

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MINUTES
August 2, 2018**

1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. at the City of Corpus Christi Council Chambers.

Present: Judge Simpson, San Patricio County; Mayor McComb, City of Corpus Christi; Mayor Skurow, City of Portland, Mr. Martinez, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority and Mr. Caron, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation – Corpus Christi District

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

2. Introduction of Visiting Agency Officials

Ms. Gonzalez introduced Ms. Melissa Vela, Assistant Chief of Administration for Nueces County and Ms. Belinda Hinojosa - Persohn, Chief of Administration for Nueces County. Ms. Vela will assist the MPO regarding legal matters.

Mayor Cathy Skurow of the City of Portland joined the TPC.

3. Public Comments

Judge Simpson called for public comment on the TPC items; none were offered.

4. Approval of the May 3, 2018 TPC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the May 3, 2018 TPC Meeting Minutes. Mayor McComb seconded; motion passed unanimously.

5. Presentation: TxDOT Update of Key On-System Mobility and Connectivity Project

Mr. Caron, District Engineer for TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (TxDOT-CRP) provided an update on the status of various mobility and connectivity projects on the State Highway system within the MPO boundary and a handful of projects beyond the MPO boundary that are still relevant to MPO related projects.

TxDOT has average a \$35M to \$40M budget per year for the maintenance of the existing State Highway System in Nueces and San Patricio Counties that includes sealcoats, overlays, pavement rehabilitation, and safety improvements. In FY2019, \$20M is allocated to either sealcoat, overlay, rehabilitation, or safety improvement projects.

Mobility and connectivity projects in the MPO boundary are prioritized and budgeted by MPO, and the projects outside of MPO boundary are prioritized and budgeted by TxDOT-CRP. Mr. Caron stated that the current number of projects in the Coastal Bend is remarkably high with 16 projects estimated in the billion-dollar price range.

Judge Simpson asked about the limits of the US 77 Interstate Standard Upgrade project for Odem. Mr. Caron stated the upgrade would be up to Odem with design consideration for the Odem relief route.

Mayor Skurow requested rail crossings be added to future maps; Mr. Caron agreed.

6. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Resolution authorizing the MPO to enter into a Non-construction Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT regarding the Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Project

Ms. Gonzalez reminded members of TPC's previous adoption of a resolution in support of the Resiliency Project in March 2018. This resolution specifically identifies the funding source, MPO's commitments to payments and overruns, and authorized signatory authorizing the MPO to enter into an agreement with TxDOT.

Mayor McComb requested clarification of the purpose of this project. Mr. Pollack, former MPO Director, was invited to briefly summarize the project. Mr. Pollack explained that this project is one of eleven national projects selected by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to address resiliency. Our local project consists of designing a nature-based shoreline protection feature that can be incorporated into roadway construction. The City of Corpus Christi will carry out construction of Laguna Shore Road, and the FHWA's grant allows the City to use the environmental mitigation analysis as a part of the required construction process. The expectation is that findings can be used as an example case study for the coastal regions which are prone to inundation and erosion with extreme weather.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to execute the resolution authorizing the MPO to enter into an AFA with TxDOT for the FHWA grant-funded project. Mayor McComb seconded; motion passed unanimously.

B. Renewal of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Agreement between TxDOT, MPO, and Nueces County (Fiscal Agent of the MPO)

Ms. Gonzalez explained the proposed renewal of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Agreement outlines the roles and responsibilities of the MPO, Nueces County (MPO's fiscal agent), and TxDOT regarding the metropolitan transportation planning process. A review of the document confirms the proposed contract is in-line with the existing agreement. If approved, the new contract is set to renew October 1, 2018 and expire September 30, 2024.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed renewal of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Agreement. Mayor McComb seconded; motion passed unanimously.

C. Adoption of the 2018-2020 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan and Resolution to designate the MPO's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator

Ms. Gonzalez stated that as a recipient of federal financial assistance, the MPO must consider Title VI in all phases of our planning process. To certify our continued compliance, the MPO has reviewed our process. She introduced Ms. Buentello who would provide an update on the MPO's policy statement and Title VI Plan, both of which mirror TxDOT documents.

