

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MEETING MINUTES**

**April 4, 2019**

**1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination**

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

Present: Judge Krebs, San Patricio County; Judge Canales, Nueces County; Mayor Skurow, City of Portland; Mayor McComb, City of Corpus Christi Mr. Martinez, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (RTA); Mr. Olivarez, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation – Corpus Christi District (TxDOT-CRP); and Mr. Buckner, Coastal Bend Council of Governments.

Staff present: Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, and Yoshiko Boulan

**2. Introduction of Visiting Agency Officials**

Ms. Melissa Vela, Assistant Chief of Administration, Nueces County; Ms. Paula Sales-Evans, Director of Transportation Planning & Development, TxDOT-CRP.

**3. Public Comments**

Judge Krebs called for public comment on TPC agenda items; None offered.

Mr. Olivarez, TxDOT District Engineer informed the TPC and public on FHWA's National Work Zone Awareness week and TxDOT's "Be Safe. Drive Smart" campaign and raising awareness of work zone safety; it starts from April 8, 2019. Mr. Olivarez reminded of the dangers of distracted driving and requested to spread the word about this campaign.

**4. Approval of the February 7, 2019 TPC Meeting Minutes**

Judge Canales made a motion to approve the March 7, 2019, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mayor Skurow seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**5. MPO Director Employment Contract**

Mayor Skurow pointed out the wording on item V, Term and Termination in the contract. The term of contract is determined as five years and if the Director is terminated by TPC without any fault of the Director, TPC shall pay the Director 3 months salary as severance pay. This sentence is followed by "*Otherwise, either the TPC or the Director may terminate this Agreement upon 60 days written notice.*" Mayor Skurow suggested to change the latter sentence to "*Otherwise, the Director may terminate this Agreement upon 60 days written notice*" by removing "*either the TPC or*" to clarify if the termination is based on some cause, the TPC will not be obliged to pay 60 days of salary.

Mayor Skurow made a motion to change the wording and Judge Canales seconded; motion passed unanimously. Judge Canales made a motion to amend the contract and Mr. Martinez seconded; motion passed unanimously. TPC requested Ms. Vela, Assistant Chief of Administration of Nueces County, who originated the contract to amend the wording. Judge Krebs will contact Mr. Robert MacDonald, the selected candidate, with the amended contract as soon as the contract is ready.

**6. Presentation**

**A. Update on the Harbor Bridge Relocation Program**

Mr. Sam Esquivel, Director of Real Estate Services for the Port of Corpus Christi updated on the Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program.

The relocation program eligibly area is approximately 339 acres, surrounded by West Broadway Street, Floral Street, Martin Luther King Drive, and the Harbor Bridge right-of-way. This project was started on

January 8, 2016, the deadline to express interest in the program is May 7, 2019. The Port and TxDOT have held public meetings, monthly advisory community meetings, sent notices, gave door-to-door visits, placed signs, also hired a consultant, Del Richardson & Associates (DRA, Inc.), to inform the residents of this program and its deadline. Currently, 361 parcel owners expressed their interest in selling their property. Among those 324 are confirmed in their eligibility for the program. 307 has been completed the appraisals, and 279 were presented the offer. 255 accepted the offer, while 21 declined the offer, mostly because the offered value is not high enough. 225 parcels have been acquired and 102 parcels have been demolished. There are about 100 parcels still not yet either expressing interest or disinterest in the program, Mr. Esquivel stated that the majority of these 100 parcels is landlord property and they want to wait until last minute to collect revenue. Relocation-wise, there are total 227 owner occupants and 302 tenants in the program area. Selective tenants are eligible for relocation benefits 100% covered by TxDOT. TxDOT is the final authority for the appeal procedures, but no appeal is currently filed. 111 owner occupants and 113 tenants have been relocated. Landlord properties are not eligible for the relocation program and this is an important factor because about 60% of properties are landlord owned. The funding for this relocation program is consisted of maximum \$20 Million by the Port of Corpus Christi, and the excess acquisition costs will be reimbursed by the MPO. Mr. Esquivel provided the project cost projection. To date, the estimated total cost is approximately \$36 million and the MPO needs to pay approximately \$16 million. If 400 parcel acquisitions are completed, the estimated project cost is approximately \$71 million and the MPO needs to pay approximately \$51 million. Lack of comparable housing and high replacement housing cost are the 2 major factors of the high cost of this program.

Judge Canales stated this relocation program is significant as the first in the nation and as a test case; the relocation progress is far better than the anticipated number.

Mr. Olivarez reminded that the MPO funding to support this program are Category 7, approximately \$90 million and Category 2, approximately \$180 million in a 10-year window and the MPO is still required to plan the transportation projects with these monies.

Judge Canales mentioned that the \$70 million relocation program cost is relevant for the \$1 billion-dollar project cost as a ratio. The Port's contribution of \$20 million is not the accurate number if the other in-kind contribution is considered.

These acquired properties are the easement for the Harbor Bridge.

## **7. Presentation, Discussion and Possible Action**

### **A. Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Transit Project Amendments to the FY 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2015 – 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).**

Ms. Christina Perez, DBE/EEO Officer, requested to amend the FY 2019 – 2022 TIP and 2015 – 2040 MTP by adding 4 Preventive Maintenance projects in fiscal year 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2021 with \$1 million project cost. Preventive Maintenance is for maintaining the RTA assets and operations for efficient functionality and serviceability. These projects are routine in nature and must be programmed in TIP to receive the funding from Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve to amend the FY 2019 – 2022 TIP and 2015 – 2040 MTP. Judge Canales seconded; motion passed unanimously.

## **8. Discussion Only**

### **A. Category 2 (Cat 2) Projects Reprioritization**

Texas Transportation Commission requested the District and the MPO to reprioritize Categories 2, 4 and 12 projects and submit the list to TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division by May 1, 2019 for the draft 2020 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

Mr. Carrizales informed the TPC that there are eight projects to be prioritized and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will discuss the ranking methodology and prioritize the Cat 2 projects in the April 18 TAC meeting with possible additional workshops. The reprioritized project list will be compared with the TPP's prioritized list that used an evaluation tool called Decision Lens developed by TxDOT.

Mayor Skurow inquired what happens if the comparison between local prioritization and TxDOT prioritization is made, and if it impacts the local prioritization.

Mayor Skurow further asked that the TxDOT is using more data-driven system, while the MPO is using more planning-driven system to prioritize the projects, and if there is difference in the prioritization, does the local perspective have a chance to appeal.

Ms. Sales-Evans, the director of Transportation Planning & Development, TxDOT-CRP, explained the TPP will score and rank the all Cat 2 projects with each other by using Decision Lens for 2020 UTP. The purpose of this submission request is to make sure the MPO prioritization that reflects the local priorities is looked at and is compared the ranking between Decision Lens and local methodology. Cat 2 funding is discretionary and TPC makes the decision how to allocate the funding to the projects. However, there are other funding resources that make the Cat 2 projects complete, and the Commission determines these funding allocations. There are new performance measures to be considered and the TAC will discuss what criteria to use to evaluate the projects.

## **9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.