

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

JUNE 20, 2024

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

Jeff Pollack Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

TAC Members Present:

Jeff Pollack, AICP, Port of Corpus Christi, Vice Chairperson

Tom Yardley, San Patricio County

Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT - Corpus Christi District (CRP)

Dan McGinn, AICP, City of Corpus Christi

Liann Alfaro, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)

MPO Staff Present: Craig Casper, AICP, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, and Karla Carvajal, MBA

2. NON AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were offered or made.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TAC MAY 16, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to approve the May 16, 2024 minutes. Mr. Yardley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was proposed for release for the required one-month public comment period. The approval for release is necessary to meet the TxDOT scheduled adoption of the FY 2025-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The TxDOT HQ must receive the final approved TIPs from all MPOs no later than June 10th, 2024. This means that the public comments cannot be received and addressed before the upload of the Corpus Christi MPO TIP. The current plan is to upload the same version of the TIP that is released to the public and modify it to the adopted version after public comments are addressed and approved by the Corpus Christi MPO on July 11th. This updated document will then be provided (and uploaded) to TxDOT as a public comment during the TxDOT 30-day public comment period that begins July 12.

Public Comment:

The Corpus Christi MPO received a public comment on agenda item 4A, - on June 19, 2024 at 9:00 p.m. The following is the public comment read verbatim with attached map:

“To whom it may concern;

We are writing to express our deep concerns about the recently proposed list of transportation projects. While we understand the importance of infrastructure development, we believe that both of TxDOT/MPO lists (10-year and 4-year) project lists fail to address the critical needs of our communities, particularly for minority and low-income residents.

Also the map on page 8 of the document is old and needs to be corrected. Look at the following websites below for correct information: Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), Equitable Transportation Community (ETC) Explorer, Areas of Persistent Poverty & Historically Disadvantaged Communities, Environmental Justice (EJ) Screen.

The proposed projects prioritize WANTS in advantaged areas, while neglecting the existing NEEDS and transportation challenges faced by low-income residents and communities of color. This approach contradicts the principles of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Executive Order 12898, and Executive Order 13985, which all emphasize fair and equitable distribution of transportation benefits.

TAC APPROVED MINUTES

Specifically:

As shown below, drawing the projects in black on the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool map you see very clearly the bias against our communities, in red. There are literally no projects in disadvantaged communities.

None.

While that is one way to avoid having bad impacts on the people, it also doesn't let anything good happen.

To ensure an inclusive transportation plan, we urge you to reconsider the current proposal and conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing transportation needs and spread the benefits equitably across all demographics. This assessment should prioritize projects that address the transportation barriers faced by low-income residents and communities of color, promoting equitable access to jobs, education, and essential services.

Thank you for your time and attention to avoid making a mockery of federal law.

Happy Juneteenth”



Discussion:

Mr. Pollack inquired that beyond acknowledgment and inclusion of the public comment into the record, what are the implications the public comment has toward the TIP process.

Mr. Casper responded that the Corpus Christi MPO would need to review the matter more deeply and get back to TAC about the implications if the projects in the regional TIP are not providing benefits at the same time and at the same level to disadvantaged populations.

Mr. Pollack stated it is incumbent upon the MPO to objectively look at the project selection process and quantitatively evaluate whether or not the distribution of projects is equitable. If not, is there a structural reason for this?

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested TAC acknowledge taking the comment into consideration as part of the public involvement process and evaluate changes, if any, need to be made. Ms. Sales-Evans further suggested that TAC cannot make a recommendation at this point without evaluating in more depth the types of areas, types of projects, and benefits. She suggested more information from FHWA on how to

evaluate the benefits from projects to communities that are not within a disadvantaged or EJ area but still provide travel options for those areas.

Mr. Pollack pointed out that linear transportation facilities serve origins and destinations that may be disadvantaged communities. He also thought that the public comment highlights the importance of having a codified process for responding to public comments.

Mr. Casper moved the conversation further, noting that the Corpus Christi MPO received a comment from TxDOT that minor technical corrections to the project list descriptions and funding need to be made.

Mr. Pollack pointed out a discrepancy between the summary in the memo and the recommendation. Mr. Casper clarified that the recommendation is the correct verbiage and that the recommendation is “The Corpus Christi MPO staff proposes that the TAC recommend the TPC approve the DRAFT FY 2025-2028 TIP”.

Mr. Casper noted the projects listed are the same projects that were in the previous TIP with the exception of the exclusion of PR 22, which had been moved out a year outside of the TIP years due to fiscal constraint.

Mr. Casper also noted that an amendment to the current 2045 MTP fiscally constrained project list is required to ensure consistency across the MTP and TIP documents.

There was additional discussion about the pros and cons of grouping projects versus showing all of the projects that are funded.

Motion:

Mr. Pollack motioned to table DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to hold a special meeting to discuss and take possible action on Friday, June 28, 2024. Ms. Alfaro seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with Amendment 2

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommended that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) review and discuss the DRAFT Amendment 2 to the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This Amendment 2 was requested by TxDOT as part of their April 8, 2024 Work Order Letter 2 for FY 2024 that specified the requirement for the Corpus Christi MPO to have specific language in the current Unified Planning Work Program related to the federal requirement to spend a minimum of 2.5% of the MPO’s Federal Planning funds (PL) on planning activities “...to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities...”

