

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MINUTES
April 5, 2018**

1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the City of Corpus Christi Council Chambers.

Present: Judge Simpson, San Patricio County; Mr. Zahn, Port Corpus Christi; Mayor McComb, City of Corpus Christi; Mayor Krebs, City of Portland, Mr. Martinez, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority and Mr. Caron, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation – Corpus Christi District, Mr. John Buckner, Coastal Bend Council of Government

Staff present: Jeff Pollack, Brigida Gonzalez, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, Elena Buentello and Yoshiko Boulan

2. Introduction of Visiting Agency Officials

Judge Simpson welcomed all in attendance.

3. Approval of the March 1, 2018 TPC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the March 1, 2018 TPC Meeting Minutes.

Mayor Krebs seconded; motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Metropolitan Planning Process and Performance Based Planning & Programming Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Mr. Pollack explained that the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires the creation of a new Metropolitan Planning Process and Performance Based Planning & Programming MOU between the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA), Texas Department of Transportation-Corpus Christi District (TxDOT-CRP), and the MPO. Staff from the three organizations have collaborated in refining the MOU, which is a template provided by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The MOU was presented to the CCRTA Administration Committee on March 28th, and to the CCRTA Board of Directors on April 4th.

Judge Simpson made a motion to execute the Metropolitan Planning Process and Performance Based Planning & Programming MOU. Mayor Krebs seconded; motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update

Mr. Pollack stated that the update of the MPO's Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) necessitates an update to the MPO's PPP to include coordination with public ports and private providers of transportation as well as consultation with agencies responsible for planning activities related to tourism and natural disaster risk reduction. He explained that staff intends to do a more comprehensive update of the PPP later this year or early next, but the current update ensures the FAST Act compliance in the interim.

Mr. Zahn inquired about how the action before the TPC affects the public comment period.

Mr. Pollack responded that the public notice soliciting public comment for this update, which is 45 days, began on February 18th. He stated that it is MPO practice to provide an opportunity for public input anytime one of its principal documents is updated. No public comments on the PPP update have been received.

Mayor Krebs made a motion to approve the update of the PPP. Mr. Martinez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. Proposed FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Pollack explained that the proposed FY 2019-2022 TIP update includes two additional planning factors, as required by the FAST Act, as well as the addition of Transportation Alternative Set-Aside projects in FY 2019 and FY 2020. He stated that the let date for an additional City of Corpus Christi Transportation Alternatives project was also being changed from FY 2018 to FY 2019. He reminded the TPC that the TIP represents the top four years of the MPO's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and he commented that this TIP update essentially shifts the four-year window of projects from FY 2017-2020 to FY 2019-2022.

The public notice soliciting public comment for the TIP update began on March 4th.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the proposed TIP update. Mayor Krebs seconded; motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution for the Non-construction Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) regarding Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Project

Mr. Pollack reminded the TPC that in March, the MPO was awarded Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) funds to design a nature-based shoreline protection feature to be constructed by the City of Corpus Christi in conjunction with the bond-funded reconstruction of Laguna Shores Road.

He explained that as part of the execution of that grant, the MPO must establish an AFA with TxDOT to define the terms of delivery of funds to the MPO.

Mr. Simpson expressed enthusiasm for the involvement of Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi faculty and students in the collaborative project.

Judge Simpson made a motion to execute the proposed resolution in support of the FHWA grant-funded project. Mayor Krebs seconded; motion passed unanimously.

5. Staff Briefing

A. FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Pollack reported that staff would be presenting the draft UPWP to the TPC at the May meeting. He reminded the TPC that the UPWP is the plan that specifies how FHWA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds will be spent but does not directly address programming of capital expenditures; it also serves as the operating budget for the MPO.

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that, pending committee member feedback, staff proposes to implement a two-year (rather than one-year) UPWP, as is the practice in about 60% of the MPOs in Texas and as was formerly the practice for the Corpus Christi MPO. The MPO switched to a one-year UPWP during a period of particular uncertainty about the availability for federal planning funds. Mr. Pollack explained that adopting a two-year UPWP would simplify the administration of multi-year planning projects, including the FHWA resilience grant, and would provide more flexibility in planning for and undertaking planning studies, like the Travel Speed and Delay Study that is programmed to begin later this year.

B. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Narrative Update

Mr. Pollack reported that staff had completed an updated draft of the MPO CMP narrative (per feedback received from FHWA during and after the MPO's Federal Certification Review (FCR) in April 2017) and had delivered it to FHWA for review early in March 2018; to date, no response has been received, nor have comments from the FCR been provided. The draft report of comments from the FCR was scheduled for delivery to the MPO in June 2017. Staff is eager to bring the updated CMP narrative to Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and TPC but would prefer to have concurrence from FHWA that the updated document satisfies federal requirements.

Mayor McComb inquired as to whether TxDOT-CRP had been asked to examine the impacts of the potential relocation of Mary Carroll High School to the intersection of Saratoga Boulevard and Weber Road. He expressed concern about the potential for the project to exacerbate congestion.

Mr. Pollack responded that the MPO had not been formally asked to comment on that project. He stated that the MPO does have traffic counts for those corridors and collects data on other congestion-related metrics that could help answer that question as a function of the move to performance-based planning.

Mr. Caron invited Victor Vourcos, Advanced Planning Engineer, TxDOT-CRP, to comment.

Mr. Vourcos reported that TxDOT-CRP has received some preliminary data from the Corpus Christi Independent School District (CCISD), which was sent on to the TxDOT Traffic Operation Section. He stated that TxDOT-CRP was awaiting the results of the Traffic Impact Analysis that CCISD is doing in conjunction with the project.

C. FHWA Multi-jurisdictional Coordination Workshop: March 28 - 29, 2018

Mr. Pollack reported that he attended a workshop, sponsored by FHWA, addressing freight mobility between metro areas in the greater Texas region. He commented that Jarl Pederson, Chief Commercial Officer at Port Corpus Christi, also participated, as did two delegates from Union Pacific (UP) Railroad. Mr. Pollack stated that he enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the relative involvement of UP in local transportation planning as well as opportunities to enhance coordination. He reported that a UP regional representative is scheduled to be at the next San Patricio County Rural Rail District meeting.

Mr. Zahn commented that he and Mr. Martinez had just returned from a meeting with UP in Omaha; he stated that UP had expressed an interest in presenting to the TPC about their plans in our region.

D. Next Transportation Policy Committee Meeting: May 3rd, 2018

Mr. Pollack reiterated the next TPC meeting will be an action heavy agenda and quorum will be critical.

6. TPC Members' Comments and Concerns

Mayor Krebs inquired about the status and funding for the project at US 181 and IH 35.

Mr. Caron invited Mr. Vourcos to address the TPC. Mr. Vourcos stated that the project is on schedule for letting in late summer. He commented that the project was environmentally cleared more than a decade ago when the first phase was constructed, and the public meeting in Portland on April 17th is an opportunity to update the public on the project. He reported that project funding is in great shape and includes contributions from multiple sources.

Mayor Krebs inquired about the time frame for the project.

Mr. Vourcos responded that it will be a two and a half to three year project, but much of it can be constructed in the median with minimal impact to traffic.

7. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were noted.

8. Public Comments on Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.