

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, August 17, 2023**

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

Chairperson Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

TAC Members Present:

Chairperson Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland  
Vice Chairperson Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)  
Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County  
Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi  
Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)  
Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Government

MPO Staff Present: Robert 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 July 20, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**4. Discussion and Possible Action Items**

**A. Small Area Forecast Task Force Recommended Control Totals**

The regional control totals are the projected population and employment numbers that are vital components of transportation planning for determining the future needs and development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Attachment 1 shows two versions of the 2020 – 2050 Historic Population Data and Forecast Population Growth by the Texas State Demographic Center, 0.05 and 0.1. Attachment 2 is the Census 2020 Population Density Map. The Texas State Demographic Center has not yet released the employment projection and suggested using the ratio of jobs to population for future employment projections. Attachment 3 shows the 2020 – 2050 Historic Employment Data and Forecast Employment Growth based on the Quarterly Census Employment and Wages (QCEW) and the suggested Job to Population Ratio. Attachment 4 is the 2021 Employment Density Map.

The Corpus Christi MPO's Small Area Forecast Task Force met on July 21, 2023, and unanimously recommended using the 0.05 version for the population control total and jobs to population ratio as the employment control total.

Attachment 7 is the Population and Employment Control Totals with the Texas Demographic Center's 0.05 projection. While reviewing these attachments, the Corpus Christi MPO staff realized that the Jobs to Population ratio was based on the older data that is pre-COVID and pre-2020 Census and the numbers are less relevant. The line chart in Attachment 1, 2020 – 2050 Historic Population Data and Forecast Population Growth shows the 2016 estimate that is the highest point of the population in these three counties (Nueces, San Patricio, and Aransas) and it has been consistently declining for the last six years. The corrected table of Population and Employment Control Totals was distributed as a handout.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends the TAC recommend to the TPC for approval of the proposed Control Totals.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if the Independent School Districts participated in the control totals discussion and if their data was given consideration. The Corpus Christi MPO reached out to many cross-sectional agencies and organizations for the control totals discussion as Small Area Forecast Task Force members. The roster of

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the Small Area Forecast Task Force was provided in the agenda packet and includes all ISDs, economic development agencies, and others. Unfortunately, the ISDs' data was not directly provided in the discussion, but last year's enrollment data is available and verifiable that only two school districts, Gregory-Portland and London ISDs are increasing but all other ISDs are declining in students.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if the consultant made the outreach effort. Mr. MacDonald answered that the consultant would reach out to the ISDs and others when the population and employment numbers are suballocated to the Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ).

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if any representatives from Aransas County were participating in the Small Area Forecast discussion. Mr. Casper explained that a portion of Aransas County south of the bridge is in the Corpus Christi MPO's travel models; therefore Aransas County is included in this projection effort. Ms. Sales-Evans commented that many Aransas County residents are employed and working in San Patricio or Nueces County, thus this travel pattern should be considered. Mr. MacDonald agreed and commented it is not unusual to be commuting 45 minutes in the region, like from the Southside of Corpus Christi to Sinton. This will be examined when the suballocation to the TAZs is completed and the result is in the travel demand model. The origin-to-destination estimates from cellphone and connected cars data will help identify these critical travel patterns.

Mr. McGinn commented that the forecast is unable to capture seasonal peaks. For example, the tourist population increases considerably during the summer season. It impacts the traffic in the region, but this fact may not be reflected or considered. Ms. Sales-Evans agreed and expressed her concern about many rental properties that attract tourists in different time periods and how this would be reflected. Mr. Casper provided answers to (1) the full-time residential/part-time residential issue can be examined with the Delphi technique, (2) seasonality can be looked at via a seasonality study; for instance, looking at the effort that TxDOT helped with using the older travel demand model, there are 20 locations where traffic patterns change with a 24% increase on weekends. The Corpus Christi MPO's travel demand model will be able to show these seasonal or weekday/weekend travel changes.

This recommended Control Totals is the first step for the development of the 2050 MTP. It will be later expanded to the land use scenarios. The Corpus Christi MPO is collecting local governments' development plans, such as Portland 2040 and City of Corpus Christi's Area Development Plans (ADPs) that are based on their future local forecasts. The City of Corpus Christi's new Impact Fee study shows the proposed roadway improvements to collectors and arterials over the next 10 years. This data is being brought into the process. The functional classification discussion is part of the CMP consultant contract and the MPO boundary determination after completion of the Adjusted Urban area effort and the Small Area Forecast scenario are further steps that will be discussed in a couple of future workshops.

