

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 19, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

TAC Chair Brian DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

TAC Members Present:

Chair Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland
Vice-Chair Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Planning Authority (CCRTA)
Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces 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)

MPO Staff Present: Robert MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Victor Mendieta, and Karla Carvajal

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TAC SEPTEMBER 21, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Pimentel made a motion to approve the September 21, 2023, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Robinson seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Congestion Management Process and Functional Classification Working Group Formation

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is seeking participants to update the Congestion Management Process (CMP) objectives and use TxDOT's Functional Classification SOP to assist with verifying and updating the Federal Functional Classification of roadways within the Corpus Christi MPO region.

Discussion:

Mr. DeLatte noted that there are two options: 1) the workgroup would consist of TAC members, and 2) the workgroup would consist of TAC members plus additional technical expertise from various organizations.

Mr. Pollack advocated for the workgroup to include TAC plus supplemental participation.

Mr. Casper requested names and titles of the recommended list of supplemental people to join the workgroup within a week so that a work group list can be established prior to the next TAC meeting.

Mr. MacDonald noted that a motion is requested from the TAC, yet will not be forwarded to the TPC for action since this is a TAC-led effort.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired about what exactly the motion is for since the item is not going to TPC and if there isn't a public comment period.

Mr. Pollack responded that the motion is about the structure of the working group to include TAC plus supplemental expertise.

Mr. McGinn asked if the group would meet monthly. Mr. Casper responded that it would meet as needed with the potential for some meetings to be virtual.

Mr. Pollack asked if the meetings would be immediately after TAC meetings. Mr. MacDonald confirmed yes.

Recommendation:

The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommends that TAC be the core members of a Congestion Management Process and Functional Classification Working Group to provide key input into reviewing and updating the Congestion Management Process and the Federal Functional Classification of the regional road system. TAC members are requested to invite or name other members of the Working Group from their local agencies.

TAC APPROVED MINUTES

Motion:

Mr. Pollack made a motion for TAC members to be the core members of the Congestion Management Process and Functional Classification Working Group with supplemental members to be determined later. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. WORKSHOP/INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Small Area Forecast Task Force October 18th Meeting Recap

MPO Staff updated TAC members on TPC actions regarding regional control totals for the 2050 MTP regarding population and employment by county. The consultant presented an introduction to land use forecasting and how it supports transportation planning along with how the software application UrbanSim works and the status of the forecast development for the Corpus Christi MPO's 2050 MTP.

Discussion:

Mr. Robinson inquired how many other MPOs in Texas are using UrbanSim.

Mr. Casper responded that three MPOs in Texas that are using UrbanSim: Austin (CAMPO), Dallas (NCTCOG), and El Paso.

Mr. MacDonald noted that El Paso just finished setting up their model.

B. DRAFT MPO-wide Safety Network Screening Report, including Projects

Mr. Casper presented the DRAFT Regional Safety Action Plan for TAC members to review and bring their questions to next month's meeting. Mr. Casper emphasized that TAC members, task force members, and disadvantaged communities need to be surveyed about safety issues.

Mr. MacDonald mentioned that the MPO recently signed with Social Pinpoint for the development of surveys and outreach. The Corpus Christi MPO will use this platform not only for the Safety Action Plan but for every other plan that the Corpus Christi MPO is currently working on. Mr. MacDonald relayed that TAC members will be receiving copies of all the different surveys. Mr. MacDonald reiterated that there is only a little over a year left to complete the long-range plan and that outreach needs to be completed. Social Pinpoint is going to help with this endeavor. The Corpus Christi MPO has consultant teams working on the public outreach components to every one of the plans.

Mr. Casper explained that there will be four basic considerations when prioritizing projects: benefit/cost ratio, public concern about projects, equity, and scope-joining opportunities. Mr. Casper also noted that the DRAFT Regional Safety Action Plan contains a list of the first 20 locations that were analyzed with potentially 30 more locations to be added later along with updating the crash database to include 2022 data.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the first 20 locations are not ranked or sorted yet. Mr. MacDonald also noted that TxDOT's offer of \$50,000 would be utilized toward the next 30 locations to take advantage of the funds that TxDOT has made available to each MPO.