Throughout the DRAFT UPWP with Amendment 2 document the title of Subtask 3.3 was changed from “Complete Streets, Active Transportation and Micro-mobility Planning” to “2.5% Set-Aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options.” Additionally, a minor reallocation of funds was proposed to ensure compliance with the 2.5% minimum funding levels for the Subtask.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend the TPC to approve the DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP with Amendment 2. Mr. Yardley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Casper presented the item.

Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is both the annual budget document for the Corpus Christi MPO and the

document that coordinates among agencies and informs the public about ongoing transportation planning throughout the region by all local agencies. Key assumptions in this new two-year UPWP are:

- the total Transportation Planning Funding (TPF) amounts shown in the table on page two of this memo and in the UPWP document are the same as from FY 2024 until the new amounts are received;
- that \$700,000 of carryover funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) are a 100% federal grant for the completion of the Corpus Christi MPO Planning Tools and Studies project.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mr. Yardley made a motion to recommend the TPC to approve the DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP. Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

D. DRAFT 2050 MTP Vision and Goals

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The Corpus Christi 2050 MTP is scheduled for the 5-year update on February 6, 2025. There are several critical items that need to be adopted as soon as possible, including Vision, Goals, and Objectives. The outcome needed from this agenda item is recommending a Vision and Goals to the TPC for discussion and possible action in July. The possible July action is to use the DRAFT Vision and Goals to continue development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Discussion:

Ms. Sales-Evans commented on the draft safety measures. She expressed concern that relying only on proven safety counter measures might not address all situations effectively. She suggested including a more flexible approach by allowing other reasonable measures beyond the standard proven countermeasures. That approach would ensure that unique situations are addressed appropriately without being constrained to a certain set of solutions.

Motion:

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend the TPC to approve the DRAFT 2050 MTP Vision and Goals, with modification to the DRAFT Safety and Security Goal to include "other reasonable measures". Mr. Yardley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2050 MTP Objective Topics

Mr. Casper presented the item.

MPO Staff is requesting TAC to come up with additional objective topics beyond those in federal law and guidance, that will be assigned to the relevant working goals. Each objective must have a time based performance measure that can be used to improve accountability.

As stated in the 2023 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance on developing Long Range Plans, "In a performance-based process, the long-range transportation plan identifies goals and objectives, which play a critical role in driving a performance-based approach to decision-making. Goals reflect key priorities for desired outcomes for the transportation system or for society. Supporting objectives that are specific, measurable statements can help support achievement of goals and play a key role in shaping investment and policy priorities."

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired about the objective tree as shown in the memo and asked if this is an example of the type analysis that will be done in future workshops or if this is a final recommendation. Mr. Casper confirmed that it is an example of the process that comes from federal guidance.

Ms. Sales-Evans noted that SMART objectives that are specific in their numerical targets are dependent on thorough data collection that captures those attributes, and that these objectives need to reflect the appropriate level of data that is available.

B. 2050 MTP: Chapter 1 - Introduction

Mr. Casper presented the DRAFT Chapter 1 of the 2050 MTP and requested TAC feedback on the look, feel, and content of the chapter.

Mr. Pollack inquired if there was a definitive timeframe to deliver feedback. Mr. Casper responded February is the ultimate deadline but feedback sooner is appreciated.

C. Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) Second List of Project Locations

Mr. Casper presented the second list of crash locations identified as being highly susceptible to improvements that will be incorporated into the Regional Safety Action Plan. Mr. Casper noted that MPO Staff is working towards a potential July release of the RSAP.

Ms. Sales-Evans wanted clarification that “releasing RSAP as a plan” meant that it meant releasing for comment. Mr. Casper confirmed that it will be released for comment.

Mr. Yardley inquired how to read the scores on the list. Mr. Casper noted that they aren’t scores, but are a total number of crashes.

Ms. Sales-Evans noted that within each location, there is an overlap of the project limits and inquired why. Mr. Casper gave a brief overview of the software. To eliminate confusion on how to read the project list, Ms. Sales-Evans recommended revising the list to show only the full project limits of each corridor with the identification of the different types of improvements available within the limits.

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

Mr. Pollack noted that the Port has been incredibly busy in terms grant applications, including about \$135 million for an application to the EPA for the Clean Ports program. Mr. Pollack mentioned that this is a once in a generation, port specific funding opportunity targeted at emissions reductions in the local airshed and secondarily greenhouse gas reductions; however, the money can only be used to purchase zero-emission equipment. Funds have been applied to support the conversion of fleet equipment and all modalities.

Ms. Sales-Evans reminded TAC members that there will be a Regional Parkway North Padre Island Agency scoping meeting in the afternoon and that it is a kick-off process with the resource agencies on the beginning of environmental impact studies associated with that piece of the corridor.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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| A. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting | July 11, 2024 |
| B. 2050 MTP Public Meetings/Workshops | | July 16-18, 2024 |
| C. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting/Workshop | July 18, 2024 |

8. ADJOURN

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