

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

March 3, 2022

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

TPC Vice-Chair Mr. Zahn called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Mr. Charlie Zahn, Jr. Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland
Mr. Dan Leyendecker, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E., TxDOT Corpus Christi District
Judge Barbara Canales, Nueces County
Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi
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

None were received or offered.

3. Resolution Recognizing the Regional Leadership in Transportation Provided by Mr. Edward “Eddie” Martinez

A resolution of appreciation was proposed for Mr. Martinez who has demonstrated statesmanship, leadership, and professionalism in guiding the Corpus Christi MPO in regional transportation planning as a TPC member from February 1, 2018 to January 6, 2022.

Mayor Skurow made the motion to approve the resolution for Mr. Martinez. Mr. Leyendecker seconded; motion passed unanimously.

TPC members thanked Mr. Martinez for his efforts, commitment and dedication to the regional transportation planning. Mayor Skurow stated that she had a very fond memory of working with Mr. Martinez for the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director search.

Mr. Martinez appreciated the TPC members’ comments and the resolution. He stated that it was his pleasure to work with these great regional leaders as a TPC member. Hiring Mr. MacDonald as the Corpus Christi MPO Director was the greatest accomplishment he and the TPC members made. He expressed warm regards to Mr. Leyendecker who became the Corpus Christi RTA Board of Directors Chair and joined the TPC in January.

The signed resolution will be delivered to Mr. Martinez.

4. Approval of the January 6, 2022, Transportation Policy Committee meeting minutes

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the January 6, 2022, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. TxDOT 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Project Selection

This item has been presented and discussed at the December 2021 and January 2022 TPC meetings. Mr. MacDonald explained that the most current funding forecast was provided by the TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division in February and the funding table in Item 5A memo was updated accordingly. The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting approximately \$330 million to allocate to Category 2, 4, 7 and 9 projects for fiscal year 2023 through fiscal year 2032. The proposed eight projects by the TxDOT Corpus Christi District (TxDOT-CRP) for the 2023 UTP was attached as attachment 4. All projects on the proposed 2023 UTP list are in the 2020-2045 Metropolitan

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Transportation Plan (MTP), see Attachment 3. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Corpus Christi MPO staff recommended the TPC's approval to release the proposed eight projects for a one-month public comment period. The TAC will review and discuss this item at their March 17 meeting and the final recommendation will be brought to the TPC in April. The final approval for the 2023 UTP will be made by the Texas Transportation Commission in August. This is the annual process and the next cycle for 2024 UTP will start in September.

Mr. Leyendecker commented that there is a noticeable trend of construction cost increases (15 to 30%), and some kind of buffer should be considered. Mr. Olivarez, Jr., also stated that TxDOT did a bid for one of the future I-69 segment projects and saw 23% over the cost estimate; he requested to work with the TxDOT-CRP staff for the estimated costs. Mr. MacDonald answered that the cost estimates will be revised with the most current information from the projects sponsoring agencies and the Project Table will be updated as appropriate. Mr. MacDonald also mentioned that there might be additional funding opportunities with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the release of TxDOT 2023 UTP Project Selection for a one-month public comment period. Mr. Olivarez Jr., seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS

A. FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Selection

As discussed at the December 2021 and January 2022 TPC meetings, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop FY 2023-2026 TIP and select CAT 2, 7, and 9 projects as a lead agency and CAT 4U with TxDOT-CRP as a coordinating agency. The funding table for FY 2023 to FY 2026 in the Item 6A memo reflected the most current funding information provided by TxDOT TPP. The Corpus Christi MPO is expecting a total of \$151 million in funding for FY 2023 through FY 2026, plus carryover money. The TAC and the Corpus Christi MPO staff will revisit and reprioritize the 2045 MTP and FY 2021-2024 TIP with new information such as the cost estimates and the readiness of projects. The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommended to consider programming some operations and safety projects on the regionally significant corridors based on the currently ongoing crash analysis by a consultant. Safety is one of the most crucial elements in the current transportation planning efforts; the State has created a state-wide safety task force and the Corpus Christi MPO has also created a Regional Traffic Safety Task Force and the first meeting will be held after the TPC meeting.

