

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

September 1, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

TPC Chair Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County
Mr. Charles Zahn, Jr. Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Judge Barbara Canales, Nueces County
Mayor Paulette M. Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi
Mr. Dan Leyendecker, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority
Mr. Valente Olivarez Jr., P.E., TxDOT Corpus Christi District

Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT IN AGENDA

None were offered or received.

3. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 2, 2022 TPC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the June 2, 2022, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mayor Guajardo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Proposed Ad Hoc Committee for a Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grant Submittals

Mr. MacDonald explained the purpose of this proposed Ad Hoc Committee for a Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grant Submittals. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (IIJA/BIL) provides 23 discretionary grant opportunities as shown in Agenda Item 4A – Attachment 2. These federal discretionary grants tend to be awarded to projects that are aiming at national goals such as job creation, equity, safety, connectivity, multi-modal, etc., and projects that are regionally collaborated by multi-jurisdiction. It is noticeably rare that one jurisdiction is awarded more than two Federal fundings in the same category. Attachment 3 shows the 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program awarded projects in Texas. Federal discretionary grants are fiercely competitive, and it is necessary to strategically incorporate the national goals as well as collaborate regionally to increase the chance to receive these grant monies. Recently the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and the City of Corpus Christi applied for the RAISE grants but both projects were unsuccessful in receiving the grants. Some TPC members suggested creating an Ad Hoc Committee for coordinating the regional efforts in obtaining these Federal Transportation Grants and the Corpus Christi MPO staff is requesting the TPC's direction regarding this proposal. The Corpus Christi MPO's Bylaws states the TPC may create ad-hoc committees or other technical subcommittees on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee (attachment 1).

Mayor Guajardo agreed that forming a committee is a great idea and she made a motion to create an ad-hoc committee for Federal Transportation Grant submittals. Mr. Zahn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Judge Canales stated that this regional coordination effort is crucial for this region to increase the chances to receive Federal funding. This ad-hoc committee can examine the regionally needed projects and make sure all federal requirements are covered and the application incorporates the national goals

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and appropriate language. She mentioned that there would be another Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announced in mid-October and the region should start working for it.

Mr. Olivarez concurred, and he stated that the unified approach is one of the most important factors for a successful grant application.

Mr. MacDonald thanked the TPC for their approval. He requested the TPC to consider the potential members who would represent their entities. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will discuss this item with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and bring a more-detailed proposal to the TPC.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

A. New Harbor Bridge Project Update

As announced on July 15, 2022, TxDOT suspended construction work on the new Harbor Bridge Project due to concerns with significant design flaws that were found in the independent structural analysis conducted by International Bridge Technologies. On August 16, 2022, TxDOT held a press conference and announced that TxDOT issued the Notice of Developer Default and requested Flatiron/Dragados LLC., to respond to these design flaws with solutions within 15 days. TxDOT Corpus Christi District Engineer, Mr. Olivarez, would provide an update on its status.

Mr. MacDonald provided the list of past TPC and TxDOT actions on the new Harbor Bridge construction project and the TxDOT 2023 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Corpus Christi District project list for reference.

Mr. Olivarez stated that since the 2023 UTP is presented, he would like to elaborate on what Corpus Christi District's status is. The 2023 UTP has been approved, and the Corpus Christi District receives approximately \$1.7 Billion, one of the highest in the urban districts. He thanked the TPC members who are representing the Alliance for I-69 Texas. The project is moving forward, and the US-77 Route projects are included in the 2023 UTP.

Mr. Olivarez provided a letter issued by the Texas Transportation Commission (Commission) addressed to Texas Senator Hinojosa, Texas House Representatives Hunter, Herrero, and Lozano on August 31, 2022. The Commission assured the MPO that the Harbor Bridge project would be completed without any additional direct cost from local government that was caused by these delays. Mr. Olivarez informed the TPC members, Corpus Christi MPO staff, and the public that TxDOT received a response from Flatiron/Dragados LLC., to address the non-conformity items. TxDOT has been also communicating with the ACS Group, the parent company of Flatiron/Dragados LLC. The submitted solutions for safety issues by Flatiron/Dragados LLC., need to be reviewed which takes a few weeks. Thus, this issue has not yet been solved. TxDOT demands the Flatiron/Dragados LLC., provide (1) safe design that resolve all non-conformity and (2) responsibility for the design. TxDOT will prepare for the options such as if the new design efforts fail, hiring another design firm would be a possibility.

