

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

**September 3, 2020**

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

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

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, Chair, San Patricio County  
Mr. Charles Zahn, Jr. Vice Chair, Port of Corpus Christi Authority (via phone)  
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland  
Mayor Joe McComb, City of Corpus Christi  
Judge Barbara Canales, Nueces County  
Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District  
  
Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Assistant County Attorney, Nueces County Attorney's Office

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E.; Craig Casper, AICP; Daniel Carrizales; Victor Mendieta; and Yoshiko Boulan

**2. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda**

Due to COVID-19, no in-person comment was allowed. Mr. MacDonald informed the TPC and the public there were no public comments submitted for items on the Agenda nor not on the Agenda as of September 3, 2020 at 2:05 p.m.

**3. Approval of the July 2, 2020 TPC Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the August 6, 2020 TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Olivarez, Jr., seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

**A. DRAFT FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. MacDonald briefed the TPC that the Corpus Christi MPO's two major federally required planning documents, the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were approved by TPC in February and July respectively. This FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is another major document the Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop and approve. The DRAFT FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP has completed all public involvement requirements, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has reviewed, discussed and recommended that the TPC adopt the FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP.

Mr. Casper explained the UPWP is a single document that serves three major purposes: as the list of the Corpus Christi MPO's previously accomplished work before FY 2021 and expected work during FY 2021 and FY 2022. The Corpus Christi MPO's 2-year budget is based on the consolidated grant funding, and includes all local, regional and state transportation planning activities in the MPO area that fulfill the Continuing, Comprehensive and Cooperative (3C) planning process with the regional coordination efforts. The expected 2-year budget is approximately \$2.5 million with the previous year's carryover. The Corpus Christi MPO is expected to work on data collection and traffic model development for the next long-range plan, the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as the starting point of the 5-year planning cycle. The City of Corpus Christi and the Port of Corpus Christi Authority submitted additional planning activities, and these are included in SECTION VIII: PARTNER AGENCY PLANNING STUDY COORDINATION in the DRAFT FY2021 – FY 2022 UPWP.

Mayor McComb inquired if there were no public comments received. Mr. Casper answered that all comments the Corpus Christi MPO received are listed in the APPENDIX G: PUBLIC COMMENTS except for the grammatical corrections.

**TPC APPROVED MINUTES**

Mayor Skurow commented that the FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP is well-written and a great plan, and Judge Krebs agreed.

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP. Mayor McComb seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. MacDonald appreciated the TPC for reviewing, commenting, and approving the FY 2021 – FY 2022 UPWP.

## **B. National Highway System (NHS) Modifications**

Mr. MacDonald explained to the TPC that the National Highway System (NHS) Modifications are a recurring review of the NHS by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), and the MPOs. This is important because a National Highway System designation provides access to additional federal funding, the National Highway Performance Program. The meeting among FHWA, TxDOT, and the Corpus Christi MPO and regional representatives was held a year and half ago. The members reached a consensus on recommendations and TxDOT requested the TPC's approval.

Mr. Casper provided the detail of NHS modification recommendations with a map as follows:

- Add SH 357 (Saratoga Boulevard) from Ayers Street to SH 286 (0.20 miles) to NHS designation
- Add FM 2444 (South Staples Street) from SH 286 to Oso Parkway (3.5 miles) to NHS designation
- Remove Ayers Street between SH 358 and SH 286 (2.7 miles) from the NHS designation

Mr. Casper explained that there will be no change in which agency is responsible for maintaining these roadways, however; the designation of NHS is important for the performance-based transportation planning, especially for the congestion goal. The next NHS review will occur after the Census Bureau completes designation of the Urbanized Area, likely in the spring of 2022. The resolution for this NHS modification was prepared and attached for review and approval.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the recommendations to NHS modifications. Judge Canales seconded; motion passed unanimously.

## **5. INFORMATION ONLY ITEM:**

### **A. Various Updates from the August 3, 2020, TEMPO Virtual Meeting**

Mr. MacDonald explained that this item is sharing the information of what the association of Texas MPOs discussed during the August 3<sup>rd</sup> virtual meeting.

Mr. Casper provided the TPC seven discussion topics with brief summaries:

Texas Travel Time Reliability Targets – this is related to one of the national performance measures – congestion management. The score for travel time reliability is based on the consistency, and if the roadway is congested all day long, it scores high but if the roadway is congested due to some event such as an accident or a storm, it scores poorly. Texas MPOs all adopted the State target as the regional target, thus TxDOT suggested to loosen the target because the less reliable travel trend on Texas roads.

Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) on-call Service – TxDOT has a contract with TTI and the Texas MPOs can use their service for transportation-related assistance and guidance. Since only limited number of MPOs use this service, TxDOT created an easy request form and encourages the MPOs to take advantage of this great opportunity.

UPWP formats discussion and review committee – TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming (TPP) Division is reviewing the UPWP format for more consistency. They requested the MPOs to volunteer for the review committee. The Corpus Christi MPO is participating, and the first call-in meeting was held last week.

Census 2020 – Census 2020 initial results will be submitted to the House of Representative in December this year. However, approximately 40% of Texans have not responded to the Census 2020 and due to the lack of funding and manpower, it is likely unable to collect accurate census information. This would negatively affect the State of Texas; for example, Texas could have three or more House of Representatives seats if the correct Census information is collected. Also, the census results affects the federal funding allocation; a 1% undercount is a loss of nearly \$300 million annually in federal funds to Texas. In terms of MPO boundary designation, the Census Urbanized Area (UZA) will be released in 2022. Based on the past Census criteria, Ingleside and Aransas Pass will possibly be included in the Corpus Christi UZA after 2022.

Planning emphasis areas and MPO’s Public Participation Plan requirement – the current transportation bill will expire at the end of this month. There is no replacement bill available, so it is uncertain what planning emphasis areas should be included in the UPWP. FHWA reminded everyone that the PPP must include the concept of virtual meetings if the MPO wishes to conduct meetings online. Due to the current pandemic circumstance there are several MPOs that are using online meetings but have not included it in their Public Participation Plan. Please update your PPPs.

Draft 2021 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and Texas Comptrollers Report on transportation revenue sources – UTP is TxDOT’s 10-year transportation plan and the 2021 UTP was adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission during the August 27<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Based on the Texas Comptrollers Report, there was an \$8 Billion change in available revenue and the State of Texas now has a \$5 billion deficit. These changes will be reflected in the 2022 UTP. Thus, Texas MPOs are asked to manage the expectations of local entities about the timing of projects that are currently in the TIP.

Call for Research and Problem Statement – TxDOT calls for research or problem needed to be addressed.

**6. Member Agency Statements for Items of Community Interest: Upcoming events or holidays and acknowledgements**

Mayor McComb informed the TPC members that Senator Cruz told the Chamber of Commerce there would likely be no new Transportation Bill until the election is over.

**7. Upcoming Meetings:**

<b>A. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>	<b>Regular Meeting:</b>	<b>September 17, 2020</b>
<b>B. Transportation Policy Committee:</b>	<b>Regular Meeting:</b>	<b>October 1, 2020</b>

Mr. MacDonald informed the TPC that the September TAC meeting and October TPC meeting may be cancelled if there are no action items. He would notify both committees if these meetings are determined to be cancelled.

**8. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.