

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 18, 2023**

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

Vice-Chairperson 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 (CCRTA)
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County
Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)
Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Government (non-voting member)

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Victor Mendieta, and Yoshiko Boulan

2. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None were made or offered.

3. Approval of the April 20, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Pollack seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Items

A. FY 2022 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (APL) Approved by Resolution 23-06

Mr. MacDonald presented the TAC with the DRAFT FY 2022 APL. The APL is a list of federally funded projects in the Corpus Christi MPO's planning area that were obligated in the previous fiscal year. This is an annual requirement and the Corpus Christi MPO posts the APL on the website every year. This year, the FHWA and TxDOT directed all Texas MPOs to undertake a public involvement process related to the approval of the APL, similar to a TIP approval process. Based on the Corpus Christi MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), the APL is required to be published and made available for public comments. The Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) approved the release of the DRAFT FY 2022 APL for a one-month public comment period on May 11, 2023. The Corpus Christi MPO staff requested the TAC to recommend the DRAFT FY 2022 APL to the TPC for approval.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked for the source of this obligated projects information. Mr. MacDonald explained that all MPOs in Texas, including the Corpus Christi MPO, received a list of projects with each project's obligated amount from TxDOT Headquarters in April. Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to table this item, due to the discrepancy in the obligated amount between this list and District data. Mr. McGinn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sales-Evans requested Mr. MacDonald to forward the e-mail from TxDOT Headquarters to her so she could contact the Headquarters and discuss and verify the dollar amounts. Mr. MacDonald agreed to forward the e-mail to all TAC members.

B. DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2023 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD)

Mr. Casper presented the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO 2023 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD). The PAD is a document that lays out the Corpus Christi MPO's responsibilities in transportation planning and its decision-making process toward the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population, Title VI of Civil Rights, Environmental Justice (EJ), and Advanced Racial Equity (ARE). The PAD needs to be updated every two years. The 2023 PAD additionally addressed the socio-economic analyses based on the 2020 Census results, identification of underserved communities, and two Executive Orders (14009 and 14091) issued by President Biden. The official guidance for these Executive Orders is not released yet; as soon as the U. S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issue their guidance, the Corpus Christi MPO would incorporate it into the PAD process. After the internal review, some maps

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included in the previous 2021 PAD are removed for redundancy. Mr. Casper informed the TAC of a substantial correction on LEP population who speak English “not well” or “not at all” from 41,096 to 7,411 on page 40. This page will be replaced by the corrected one. All proposed changes are shown in the attached DRAFT 2023 PAD by track-change format. Mr. Casper requested the TAC to review and comment on the DRAFT 2023 PAD and recommend the TPC to release the DRAFT 2023 PAD for a one month public comment period.

Mr. Pollack asked for the source of these LEP population numbers and Mr. Casper answered that the number is from the American Community Survey. Mr. Pollack commented that the LEP population was surprisingly high in this region, then he made a motion to recommend the TPC to release the DRAFT 2023 PAD for a one month public comment period. Mr. Pimentel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is expecting the adoption of the 2023 PAD on July 6, 2023.

C. 2050 MTP Process Discussion

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC about the Corpus Christi MPO’s 2025 – 2050 MTP Development Process. The overview of 2050 MTP Development was briefed last month, and a more in-depth development process was provided to the TAC in the agenda packet on the Small Area Forecast, Non-motorized Plan, and a Project Scoring Tool. The Item 4C memo had links to these documents and resources for your reference.

The Appendices in a *Guidance for Developing a Performance-Based long-range Transportation Plan* was issued on Monday, May 15, 2023 by FHWA. The appendices include a total of seven checklists and the list of required performance-based subplans that the State DOTs and MPOs are required to undertake when developing the long-range transportation plan. This document was distributed as a handout. Some requirements are not applicable to the Corpus Christi MPO’s 2050 MTP. For example, the Corpus Christi region is an air quality attainment area, thus the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Plan is not required.

TPC approved to create the Small Area Forecast Task Force in December 2022. The Task Force is comprised of various entities and its members are expected to provide their professional input on the population, employment, land-use, economic activities, and so forth, to discuss and recommend the Regional Control Totals by county that would be the foundation of transportation planning for the region in the 2050 MTP. Currently, the Corpus Christi MPO has the Texas State Demographer population projection for three counties, Nueces, San Patricio, and Aransas and the summary table was provided (Attachment 2). The population projection of Nueces County by Texas State Demographer has notably declined from their projection based on the 2010 Census.

The employment projections by the Texas State Demographer are not yet available for 2050. Until the employment projection becomes available, the SAF Task Force will discuss the regional growth with the available data and information such as the area development plans, land use plans, enrollment data from the University, College, and School Districts, as well as data from Woods and Poole. These numbers are eventually applied to the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) and used for the development of a total of six scenarios by an urban simulation software called UrbanSim. Since this is a complex process, the Corpus Christi MPO hired a consultant, Freese and Nichols, to lead this process. The schedule for this Work Authorization was attached (Attachment 1).

The SAF Task Force meets monthly and adds new members, for example, the Corpus Christi MPO invited the Coastal Bend Builders Association’s Government Affairs, Mr. Ben Molina, and he accepted the invitation and will participate in the discussion.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if there is a need to expand the outreach efforts from this SAF Task Force to the one-on-one meetings with these entities. For example, there are several Independent School Districts in this region, and their data and input are critical for this forecasting process. Mr. Casper answered that the Corpus Christi MPO staff has been working on the Comprehensive Public Involvement Plan with a consultant. The 2050 MTP is comprised of the aforementioned subplans, and a coherent public involvement process and activities are necessary.

Mr. McGinn offered that the City of Corpus Christi's Development Services restarted the meeting with the ISDs and he may be able to connect these ISD representatives or information to the Corpus Christi MPO staff.

