

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 16, 2023**

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

Vice-Chair Gordon Robinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

TAC Members Present:

Vice Chairperson Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County
Juan Pimentel, Nueces County
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
Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Government

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 January 19, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. McGinn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Information Items

A. Census Designated Urban Area Update

Mr. Casper briefed the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on the Census Designated Urban Area update. As reported in the January TAC meeting, the Census Bureau just released the 2020 Census Designated Urban Area map last month, almost a year later than scheduled. The Corpus Christi MPO is now required to create an Adjusted Urban Area Boundary that makes a smooth contiguous boundary using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s nine factors, although these are not required, listed in the Item 4A memo: (a) one, single contiguous area, (b) terminals with access roads, (c) large traffic generators, (d) transit service routes, (e) physical features such as rivers, railroads, highways, (f) ramps and interchanges, (g) coastal boundaries, (h) functional classification of a road, (i) a roadway's snake in and out. A total of 15 maps are provided as attachments and Mr. Casper went through these maps with those nine factors.

Attachment 1: This map is the current Corpus Christi MPO Boundary and Study Area based on 2010 Census. This map will be updated with 2020 Census data, Small Area Forecast Task Force and partner agencies discussion, multiple demographic forecasting data such as Texas State Demographer and Woods and Poole, and finalized with TAC's recommendation and Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)'s approval. The proposed MPO Boundary will be approved and designated by FHWA and the Governor of Texas.

Attachment 2: This map is the released 2020 Census Designated Urban Areas that will be adjusted in accordance with the process outlined above. There are three color-coded Urban Areas: Robstown (orange), Corpus Christi (mustard brown), and Ingleside/Aransas Pass/Port Aransas (fuchsia).

Attachments 3 to 5: These maps show the changes in the current boundary with the 2020 Census results. The black line indicates the current MPO boundary and blue circles indicate the areas designated as urbanized area in the 2020 Census. For example, Attachment 5: Urban Area North of Robstown Outside of the MPA shows a part of Robstown is now a 2020 Census Designated Urban Area in the Metropolitan Planning Area. This change signifies that Robstown would possibly be entitled to become a member of the TPC.

Attachments 6 to 16: These maps show the factors which should be considered such as ramps and interchanges, transit routes, terminals, coastal boundaries, gaps and so forth when the Adjusted Urban Boundary is created.

As mentioned, the newly established Small Area Forecast Task Force, the Corpus Christi MPO staff and TAC will discuss the demographic forecast in the region that will be the foundation of the Corpus Christi MPO's Travel Demand Model used for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The first kick-off meeting would be held after the TAC meeting on February 16, 2023.

Mr. Casper mentioned that the large MPOs in Texas, such as Dallas – Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, use the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as their MPO boundaries. MSA is a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core.

This adjustment process needs to be completed within a year from the date of the release of Census Urban Areas. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will work closely with the planning partner entities, Small Area Forecast Task Force, and a consultant team with the required public involvement.

B. Regional Safety Task Force Meeting Recap

Mr. MacDonald briefed on the highlights of Regional Traffic Safety Task Force meeting held on February 2, 2023.

- The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed and launched the Corpus Christi MPO Traffic Crash Data Dashboard and demonstrated it to the Task Force where it was well received. Any questions and feedbacks about the Dashboard are welcome and the Corpus Christi MPO staff will answer these questions.
- There was a presentation of Vision Zero Suite software by DiExSys. Vision Zero Suite is a software that not only analyzes crash data, but also diagnoses and evaluates the cost-effectiveness of safety improvement solution options. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will have a training session on February 22, 2023 and share it with the TAC members.
- The Corpus Christi MPO staff is planning to develop two safety plans, the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) and Regional Safe System Plan (RSSP) with a consultant team based on the collected data, analyses, and input from the Safety Task Force. The Corpus Christi MPO finalized the Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT and received the Notice of Proceed for the 100% Federal Fund of \$2 million to develop these plans as well as other UPWP efforts.

