

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 15, 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)
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County
Jeff Pollack, ACIP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)
Sarah Munoz, P.E., City of Portland

MPO Staff Present: 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 May 18, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. McGinn seconded; the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gillespie and Ms. Munoz abstained from the motion due to their absence at the May TAC meeting.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Items

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

This item was tabled during the May TAC meeting by Ms. Sales-Evans, TxDOT-CRP, for verification of the obligated amount.

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC that the TxDOT-CRP staff reviewed the numbers, but there was no additional information available to make any changes.

Mr. Casper requested an action from the TAC.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend approval of the FY 2022 APL to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) by Resolution 23-06. Ms. Munoz seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Information Items

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

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC on the Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants updates. The U. S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) launched a new grant dashboard, *DOT Discretionary Grants Dashboard* (<https://www.transportation.gov/grants/dashboard>), and added a new feature that provides additional information on applying for federal grants on the DOT Navigator (<https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>).

Mr. Casper mentioned that the Corpus Christi MPO staff has been considering a long-term coordination effort for the Federal Transportation Grants. The period from issuance of a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to the application deadline tends to be short. Therefore, not enough coordination or preparation can be made among the entities. If the Regional Coordination Group can work together for the future, such as for FY 2024 or FY 2025 grant opportunities, there will be more time for coordination and preparation.

Mr. Pollack and Mr. Gillespie agreed. Mr. Pollack mentioned the Texas Innovation Alliance as a useful affiliation to learn the best practices for this kind of coordination.

Mr. Casper said the Corpus Christi MPO would reach out to each entity for further discussion over the next couple of weeks.

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Mr. Pollack informed that the Port of Corpus Christi applied for several grants under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), mostly energy or climate-related ones such as new energy and carbon management and are currently working on the Carbon Capture and Sequestration, Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs Program, and so forth.

B. Regional Stakeholder Group Update on Membership for the Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Micro-Mobility Plan

Mr. Casper updated the TAC on the Regional Stakeholder Group for the Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Micro-Mobility Plan. The Corpus Christi MPO mailed out invitation letters to the attached potential member list whom the Corpus Christi MPO believes have useful insights to develop these plans. The Group is comprised of a wide range of people, such as the TAC members, local and state agencies, law enforcement, health care, Independent School Districts (ISDs), and non-profit organizations. The duration of this Stakeholder Group is approximately 18 months, and the Corpus Christi MPO received some responses from people interested in and wanting to participate in the discussion. The kick-off meeting will be held after the June TAC meeting with the Consultant Team, Freese and Nichols. The outreach efforts by Freese and Nichols team have already begun. They met or would meet these stakeholders one-on-one while they were in Corpus Christi.

Mr. Casper introduced Mr. Kevin St. Jacques and Mr. Brian Crooks from Freese and Nichols. Mr. St. Jacques was involved in the bike mobility plan in this region in the past and said he was excited to get involved in the development of these plans, connecting the objectives in the past, the current, and the future and how ideas have been changed over time.

Mr. Casper informed the TAC that Mr. MacDonald, the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director, briefed the Complete Streets, Active Transportation, and Micro-Mobility Planning concepts and process to the City of Corpus Christi City Council on June 13, 2023. The Council members showed great interest in these plans as well as the Corpus Christi MPO's role in regional transportation planning.

Mr. Pollack commented that he thinks the Corpus Christi MPO's Strategic Plan for Active Mobility, which was developed in 2016 when he was the Director of the Corpus Christi MPO, is still a relevant bicycle plan. He understood that the new plans would be broader with new concepts such as Complete Streets and Micro-mobility, but bike-mobility was fully examined in the 2016 Plan based on the traffic volume, speed, geometry, and other criteria. Mr. Pollack stated that a wholesale revisit of the 2016 bike plan is not necessary but just needs augmentations with practical ability. Mr. Casper explained that the Strategic Plan for Active Mobility serves as the base for new plans with new requirements and new focus. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, the U.S. Department of Transportation's safety initiatives, the Biden Administration's new Executive Orders on the underserved communities, and so forth must be included in these plans as a comprehensive transportation plan for the region. Also, the voices from citizens should be reflected in the plan. For example, there is a demand for protected bike lanes. The Freese and Nichols team will lead these efforts by collecting new data, analyses of these data, and public comments/feedback with compliance to the federal requirements.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented that there should be consideration for these requirements as well as the limitations such as budget and right-of-way acquisition. Thus, identifying and prioritizing these needs with the most current information should be considered.

Mr. McGinn commented that the construction of bike infrastructure is a budgetary challenge for the City of Corpus Christi. Most city projects are bond projects that require voter approval, and the additional budget for constructing bike infrastructure needs the City Council's approval. This is a complicated budgeting process.

Mr. Casper informed that the ADA requirements cannot be waived unless the US DOT approves a special exemption, and cost/money cannot be the reason. Thus, it is required to accomplish both compliance to federal requirements in construction and the development of fiscally constrained transportation plans.

6. Regional Freight Topic

A. **TxDOT Role in Multimodal Freight Transportation Slideshow**

Mr. Casper provided the TAC with the *TxDOT's Role in Multimodal Freight Transportation* slideshow presented in the Texas Transportation Commission meeting held on May 25, 2023.

The informative PowerPoint is a great resource for understanding the multimodal freight transportation system in Texas. As mentioned previously, the Corpus Christi MPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) would extract information from the Statewide Freight Plan by focusing on regional relevancy.

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

Ms. Sales-Evans informed the TAC of the upcoming August Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revision opportunity. The development of the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) is underway, and she wanted to make sure all projects included in the 2024 UTP are also in the FY 2023 – 2026 STIP. Ms. Sales-Evans inquired if it is necessary to add the updates of the current 2045 MTP projects as a TAC agenda item and revisit the cost estimate, the current status/readiness, and estimated timeline. Mr. Casper agreed and commented that the Corpus Christi MPO is tracking how much funding is available and trying to prevent any funds from expiring. There is a large and growing list of things that the Corpus Christi MPO is working on, such as the determination of the MPO boundary, the control totals, the development of travel demand models, the Congestion Management Process (CMP), and so forth for the 2050 MTP development.

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the Port of Corpus Christi is working on the Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor (JFITC) truck queuing system funded by the Texas Innovation Alliance. It is the first of its kind for the region addressing the safety and congestion issues. Mr. Pollack hoped that this pilot program would attract surrounding jurisdictions in building smart corridors collaboratively.

Mr. Gordon informed the TAC that the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) provides free transportation services to Libraries and Cooling Centers.

Ms. Sales-Evans requested that the 2050 MTP become a standing item on the TAC agenda. Mr. Casper agreed that this is valuable, given the schedule and number of ongoing items.

8. **Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	July 6, 2023
B. Joint Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Meeting	July 12, 2023
C. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	July 20, 2023
D. Small Area Forecast Task Force:	Meeting	July TBD 2023

9. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.