Judge Canales asked if there is a new deadline or timeline set for this benchmark. Mr. Olivarez answered that TxDOT wants to start the project as soon as possible but with the assurance of safety and responsibility. TxDOT would review and formalize the agreement within a couple of weeks. Judge Canales further asked if the negotiation would include other enhancements in the affected area such as wayfinding in North Beach, drainage, etc. Mr. Olivarez answered these things affecting driving communities due to the Harbor Bridge project are included in the discussion.

Mr. Leyendecker asked if the submitted solutions for safety concerns are not acceptable, what is the next step for TxDOT. Mr. Olivarez answered that the first step will be an emergency contract that secures the area and manages traffic, signage, etc. The second step will be a separate contract for the roadway/interchanges and for the main-span design. TxDOT is working on these while in discussions with Flatiron/Dragados LLC., and ACS Group.

B. Performance Measures Update

This item is provided for information purposes. Federal Regulations require MPOs and State Department of Transportation (State DOTs) to establish Performance Measures and Targets on Safety

(PM1), Pavement and Bridge Condition (PM2), System Performance and Freight (PM3), and public transit agencies on Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTSAP) and Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan.

MPOs can either (1) establish their own Performance Measures and Targets or (2) support the State DOTs' Performance Measures and Targets. The Corpus Christi MPO has been supporting and adopting TxDOT's Performance Measures and Targets and Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)'s Safety Plan and Transit Asset Management Plan. The past Performance Measures and Targets are shown in the memo. These Performance Measures and Targets will be discussed and adopted by TPC as shown in the Tentative Schedule of Performance Measure Target Update in Agenda Item 5B memo.

The IJJA/BIL sets combating climate change as one of the key objectives and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is currently soliciting public comments on the proposed Greenhouse Gas Emission Performance Measures. If this Performance Measure is officially implemented, the Corpus Christi MPO staff will discuss it with TAC and inform the TPC.

C. 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update and Process Review

The Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop a 20+ year long-range transportation plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), every 5 years. Within 826 days from September 1, 2022, the new 2050 MTP needs to be developed and adopted. The MTP must include federally required plans such as a financial plan, a safety plan, a non-motorized plan, performance measures, and targets with 20+ years of demographic forecasts such as population, job, economic development, growth plans, land use plans, and all other foreseeable factors that affect the transportation and its systems in this region.

The 2045 MTP has 14 chapters and the Corpus Christi MPO staff expects the same or more chapters for the new 2050 MTP. As previously done, 2050 MTP is also presented chapter by chapter with enough time to review and discuss. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will provide schedule updates as the 2050 MTP is developed.

6. Member Agency Statements for Items of Community Interest

Judge Krebs proposed a resolution for the late Judge Samuel 'Lloyd' Neal, Jr., who served the TPC as Corpus Christi Mayor and Nueces County Judge for over 19 years. Mr. Zahn made a motion and Judge Canales seconded; the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Guajardo presented the following two projects that the City of Corpus Christi requested the Corpus Christi MPO to include in its transportation plan:

- Saratoga Boulevard (from Old Brownsville Road to SH 286) – due to the new residential subdivision development with approximately 1,100 homes in that area, the current two-lane rural roadway needs to be widened with medians installed and the intersection needs to be improved with adding turning lanes to accommodate the traffic.
- Rand Morgan Road (from I-37 to McNorton Road) - due to the five residential developments and the Tuloso Midway Intermediate School, the current two-lane roadway needs to be four lanes with drainage improvement and sidewalk.

7. Upcoming Meetings:

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| A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Regular Meeting: | September 1, 2022 |
| B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting: | September 15, 2022 |
| C. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting | October 6, 2022 |

Due to the schedule conflict, the October 6 TPC meeting is rescheduled on October 13, 2022.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.