Every MPO in the State of Texas uses the State Demographic Center's numbers for their transportation planning. These numbers can be challenged with factual evidence provided by local governments, MPOs or others. The Texas Water Development Board's newest projection matches with the State Demographic Center's numbers. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will modify the forecast and travel demand model if there is data that shows faster growth than the State Demographic Center's projection.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend the TPC approval of the proposed Control Totals. Mr. McGinn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. FY 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1**

The *FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment 1*, and *FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) Amendment 1* are companion items on the agenda. The Corpus Christi MPO received \$2 million in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funds and is currently programmed to develop the necessary tools and studies for MPO transportation planning. In mid-May, TxDOT notified the Corpus Christi MPO that the remaining \$1,179,828 of federal funds for the CRRSAA is available and it would lapse if not obligated due to Congressional actions related to the budget and the debt ceiling negotiations. The Corpus Christi MPO staff discussed with TxDOT Headquarters, including the Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division and Financial Management Division, and decided to allocate the money for the additional scopes-of services and tasks for the existing MPO Planning Tools and Studies (MPO-067). Both the FY 2023-2026 TIP and FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP need to be amended to

include this additional funding. Attached are the draft Public Notice for soliciting public comments on these amendments, a revised FY 2023-2026 TIP Fiscally Constrained Highway Project List, and a revised TxDOT eSTIP table. The Corpus Christi MPO staff requests the TAC to recommend the TPC to release the FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment 1 for a one-month public comment period.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired about one of the changes listed in the Item 4B memo, FHWA Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program on Laguna Shores Road, if the project has been completed and closed out by constructing the nature-based shoreline protection. Mr. MacDonald answered that the project was closed out. At one time, the construction of the resiliency project was included in the City of Corpus Christi Project for reconstructing Laguna Shores Road, but was not accepted nor funded as part of the City's project.

Mr. McGinn asked if the CRRSAA money was for planning activities. Mr. MacDonald explained that due to the 48-hour time limit to obligate the additional funding, the Corpus Christi MPO had to act quickly. TxDOT Headquarters suggested a pavement project on SH 358. Since the Corpus Christi MPO already had the Non-Construction Advanced Funding Agreement (NCAFA) with TxDOT for Transportation Planning Tools and Studies, the MPO staff proposed to enhance the effort with the additional federal funds. TxDOT-TPP and Finance, FHWA and the Corpus Christi MPO agreed this was the best way to obligate the funds.

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend the TPC approval to release the DRAFT FY 2023-2026 TIP Amendment 1 for a one-month public comment period. Mr. McGinn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

### **C. FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1**

As explained in Item 4B, this item is an accompanying amendment on the FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP to reflect the additional CRRSAA fund. The UPWP is a document that shows the Corpus Christi MPO staff's work products for each subtask and direct expenses. The additional CRRSAA funds (\$1,179,828) is included in UPWP Task 1.0, Administration-Management and the total fund is \$4,779,461 as shown in the table in Item 4C memo. UPWP Task 1.0 includes direct expenses (subtask 1.9) such as rent, office supplies, and payment for consultants. The Corpus Christi MPO hired three consultant teams with their subcontractors and these fees are paid through Task 1.0 which is why the budget amount for Task 1.0 is the largest part of the UPWP.

The additional proposed changes made in the FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP were listed in the Item 4C memo. The Corpus Christi MPO staff worked on FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP Amendment 1 using the most current funding amount at that time almost a year ago, but it was not approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) due to some funding level discrepancies. With this amendment, the numbers are based on the most recent TxDOT authorizations including the UPWP carryover money.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if the Corpus Christi MPO did not identify any Special Studies (Task 5.0). Mr. MacDonald explained that all 2050 MTP subplans and related studies are programmed in appropriate subtasks and no special studies are needed for now in this part of the UPWP.