C. Small Area Forecast Task Force Meeting Agenda Review

The newly established Small Area Forecast (SAF) Task Force will have the kick-off meeting after the TAC meeting, and its meeting agenda was provided. As mentioned earlier, the SAF Task Force is comprised of a wide-range of people including representatives from Robstown, Ingleside, ISDs, and University; about 20 people accepted invitations to participate. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is expecting SAF Task Force members to provide critical information on the trend of growth and reductions of population and employment in their specialized fields, entities, or installations. This SAF Task Force meeting would eventually be led by a consultant team who would develop the Travel Demand Model based on the multiple scenarios as a result of the demographic forecasts in the region and a communication firm that leads the public involvement efforts and compliance. The first meeting focuses on the introduction of members, and the purpose and roles of the members.

D. 2024 UTP Development Update Presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission

Mr. MacDonald shared the TxDOT 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Development process presented at the January Texas Transportation Commission. This is an annual process where the Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT Corpus Christi District cooperatively select Category 2 and Category 4 projects and submit the nominated projects to TxDOT Head Quarters, then the UTP is approved and adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission in August. There is a noticeable change in the 2024 UTP funding categories: Carbon Reduction Program (Category 10CR, \$1.25B), Cost Overruns/Change Orders (Category 11CO, \$780M). Also, the presentation showed TxDOT's Performance Measures and Targets on Safety, Pavement and Bridge Condition, and System Performance (page 31), and the estimated percent of

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expenditures for Safety-related items in each UTP funding category (page 32). The Corpus Christi MPO will keep discussing the 2024 UTP projects with the available funding amounts and eventually finalize the project nominations between now and August.

Ms. Sales-Evans said that the final District project list was due to TxDOT-TPP in February. The preliminary project cost estimates may need to be adjusted, but she hoped these projects would still be fiscally constrained by reallocating the available funding from Category 2 to Category 4 or vice versa. She also informed the TAC that the 2024 UTP would be discussed in the February 23rd Texas Transportation Commission meeting.

E. Member Agency Project and Program Updates

Mr. Pollack announced that the Port of Corpus Christi was awarded total \$16.4M through the US Department of Energy (DOE)'s Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise Initiative. This fund is for (1) evaluating the technical and economic feasibility of deploying CO2 capture and onshore geologic storage under Port-owned property as part of a comprehensive strategy for centralized, scalable carbon management in the Coastal Bend Region - \$9M, and (2) a 24-month feasibility study on a commercial-scale CO2 geological storage site in near offshore waters of the Coastal Bend Region. The Port of Corpus Christi is also working on the other federal and state grants such as the Hydrogen Hub by DOE, US Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD)'s Port Infrastructure Development Grants, and Texas General Land Office (GLO)'s CDBG-MIT grant.

5. Regional Freight Topic

A. Texas 2050 Freight Mobility Plan Excerpt – Corpus Christi Regional Freight Routes

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC that the TxDOT's Statewide Freight Plan, Texas Delivers 2050, was adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission in their January meeting. Texas Delivers 2050 is the comprehensive freight plan and Chapter 3 presents the multimodal transportation network in supporting supply chains in Texas, including highway, railroads, cargo airports, sea ports and pipelines. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will use the great infographics in this plan specifically focused on our region for the next 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

6. Regional Grant Coordination Topic

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

Mr. MacDonald provided the TAC a revised and simplified Federal Discretionary Grant Summary Table. Currently available grants such as Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) and Low/Zero Emission Bus Program are indicated in blue font with the deadline for FY 2023. Mr. MacDonald requested the TAC members announce if their entities are planning to apply for these grants, and if any updates should be made on the summary table.

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

None.

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	March 2, 2023
B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Meeting	March 2, 2023
C. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	March 16, 2023
D. Small Area Forecast Task Force	Meeting	March 16, 2023

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.