

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

**November 4, 2021**

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

TPC Chair Judge David Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County

Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi

Mr. Eddie Martinez, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., TxDOT Corpus Christi District

Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

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**

There were no public comments made or submitted for non-agenda items.

**3. Approval of the August 5, 2021, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes**

Mayor Guajardo made a motion to approve the August 5, 2021, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A. Ratification of Amendment 1 to the Employment Agreement for the Transportation Planning Director**

This item ratifies amendment No. 1 to the Employment Agreement for Mr. MacDonald, the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director, approved in the June 4, 2020 TPC meeting.

**B. Ratification of Amendment 2 to the Employment Agreement for the Transportation Planning Director**

This item ratifies amendment No. 2 to the Employment Agreement for Mr. MacDonald, the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director, approved in the August 5, 2021 TPC meeting.

Both Amendment 1 and 2 were ratified by the TPC and TPC Chair Judge Krebs and Mr. MacDonald signed these Amendments documentation.

**C. FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 4 – Inclusion of Additional Transit Projects**

Mr. Casper summarized Amendment 4 to the FY 2021-2024 TIP requested by the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA). This amendment includes four additional projects along with three additional Covid-related funding supplements from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Rural Economic Assistance League and Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living were each awarded two projects using additional FTA Section 5310 funding (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The four projects are listed in Table 2 in Item 4C memo and total \$696,845.

CCRTA also received an additional \$40 million Section 5307 (Urban Area Formula Grant) as part of the on-going efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and the funding is placed in a pool.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended the TPC to review, comment and approve to release the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4 for the required one-month public comment period.

**TPC APPROVED MINUTES**

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the release of the DRAFT FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment 4 for the one-month public comment period. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## **5. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS**

### **A. DRAFT Program Guidance and Procedures: Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) Funding (Category 9) Call-for-Projects**

Mr. MacDonald corrected the Item 5A memo that was erroneously requesting TPC's approval; the Program Guidance and Procedures for STBG-SA Call-for-Projects and its application form are still under review and discussion by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and this item is presented to TPC for the initial review and comments.

The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting \$4.5 million in Category 9 funding for FY 2022 to FY 2025, including \$2.3 million in carryover money. The attached DRAFT Program Guidance and Procedures: Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) Funding (Category 9) provides all necessary information to conduct the Call-for-Projects. This includes; the application and guidance on the eligible entities and projects, requirements, responsibilities, and a detailed scoring system and process to apply for this funding. The noteworthy difference of this Call-for-Projects from the previous Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) is the wider categories of eligible projects such as stormwater management, historical preservation, and wildlife mitigations and other non-transportation projects.

The application form (attachment 2) was modified from the TxDOT's Rural STBG-SA Call-for-Projects and made suitable for the Corpus Christi MPO. It contains all required components including project details and budget.

The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting the release of Call-for-Project after obtaining the TAC's recommendation in November TAC meeting and the TPC's approval in the December TPC meeting. As explained in the guidance, there is a systematic scoring system based on Federal requirements and Corpus Christi MPO's eight regional goals, however; the final decision to select the projects is made by the TPC based on the regional priorities.

Mr. MacDonald requested the TPC to review and provide comments on the DRAFT Program Guidance and Procedures: Surface Transportation Block Grant Set-Aside (STBG-SA) Funding (Category 9) Call-for-Projects and Application Form.

Mr. Olivarez reminded that the STBG-SA is a federal grant and requires a 20% local match and compliance to specific federal requirements and responsibilities.

### **B. Report on the TPC Member Pair-wise Comparison of 2045 MTP Goals**

Mr. Casper reported that the Corpus Christi MPO received five survey results from the TPC members. The purpose of this survey is to rank the TPC members' priorities among the eight regional goals listed in the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP): Safety, Asset Management, Congestion Reduction, Transportation System Investment, Freight, Economy, Environmental Protection, Equity. The survey results from the TAC and TPC and the priority ranking are slightly different.