Mr. MacDonald said that the Corpus Christi MPO is reaching out to the organizations, committees, and groups. For example, Mr. MacDonald will participate in the City of Corpus Christi's Capital Improvement Advisory Committee after the TAC meeting today. The City of Corpus Christi hired the consultant Pape-Dawson for the development of a Comprehensive Master Plan that includes roadways, stormwater, and water infrastructures. He talked to the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Pape-Dawson to obtain the information and data collected by Pape-Dawson at each Area Development Plan level. Also, he has been participating in the South Texas Military Task Force. This collected data and information will be shared with the SAF Task Force and the TAC. The notable decline of the State Demographer's population projection for Nueces County is not fully discussed or analyzed yet, there may be various factors to look at it. Also, there are many things to consider, for example, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) enrollment for online courses is increasing but physical attendance on the campus is decreasing. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is collecting as much information and data as possible, and the Consultant Team will bring their professional analyzing capabilities to fill gaps and help to establish the Regional Control Totals.

TAC members commented there may be the need to see the numbers in telework, private and charter school enrollments, weekend and seasonal traffic patterns, hurricane evacuation, and so forth.

Mr. Casper explained that the Corpus Christi MPO's enhanced travel demand model is capable of a more complex analysis of these mentioned factors, including the hurricane evacuation route planning. He mentioned a decision support tool of the National Hurricane Program called HURREVAC. He is a user of this program. The next training opportunity starts next month, and he will share the information with the TAC and regional emergency management personnel.

This item is discussion and comment only and no action is required.

5. Information Items

A. Regional Stakeholder Group Membership for the Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Micro-mobility Plan

This item is related to the 2050 MTP Development. As indicated in the FHWA's Long-Range Transportation Plan Development Guidance, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop a Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Micro-mobility Plan that should be integrated into the MTP.

This plan will be developed by Freese and Nichols and the Work Authorization 2023.11 Notice to Proceed letter, the detailed scope and deliverables, and the project schedule are attached.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is proposing the creation of a stakeholder group that represents the community as a Project Steering Committee and helps the Corpus Christi MPO and Freese and Nichols to develop this plan. The potential agencies, entities, and organizations are listed in the Item 5A memo, which includes local and state agencies, law enforcement, health care, and non-profit organizations.

Mr. MacDonald asked the TAC to review this potential membership list and if there are any additional suggestions, contact the Corpus Christi MPO staff. Mr. Pollack said that he would like to suggest some people from the City of Corpus Christi's Transportation Advisory Committee and Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee members, and he would send the information to Mr. MacDonald.

B. Regional Safety Task Force Meeting of May 10, 2023 Recap

Mr. Casper provided to the TAC the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force meeting recap held on May 10, 2023. This meeting was the first joint meeting between TxDOT's Wrong-Way Drivers Task Force and Corpus Christi MPO's Regional Traffic Safety Task Force. The meeting was well attended, and useful information was exchanged.

Since the operation began, the Wrong-Way Drivers Task Force stopped two wrong-way drivers and ticketed eighty-eight DUI drivers. The Wrong-Way Drivers Task Force is currently analyzing the data for more

effective and efficient operation, such as switching from a 24/7 enforcement to a more specific time and day enforcement schedule.

The Task Force was informed that the Work Authorization for Crash Analysis and Regional Safety Action Plan Notice to Proceed was issued to Halff Associates. One of the deliverables is to identify twenty cost-effective safety improvement projects, and the Corpus Christi MPO staff is considering applying for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program’s supplemental planning and demonstration activities. Mr. Casper informed the TAC that there were not enough applicants for demonstration projects last time, and \$177 million in funding is being carried into the 2024 opportunity. The Corpus Christi MPO will bring the details and information to the TAC. This grant program requires local match and there might be some coordination needed with the TxDOT Corpus Christi District.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if there are specific demonstration projects envisioned by the Corpus Christi MPO staff. Mr. Casper answered that it is difficult to identify specific projects until the crash analysis is done, but US DOT prefers certain projects such as ITS, traffic signal coordination, variable speed limits, and so forth. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will work closely with the Consultant Team and partner entities.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked about the approximate timeframe. Mr. Casper said the Regional Safety Action Plan would be completed in August/September, but the initial analysis of the twenty cost-effective safety improvement projects would be done in mid-June.

6. Regional Grant Coordination Topic

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

Mr. MacDonald provided the TAC with an updated Federal Discretionary Grant Summary Table. There are two new grant opportunities announced. One is the Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities Grant, and the closing date is June 16, 2023. The Corpus Christi MPO staff expects the Port of Corpus Christi to apply for this grant. The other one is the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. Both programs’ Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) were included in the agenda item.

Also, the application deadline for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants Program (CFI) has been extended from May 30, 2023 to June 13, 2023. The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) issued a Call for Partnerships for this grant, and this will be discussed in the next CBCOG meeting, on May 26, 2023.

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC that the Corpus Christi MPO staff believes there are three entities interested in this grant and suggested coordination among these entities to jointly apply for this grant.

The TxDOT’s 2023 Transportation Alternative (TA) Call for Projects is underway and the City of Portland and the City of Corpus Christi will submit their applications with the Corpus Christi MPO providing supporting letters for both entities.

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

Mr. Robinson informed the TAC about the free shuttle bus service offered by the CCRTA on Saturday, May 20, 2023 during the Beach to Bay Relay Marathon. The CCRTA will take some ridership counts for large events like this.

8. Upcoming Meetings/Events:

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	June 1, 2023
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	June 15, 2023
C. Small Area Forecast Task Force:	Meeting	June 15, 2023
D. Joint Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Meeting	July 12, 2023

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.