

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
AND 2050 MTP WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024
9:00 AM – TAC REGULAR MEETING

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

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

TAC Members Present:

Chairperson Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland

Vice-Chairperson Gordon Robinson, AICP, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Planning Authority (CCRTA)

Juan Pimentel, P.E., Nueces County

Commissioner Tom Yardley, San Patricio County

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi Authority

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. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Corpus Christi MPO Bylaws, the Technical Advisory Committee shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its voting members during the first meeting of each calendar year.

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to re-elect Brian DeLatte as Chairperson. Mr. Yardley seconded; motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLatte made a motion to elect Jeff Pollack as Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; motion was passed unanimously.

Brian DeLatte and Jeff Pollack are elected TAC Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Calendar Year 2024.

3. NON AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None were offered or provided to the Corpus Christi MPO staff before the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE TAC NOVEMBER 16, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the November 16, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Pimentel seconded. Mr. Yardley abstained; motion was passed.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Safety Performance Measures and Targets (PM1)

Mr. Casper discussed the federal regulations requiring the use of performance-based planning by state Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) during project selection. He outlined the seven national goals (The topics of those seven goals are safety, infrastructure condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays) framing the process, with a focus on the highway safety goal for this session. MPOs are given the option of either adopting their own set of goals to frame project selection or to support TxDOT's goals. Mr. Casper stated that the Corpus Christi MPO has always supported TxDOT's goals. Despite Texas adopting a goal to halve fatalities by 2035 and reach zero by 2050, recent data shows an increase in fatalities.

Motion:

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend approval to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) of the DRAFT Resolution 24-02 supporting the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Safety (PM1) performance measures and targets.

Mr. Yardley seconded, motion was passed unanimously.

TAC APPROVED MINUTES

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. TxDOT Household and Establishments Surveys for Corpus Christi MPO Region

Ms. Sonya Solinsky, TxDOT's Program Manager for the Travel Survey Program, presented the on-going household and establishment surveys in the region, emphasizing the importance of data for population distribution and travel methods. Ms. Solinsky covered the recruitment process for household surveys, mentioning 1,750 households targeted with a 2.2% response rate. Establishment surveys focused on workplace and commercial vehicle data collection, involving invitational letters and intercept surveys. Ms. Solinsky highlighted engagement with businesses like the Corpus Christi International Airport and outlined plans for upcoming surveys at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Walmart Supercenter on Saratoga. Ms. Solinsky also stressed the need for awareness about the legitimacy of the surveys and expressed interest in collaboration with the MPO for promotion. The collected information contributes to the MPOs travel demand model, providing insights into trip production rates and travel patterns, with an update in the household survey portion of the travel demand model planned to begin in the autumn of 2024.

B. 2050 MTP Timeline Presentation

Mr. MacDonald provided an update on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) timeline, highlighting the Transportation Policy Committee's approval scheduled for February of 2025. He discussed the approach to approvals, public outreach events, and the engagement of consultant teams funded by TxDOT.

Ms. Sales-Evans raised concerns about potential loss of Category 2 funds due to rule changes, emphasizing the need for discussion on allocating funds swiftly.

Mr. Pollack expressed the importance of adhering to the project hierarchy and prioritization, suggesting that if a Category 7 project faces challenges, it should move down the list. He emphasized the need for a clear delineation of project milestones and suggested that the region should not reinvent prioritization. Mr. MacDonald acknowledged the point and discussed the process of reallocating funds if a project faces delays.

Mr. Pollack stressed the importance of upholding the plan laid out for the region. Mr. MacDonald acknowledged the issue, discussed options for reallocating funds, and mentioned a forthcoming workshop in February. The discussion also touched on the City of Corpus Christi's challenges with project funding and reimbursement.

Mr. Casper highlighted the need for discussions on funding large projects and improving cash flow for reimbursement.

C. Active Transportation Plan: Public Meeting Materials Review and Results

Mr. Kevin St. Jacques, from the consulting firm of Freese & Nichols, presented the program progress in collaborating with stakeholders and engaging the public. He outlined recent public meetings, noting the challenges of lightly attended sessions due to cold temperatures. Despite attendance, he considered the meetings productive, with valuable one-on-one conversations and the distribution of QR codes for the two current surveys.

Mr. Pollack contributed by highlighting the existing 2016 Strategic Plan for Active Mobility, expressing the need for refinement rather than adopting an entirely new strategy. He stressed the importance of recognizing the legacy plan's connectivity, emphasizing that the community needs to understand the ongoing enhancements rather than considering a complete overhaul.

Ms. Sales-Evans raised concerns about overlapping city projects, especially regarding FM 624 and the Northwest Boulevard area. She expressed the challenge of navigating community input when multiple initiatives are competing for the same resources. Additionally, she questioned the expectation for estimated costs once the plan is updated.

Mr. MacDonald shared insights on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, mentioning the intention to eventually estimate long-range costs for implementing the entire system. He emphasized the importance of considering needs-based systems for elements like sidewalks and reiterated the significance of leveraging ongoing city projects for cost-efficient implementation.

Mr. DeLatte emphasized the importance of maintaining an opportunistic and strategic approach, drawing examples from Portland's experience. He noted the need to avoid leaving any plan segments stranded and highlighted the plan's flexibility to accommodate both opportunistic and strategic projects, ensuring a cohesive and connected network.

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

Mr. MacDonald provided an update on federal transition grants, highlighting the ATTAIN grant for safety improvements.

Mr. Robinson explained the collision avoidance system planned for 50 buses to enhance safety for riders and pedestrians.

Mr. MacDonald discussed the allocation of \$300,000 for the Safety Action Plan, emphasizing that federal grants are available for such Safety Action Plans. He presented examples of Texas cities receiving SS4A funding for projects derived from Safety Action Plans, encouraging members to consider eligible projects in their communities.

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

Mr. Yardley announced the upcoming State of the County (San Patricio) on January 24th and encouraged interested individuals to contact the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Robinson discussed recent service improvements, including the extension of Route 24 to enhance connectivity with transportation and the extension of key Routes (19, 29, 27, and 37) until 10 pm on weekdays. He highlighted the efforts to address community needs and mentioned plans to gradually rebuild services post-COVID, with a focus on potential future frequency increases.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	February 1, 2024
B. Joint Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:	Regular Meeting	February 14, 2024
C. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	February 15, 2024

9. ADJOURN REGULAR TAC MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 am.