The deadline for this program call is December 31, 2022. The Point of Contact is Ms. America Garza, District Traffic Engineer, TxDOT Corpus Christi District, America.Garza@txdot.gov.

Mr. Pimentel stated that the Nueces County applied for this program previously and the process was easy to follow.

Mr. MacDonald suggested to add this item to the next Regional Traffic Safety Task Force meeting held on November 3, 2022.

5. Regional Grant Coordination Topic

A. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants

As discussed in the September TAC meeting, this topic will be discussed monthly by the TAC and participants from interested entities. Mr. MacDonald provided the *Summary Table of Regional IJJA Grant Submittals, Deadlines, and Awards* that shows the grant programs, categories, application deadlines, applied entities, and awarded projects in Texas with available program URLs. Some programs were already closed and awarded, some programs are still open, and some programs are not yet open. The America's Marine Highway Program Grant that was closed on June 17 announced its winners and Houston Port Authority and Chambers County were awarded funding. The Bridge Investment Program - which the City of Corpus Christi applied but not awarded - awarded the City of Waco \$800,000. Low/No Emission Bus Grant -which the Corpus Christi RTA applied but not awarded - awarded the City of Lubbock, Harris County Metro, City of El Paso, and City of Laredo. McAllen was awarded \$25,000,000 by the Nationally Significant Freight & Highway Projects (INFRA) grant. The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) grant awarded the Port Arthur, TxDOT, City of Harlingen, North Central Texas Council of Government, and City of El Paso, but neither the Port of Corpus Christi nor the City of Corpus Christi were awarded funding. The City of Corpus Christi and the Port of Corpus Christi jointly submitted an application for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program that was closed on October 13, 2022, as the first regionally coordinated effort. The Corpus Christi MPO staff expects to increase these coordinated efforts for grant submittals.

This table is provided as a reference for the Regional Coordination Group to start discussions; what grant programs are open and if any entities are interested in applying. It also provides information on what projects are awarded in Texas to analyze for future local ideas to be developed. This summary table will be updated with the most current information and provided to the TAC. Mr. MacDonald solicited the TAC members comments, input, and feedback on the summary table and how the discussions should be organized.

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

Mr. MacDonald provided the TxDOT's Bicycle and pedestrian local and federal funding programs information that includes 2023 Transportation Alternatives Set-aside (TA) Call for Projects and asked interested entities get ready for applying.

7. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	November 3, 2022
B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Regular Meeting	November 3, 2022
C. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	November 17, 2022

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.