Ms. Buentello briefly explained that to comply with federal requirements, MPO has updated its policy statement and developed a Title VI plan. The MPO's Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan has been internally practiced but with the new guidance from TxDOT, the process was formalized into a plan. She reiterated the MPO's plan mirrors TxDOT's Title VI Plan, as well as designates Ms. Gonzalez as the Title VI/Non-discrimination Coordinator for the MPO. Staff submits documents for official approval.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the proposed 2018-2020 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Plan. Mayor McComb seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gonzalez informed TPC members that TxDOT will perform a desk audit on the MPO's Title VI process and the MPO will easily be able to comply.

7. Staff Briefing

A. Interim MPO Transportation Planning Director appointment

Ms. Gonzalez thanked the TPC for the opportunity to serve the MPO as Interim Transportation Planning Director through the end of the fiscal year. She stated she was working in earnest with the Human Resources Department of Nueces County to post the announcement of the position. Ms. Gonzalez indicated her departure date from the MPO is October 5, 2018 and it is the MPO's hope to hire a new director prior to October.

Judge Simpson thanked Ms. Gonzalez for her work as the Assistant Transportation Planning Director and now in her role as the Interim Transportation Planning Director for the MPO. Judge Simpson requested member participation for an ad-hoc committee to assist with the vetting of candidates. Mayor McComb and Mayor Skurow were appointed to work with Ms. Gonzalez and MPO staff on the ad hoc hiring committee.

B. Selection of Coastal Engineering Service Provider

Ms. Gonzalez stated that with the adoption of the resolution in a previous agenda item, the MPO will now be able to execute the Non-construction AFA with TxDOT for the FHWA Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Project and move forward to select the service provider who will design the nature based feature proposed in the grant.

C. Election of TAC Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Gonzalez informed TPC members that Mr. DeLatte is the new TAC Vice Chair and Dr. Chong, City of Corpus Christi Traffic Engineer is the new TAC Vice Chair.

D. MPO Bike Mobility Survey Launch on August 11, 2018 at Nueces County Medical Society Health Fair

Ms. Gonzalez stated the Bike Mobility Survey was initially conducted in 2015 as part of the Strategic Plan for Active Mobility. The MPO is now implementing a follow up survey that includes one-on-one interview as well as electronic access. The MPO will launch its Bike Mobility Survey on August 11, 2018 at Nueces County Medical Society Health Fair at American Bank Center. The new survey will also be used to measure the community’s awareness of new bike infrastructure constructed since the implementation of the plan.

Mr. Carrizales discussed the elements of the flyer and access opportunities to the survey.

Mayor McComb expressed his concern of the survey targeting only specific groups in the community and how those results would then make it the city’s responsibility to build facilities that only a concentrate group of people provided a response. He requested information on the legitimacy of the survey and how widespread the survey was being distributed. Ms. Gonzalez state the population at the health fair was considered a diverse and objective population for receiving the survey. She stated that not everyone at the health fair would be a consumer of bicycling as they may be attending for information on services and mobility issues.

Mr. Tom Tagliabue, Director, Intergovernmental Relations for City of Corpus Christi, clarified the survey discussion was regarding the launch of the survey. He stated it was not touching the limits of the outreach. Judge Simpson asked if staff would be reaching out to local media. Ms. Gonzalez stated that while the MPO did not have the funding for paid media, public service announcement, press releases, and collaborations with member agencies for distribution through their websites and social media were being pursued. Mayor Skurow asked about the duration of the survey. Ms. Gonzalez stated the previous survey has remained open since its launch in an attempt to provide the public with a source for providing input on this subject. She stated staff assessed findings after a three month period with the previous survey and will repeat the same process with this iteration.

E. Next Transportation Policy Committee Meeting: September 6, 2018

Ms. Gonzalez remind the TPC that the next TPC meeting is scheduled on September 6, 2018.

8. TPC Members’ Comments and Concerns

There is none.

9. Future Agenda Items

Judge Simpson encouraged TPC members to submit items of interest to staff.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.