Discussion:

Ms. Sales-Evans asked about the process for potentially deferring or addressing that there needs to be some opportunity for improvements to see what that does with respect to crash information.

Mr. Casper responded that Ms. Sales-Evans questions would be deferred to the MPO's consultants.

Mr. MacDonald noted that when the Corpus Christi MPO amends the current consultant contract to include the 50 additional locations, the 2022 crash data will be acquired, cleaned, and incorporated into the database. Mr. MacDonald also noted that the Vision Zero Suite (VZS) software allows before and after analysis of locations. Mr. MacDonald further relayed that this part of the Safety Action Plan will help inform what projects should be looked at and how they are prioritized; one evaluation criteria being opportunity to combine the safety improvements with other planned projects.

Mr. Pollack commented that there is real merit to the process of identifying priority locations for interventions and that it is really important to confer all relevant existing plans where there may be planned in scope interventions.

Mr. MacDonald agreed and confirmed that there is a master list of projects that are in development that are extracted from member agency plans.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented that these recommendations may not be the solution that the local government or state feels is appropriate for the project.

Mr. Pollack commented that the outside perspective for prospective solutions is a benefit and should not be dismissed.

Ms. Sales-Evans mentioned some projects, i.e. roundabouts, typically need additional property in order to accommodate that solution and that it would be helpful if it's in the contract/project document indicating so.

Mr. Casper responded that the application of Vison Zero Suite's (VZS) benefit cost tool includes right-of-way costs.

Mr. MacDonald noted that the various countermeasures in VZS can be evaluated by the MPO, TAC members, or consultants. Training for VZS will be provided by the consultant to MPO staff and invited local government staff.

C. DRAFT Resiliency Plan Technical Memo 2

One of the requirements for MPOs is to consider resiliency in the long-range plan by way of a resiliency plan. The Corpus Christi MPO is collaboratively developing a resiliency plan. The Harte Institute is now in the process of developing a tool to look at resiliency called GeoRED and they will present their tool to TAC at the next meeting.

The memo attached is the first phase of the consultant's resiliency plan identifying what the critical infrastructure is and what are highest risk threats to that infrastructure. It is requested that TAC review the memo over the next month and provide any comments back to the MPO staff.

Discussion:

Mr. Pollack asked what it looks like in terms of assimilating all the great work done by other technical institutions into the resiliency plan.

Mr. Casper responded that assimilation will be in the form of a GIS tool where you can apply threats to that based on geographic location and updated information. In the memo, a USDOT tool, RDR, will be developed that helps figure out what types of investments can and should be considered during the planning process. Information regarding the RDR tool will be sent out to TAC members for review.

D. Community Impact Model Development and Implementation Preview

The Community Impact tool will look at the social and environmental impacts of transportation investments. It will also be used to help with equity analysis. The scope is included for TAC member review. The tool will be customized for the Corpus Christi MPO region and at a higher resolution. Most federal tools are at the Census Tract level. This tool will try and be at least at the Block Group level, a finer level of detail, where data is available.

Discussion:

Mr. MacDonald inquired if TAC members recognized any of the other federal tools listed in the agenda packet.

Mr. Pollack stated that most of the federal grant pursuits use the EPA tool at minimum.

Mr. Casper noted that the transportation tools use different data inputs and processes which can give different answers.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if it is needed to look at the tools that might be recommended by FHWA.

Mr. Casper noted that there are three tools that are recommended by FHWA, one of them being the STEAP tool, which is a screening tool at the project level for equity analysis projects.

E. TxDOT FM 624/Northwest Boulevard Project Update

Ms. Sales-Evans gave a presentation on the TxDOT FM 624/Northwest Boulevard.

Update: <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/hearings-meetings/corpus-christi/fm624-110223.html>

6. TAC MEMBER STATEMENTS ON LOCAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Mr. Pollack stated that the Port spent the last year pursuing a federal designation as a hydrogen hub. The announcements came out last week that the Port is one of the three designated hub alternates nationally but not one of the seven main hubs.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Small Area Forecast Task Force:	Meeting	October 18, 2023
B. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	November 2, 2023
C. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Meeting	November 8, 2023
D. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	November 16, 2023

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.