Mr. MacDonald informed the TPC that the deadline for the STBG-SA/CAT 9 Call-for-Projects was March 1, 2022 and the Corpus Christi MPO received seven total projects from two entities, the City of Portland and the City of Corpus Christi. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will perform the scoring and present these results to the TAC in April and bring the recommendation to the TPC in May.

B. FY 2023 and FY 2024 DRAFT Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

As presented at the December 2021 and January 2022 TPC meetings, the Corpus Christi MPO is also developing the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The new UPWP needs to exhibit the Corpus Christi MPO's transportation planning activities incorporating the existing federal requirements and new requirements under IIJA and Executive Orders.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued the Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) as the guidance for State and Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Research programs. Mr. Casper briefly provided an overview of the eight emphasis areas: (1) Climate Change – more electric vehicles, clean energy, and resiliency plans for extreme weather, (2) Justice40 – requires to deliver 40 percent of overall benefits of federal investments in climate and clean energy, including sustainable transportation, to disadvantaged communities, (3) Complete Streets – the safe transportation infrastructure network policy and design for all road users including the pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users, (4) Public Involvement – increase the public participation in the decision-making process by providing Virtual Involvement tools, (5) Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination – coordination with DOD representatives for the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) routes and public roads that connect DOD facilities, (6) Federal Land

Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination – coordination with FLMA representatives regarding the access routes and public roads that connect to Federal lands, (7) Planning and Environment Linkage (PEL) – State DOTs, MPOs, and Transit Agencies are encouraged to implement PEL in the transportation planning process; Department of Transportation (DOT) implemented new rules for shortening the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review process, (8) Transportation Planning Data – State DOTs, MPOs, and Transit Agencies are encouraged to share the data for transportation planning efforts. The Corpus Christi MPO Region has the Naval Air Station – Corpus Christi (NAS-CC) and the Padre Island National Seashore and these shall be incorporated in the planning activities as well as other partner agencies’ transportation-related planning efforts. The Corpus Christi MPO has received the City of Corpus Christi’s planning efforts for FY 2023 and FY 2024 (October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024). Mr. Casper requested other partner agencies to provide their planning efforts during this period.

Judge Canales commented on the importance of equity; Nueces County is designated as an economically disadvantaged county and addressing these disadvantaged communities is long overdue and must happen. Mr. Casper mentioned that the one-third of the areas in the Corpus Christi MPO boundary fell into the category. Mr. MacDonald assured the TPC that the Corpus Christi MPO will identify these communities with the demographic data and considered these communities in its transportation planning process.

Mayor Skurow inquired about the change in NEPA Review process. Mr. Casper explained that due to the delays in other federal agencies’ NEPA process that ends up in causing the transportation projects delays, the DOT incorporated time frames for completion of Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) within 2 years and within 1 year for Environmental Assessments (EAs). This helps the transportation projects move forward.

C. FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1

Mr. Casper explained that the Corpus Christi MPO needs to amend the current FY 2021 – FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) based on the 2045 MTP After Action Report, new requirements under IJJA, and available new funding. The primary changes are (1) realign staff time to subtasks based on the new priorities, (2) obtain the identified needs for planning capabilities with the anticipated \$3.2 million Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG). The COVID-19 Relief Fund is 100% federal funding and does not require a 20% local match.

The Corpus Christi MPO listed the identified needs in the Item 6C memo. The detailed scope of services and product costs will be presented to the TAC and the TPC once the Corpus Christi MPO receives the cost estimates from the consulting firms. Currently, the Corpus Christi MPO is working with TxDOT Finance on how to convert the STBG fund to PL funds.

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

None was made or offered.

8. Upcoming Meetings:

A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting #1	March 3, 2022
B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting:	March 17, 2022
C. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting:	April 14, 2022
D. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Meeting #2	April 14, 2022

Mr. MacDonald stated that some of the TPC members may not available for the April 7, 2022 TPC meeting, due to the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce Washington D.C. trip. He suggested changing the next TPC meeting date from April 7, 2022 to April 14, 2022. The TPC members agreed to hold the TPC meeting on April 14, 2022.

9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.