Mr. Gillespie made a motion to recommend the TPC approval to release the DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024-UPWP Amendment 1 for a one-month public comment period. Mr. McGinn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Information Items**

### **A. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Updates**

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC on the 2050 MTP Updates. Last month, the Small Area Forecast, Non-motorized/Active Mobility/Complete Streets, and Project Scoring were briefed. This month, the Congestion Management Process (CMP), Functional Classification of Roadways, System Preservation, and Resiliency Planning processed were covered.

After the 2020 Census, new urbanized areas are designated and MPO boundaries are determined. Then functional classification of the roadways is conducted. This process is important because the classification determines the eligibility for funding, sets the performance measures on roads, and other decisions. The

Corpus Christi MPO contracted with Halff Associates to update the functional classification as a part of the CMP.

For the system preservation of transportation infrastructure, the Corpus Christi MPO has hired High Street who has a subcontract with Cambridge Systematics to implement the Highway Economic Requirements System (HERS) software to do the rough estimate of the investment into pavement maintenance and management. Cambridge Systematics developed this software in the 1990s and then keeps updating the program consistently. The Corpus Christi MPO will use the City of Corpus Christi's pavement condition data as well.

The Corpus Christi MPO has hired High Street for the Resiliency Planning. The Resiliency Planning has two phases and in phase one, the high value assets and threats to these assets are identified. Work Authorization 2023.9A, Resiliency Study Phase 1A, is attached as a reference.

The CMP, system preservation, and resiliency planning are on the National Highway System (NHS). Other eligible facilities for federal funding are collectors and above, not local streets. For example, when we look at the top 100 most congested roadways in Texas, Staples Street is 32nd, and we have another that is in the Top 100. Some kind of recommendation or solution should be considered in the future for these corridors. Thus, the functional classification process is important to address the local needs with some flexibility.

These are the purposes, expectations, and objectives of the above-mentioned planning processes. The Corpus Christi MPO will provide 2050 MTP updates as items are progressed and hold future workshops for further discussions.

## **B. 2020 Adjusted Urban Area Update**

Mr. Casper briefed the TAC on the Adjusted Urban Area update. The Census Bureau released the 2020 Urban Area map in January 2023. Attachment 1 shows the 2020 Census Designated Urban Areas in the region that includes Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass – Port Aransas – Ingleside, and Robstown. Attachment 2 is the DRAFT Adjusted Urban Areas proposed by TxDOT. The deadline for full completion of the adjustment is December 19, 2023. If not completed by December 19, 2023, the 2020 Census Designated Urban Areas automatically becomes the urban area. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will look at these maps with FHWA's 9 criteria for Urban Boundaries, make additional smoothing or adjustments and finalize this process by working harmoniously with TxDOT. FHWA is required to approve any suggested changes. This process, in conjunction with the Small Area Forecast, is the pivotal step to determine the MPO boundaries.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired if there is some flexibility to adjust the Urban Area with current developments. For example, the construction of houses in the South Oso/London Areas are not reflected in the 2020 Census. Mr. Casper said the smooth urbanized boundary and the MPO boundary are not the same, and the Small Area Forecast Task Force provides their input on current and future development in our region, as well as the local governments' development plans and these data will be used to determine future transportation needs.

## **6. Regional Grant Coordination Topic**

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

Mr. MacDonald informed the TAC of these federal grants. The Notices of Funding Opportunity were issued for the Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART). These NOFOs are attached as Attachment 2 and 3.

For the Federal Grant award, the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) successfully received \$11,744 from Emergency Relief Program Funding.

Mr. MacDonald asked the TAC to share their entities' interest in applying for these grants listed in the FY 2023 Competitive Grant Summary Table.

Mr. Pollack commented that the Port of Corpus Christi's grant activities team has a tool to identify which grants are suitable for the Port to pursue. Currently, some resilience money is available through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Port is applying for the combination of a living

shoreline protection, the Harbor Point East Destination project is one with the shoreline component. These represent the major nature-based solutions approach.

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

Mr. Gordon informed the TAC that the CCRTA expanded their B-line service from the current 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. starting from September 1, 2023, and will see if the demand is there.

**8. Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

<b>A. Transportation Policy Committee:</b>	<b>Regular Meeting</b>	<b>September 7, 2023</b>
<b>B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>September 13, 2023</b>
<b>C. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>	<b>Regular Meeting/Workshop</b>	<b>September 21, 2023</b>
<b>D. Small Area Forecast Task Force:</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>September 21, 2023</b>

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.