

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

May 6, 2021

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

TPC Chair Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. in 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
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland
Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi
Judge Barbara Canales, Nueces County
Mr. Eddie Martinez, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., Texas Department of Transportation Corpus Christi District

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E.; Victor Mendieta; and Yoshiko Boulan

2. Public Comments for items not on the Agenda

There were no public comments submitted for agenda or non-agenda items as of May 6, 2021, at 2:05 p.m.

3. Approval of the April 1, 2021, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the April 1, 2021, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mayor Guajardo seconded; motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

A. DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) 2021

Mr. MacDonald provided the overview of the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO PPP 2021. A PPP is one of the federally required key documents that present the comprehensive plan for the public's involvement in transportation decision-making by an MPO. The current Corpus Christi MPO's PPP was approved in 2018 and needs to be updated to incorporate new methods to involve the public, such as virtual meetings or social network-oriented connections that became more prevalent under the pandemic. The new PPP consists of the following:

1. SECTION I: INTRODUCTION briefly explains the MPO and its required roles and responsibilities
2. SECTION II: FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS lists all Federal and State laws, provisions related to the public involvements
3. SECTION III: THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CORPUS CHRISTI MPO describes the Corpus Christi MPO's Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and each committee's roles and responsibilities, as well as the other additional tasks the Corpus Christi MPO staff carries out in terms of transportation planning
4. SECTION IV: GOALS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT shows the Corpus Christi MPO's five major goals and its policies in public involvement, and new emphasis for addressing the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) population, Environmental Justice (EJ), and TITLE VI in public involvement.
5. SECTION V: REVISIONS TO MPO DOCUMENTS lays out the process to revise the Corpus Christi MPO's documents in detail.
6. SECTION VI: ACHIEVING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION specifies the strategies and approaches the Corpus Christi MPO utilizes to achieve the goals listed in SECTION IV.
7. SECTION VII: OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION lists the methods and means for outreaching to the diverse populations in the community.

TPC APPROVED MINUTES

Mr. MacDonald clarified to the TPC members that the Map of Disadvantaged Population (Exhibit 2) is based on the Census information and since some geographic areas covers a wide land area, it does not mean that the entire area is a disadvantaged population.

The federal laws and regulations focus on “do not exclude anyone” but the Corpus Christi MPO will focus on “include everyone” as the founding principle of public involvement. The Corpus Christi MPO’s public involvement efforts follow the International Association of Public Participation (IAPP)’s core values shown on page 17: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Empower. However, during the April TAC meeting, there was a discussion to modify or remove the empower column that includes “To place final decision-making in the hand of the public” due to the fact there are federal laws and limitations that restrict the final decision.

The PPP requires a 45-day Public Comment period, and it will be discussed in the May and June TAC meetings, June TPC meeting, and is expected to be adopted in the July TPC meeting.

Judge Canales commented that reaching out to the disadvantaged population is needed more than ever with the current Administration’s Executive Orders.

Mayor Skurow appreciated the Corpus Christi MPO for the great PPP. She quotes “At the heart of all approaches is building trust and reputation for being open and transparent. Ultimately, the behavior of the Corpus Christi MPO staff, consultants and Committees will determine the success or failure of the public participation effort. Behaviors cannot be faked; they must represent the sincere intent of the team to conduct effective public outreach,” on page 4 as the most important statement in this PPP that we all need to remind ourselves.

Mayor Guajardo agreed and thanked the Corpus Christi MPO for working on the vigorous public involvement and outreach efforts.

Mr. Olivarez inquired regarding the public comment period that was revised from 30-day to one month in the DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO PPP if a specific period is needed. The Assistant Nueces County Attorney Ms. Esther-Guerra answered that the public perception of one month is 30 to 31 days and it covers a minimum of 30 days, thus there were no issues with the change. Mr. MacDonald added that the Corpus Christi MPO issues a public notice for soliciting public comments and specifies dates in the notice.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the release of DRAFT Corpus Christi MPO PPP for the 45-day public comment period. Mayor Guajardo seconded; motion passed unanimously.

5. Proposed Executive Session: Annual Evaluation of the MPO’s Transportation Planning Director

Judge Krebs proposed to not conduct the proposed Executive Session of the annual Evaluation of the MPO’s Transportation Planning Director at this meeting. A proposed Executive Session for the same topic will be placed on the agenda for the June TPC meeting.

6. Possible Actions to Amend the Employment Contract of the Transportation Planning Director.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to table this item. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

7. Member Agency Statements for Items of Community Interest: Upcoming events or holidays and acknowledgement.

Mr. MacDonald informed the TPC members that the Corpus Christi MPO has renewed the lease contract of office space with Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority for another 5 years.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

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| A. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting: | May 20, 2021 |
| B. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting: | June 3, 2021 |

9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.