Mr. Casper asked the TPC's guidance for the next step:

- Present the TAC survey results and TPC survey results separately
- Combine the TAC survey results and TPC survey results
- Conduct additional survey

Mr. Olivarez suggested to combine the TAC survey results and TPC survey results and proceed to discuss and determine the regional priorities. This information will be presented during the next meetings of the TAC and TPC.

### **C. Federal Certification Review Initial Observations and Comments**

Mr. MacDonald reported on the Federal Certification Review (FCR) conducted on October 26 through October 28, 2021. The FCR is conducted jointly by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) once every four years for large MPOs (urbanized area over 200,000 population). The purpose of this review is to evaluate whether the Corpus Christi MPO's planning process is in compliance with the Federal requirements and to ensure the Corpus Christi MPO's planning work and products are correctly done. For example, the Corpus Christi MPO received a corrective action for the Congestion Management Process (CMP) during the last FCR conducted in 2017 and was required to submit a revised CMP by November 2019.

The FCR 2021 was conducted virtually with FHWA, FTA, TxDOT, and CCRTA representatives present. The Corpus Christi MPO presented the processes and all required documents through the MPO's website interactively with the FCR representatives. The Corpus Christi MPO 2021 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD) that compiled Title VI, Advancing Racial Equity (ARE), Environmental Justice (EJ), and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) requirements and the Corpus Christi MPO's responsibilities, and how the Corpus Christi MPO addresses these requirements in detail was well-received by the FHWA's Public Participation/Involvement expert as a very comprehensive document. Three TPC members were interviewed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, October 28, 2021. The Corpus Christi MPO received the initial observations from the FCR team and the overall evaluation was very positive. The final FCR report will be delivered to the TPC Chairman, typically in six to eight months.

#### **D. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force**

Mr. MacDonald reported that the Texas Transportation Commission announced the creation of a statewide Safety Task Force comprised of the TxDOT representatives across the State and a representative from each MPO in Texas on August 31, 2021. The Corpus Christi MPO has not received any information regarding this matter since then, however; the Texas Transportation Commission reported at their Regular Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>, the formation of the TxDOT/MPO Safety Task Force and that the new Task Force held their first meeting. The Corpus Christi MPO is collecting information on this Task Force and how the Corpus Christi MPO can be involved. Mr. MacDonald will keep the TPC informed about this TxDOT/MPO Safety Task Force.

The Corpus Christi MPO is also planning to create a Regional Traffic Safety Task Force that mirrors the state-wide effort to improve safety. The primary purpose of creating a Regional Traffic Safety Task Force is to address safety issues regionally through a collaboration of multi-agencies and set regional goals, objectives, and actions. The Corpus Christi MPO Bylaws allow the TPC to create ad hoc committees as necessary.

Mr. MacDonald asked the TPC to review and comment on the formation of the Regional Traffic Safety Task Force. None were offered.

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

Mr. Olivarez reported a ceremony held on October 2, 2021 to unveil I-69's latest segment in Robstown. The segment is over 10 miles of US 77 between Robstown and Kingsville. The City of Corpus Christi Mayor, Ms. Guajardo, and the Nueces County Judge, Ms. Canales attended the ceremony and Mr. Olivarez appreciates their participation.

Mr. Olivarez reported on the current Harbor Bridge project status. The new design firm for the main span, Arup-CFC completed the design and the construction will be moved forward. Other parts of the construction have been on schedule and new direct connectors around the South Interchange were opened.

#### **7. Upcoming Meetings:**

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|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>A. Technical Advisory Committee:</b>    | <b>Regular Meeting:</b> | <b>November 18, 2021</b> |
| <b>B. Transportation Policy Committee:</b> | <b>Regular Meeting:</b> | <b>December 2, 2021</b>  |

Mr. MacDonald informed the TPC that the Corpus Christi MPO is planning two workshops for the STBG-SA Call-for-Projects, possibly after the November TAC meeting.

#### **8. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.