

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

**November 3, 2022**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM DETERMINATION**

TPC Vice-Chair Mr. Zahn called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

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

Mr. Jeff Schmidt, 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 SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 TPC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Judge Canales made a motion to approve the September 1, 2022, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mayor Guajardo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

**4. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSS AND COMMENT**

**A. Harbor Bridge Project Update**

TxDOT Corpus Christi District Engineer, Mr. Olivarez, Jr., provided the monthly Harbor Bridge Project update.

TxDOT and Flatiron/Dragados, LLC (FDLLC) executed a signed agreement in October. There are 27 concerning non-conforming design details, including five major ones, identified by International Bridge Technologies (IBT). FDLLC agreed to provide corrective designs and implement the items of work at their expense. The signed agreement is posted on the TxDOT Corpus Christi District website.

TxDOT and FDLLC are continuing to discuss and work towards solving issues including safety, design, and related legal matters, but the signed agreement was an important step to this project moving forward while the Notice of Default remains in place.

A corrective design for one of the major non-conforming designs, the Delta Frame, was submitted and reviewed. The work for the Delta Frame at the ground level has begun to add additional steel to the already casted segments. We will see equipment remobilization for the main span and the towers. The construction of access areas has continued but the work at the ramp and direct connectors to the main lanes requires time and there is a shortage in skilled labor. Recruitment efforts are being made, and day and night working shifts are proceeding.

The Harbor Bridge Project Update will be posted on the TxDOT – Corpus Christi District website as new information becomes available.

**B. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants**

Mr. MacDonald informed the TPC members that the TPC approved an ad-hoc committee for regional coordination for federal transportation grants. The TAC members proposed and agreed to be the main body of the ad-hoc committee representing each entity and discuss related topics monthly.

Attachment 1 is a Federal Grant Summary Table, there are 23 grant opportunities under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The Corpus Christi

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MPO staff provides the information about these grants, categories, application deadlines, if regional application are submitted, and awarded projects in the state of Texas.

For example, the Port of Corpus Christi and the City of Corpus Christi applied for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity (RAISE) grant but neither were awarded. Similar RAISE projects submitted by the Port of Port Arthur and the City of Harlingen were awarded. If we review other entities' successful applications/project descriptions, it may be helpful for our next regional efforts.

As another example, the Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) applied for Low/No-Emission Bus Grants. Unfortunately, CCRTA was not awarded the grant. However, they received Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s review. If entities that applied and received a debrief on their projects can share these federal responses, it would help local entities to prepare for the next applications.

The most current grant application is for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program jointly submitted by the City of Corpus Christi and the Port of Corpus Christi. This is the first effort for the regional coordination for competitive grants opportunities and the Corpus Christi MPO staff would like to continue this effort.

Mr. MacDonald requested that the TPC members review the Federal Grant Summary Table and provide their input on the table such as formatting and information being provided. Also, he requested that local entities inform the Corpus Christi MPO staff if that entity is interested in applying for any grants.

### **C. 2025 – 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Process Overview**

Mr. Casper briefed the members on the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) process. The MTP is the Corpus Christi MPO's 25-year Transportation Plan for the region and one of the key products developed. The MTP must address seven (7) national goals:

- (1) Achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads;
- (2) Maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair;
- (3) Achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System;
- (4) Improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system;
- (5) Improve the National Highway Freight Network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development;
- (6) Enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment;
- (7) Reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices.

The Item 4C memo provides federally required components for the MTP such as provisions, policies, plans, programs, projects, and processes such as performance-based planning and public participation.

There are four attachments for this item. The first attachment is the excerpt from the Corpus Christi MPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP) that lays out the key decision points that the public are informed on and are given the opportunities to comment on during the MTP development. Mr. Casper went through some of the highlights:

- Socio-economic Control Totals Adoption: This is the forecasting of the population and jobs in the region based on multiple sources such as the State Demographic information, the private sector information (Woods and Poole), and Texas Water Development Board. This is an essential step for planning the region's transportation needs in a 25-year plan. The available data has considerable differences in their future forecast so the Corpus Christi MPO will prepare multiple scenarios to accommodate it.

- Metropolitan Planning Area Boundary Update: The 2020 Census result determines the Census Designated Urban Area that may change the Corpus Christi MPO's planning boundary.
- Functional Classification of Roads: State DOTs are required to review the Functional Classification after the Census and it may change the current functional class on roadways in the region. The classification is important because it determines the eligibility for the federal funds.
- Coordinated Human Service Plan: This plan is a public transportation service for people with disabilities, seniors, low-income, veterans and is included in the MTP after being updated by the Coastal Bend Council of Government.
- Regional Safety Plan: There are two safety plans that the Corpus Christi MPO is required to develop: the Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) and the Regional Safety System Plan (RSSP). The simplest difference between these plans is that the RSAP is a short-range, immediate action plan to address safety, and the RSSP is a long-range, future plan to address safety needs.
- Micro-mobility Plan: This plan is for small vehicles including pedestrians, bicycles, wheelchairs, and so forth.
- Regional Freight Plan: This plan identifies the region's freight and trade-related transportation needs.
- Congestion Management Process: This process is a systematic approach for achieving congestion reduction and improving the transportation system performance. The development process has multiple steps and requires extensive discussion.
- Approve Process for Updating the MTP: How and where the MTP process is determined is the foundation of the MTP development. The agreed-upon process will be discussed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and TPC with the opportunity to comment for the public.
- Adopt Vision and Goals: The Corpus Christi MPO will collect input from a diverse range of stakeholders including the public, community, businesses, and elected officials for what visions and goals they expect for the region in 25 years.
- Scenario Development: The development of multiple scenarios based on various factors such as the land-use, natural disasters, and funding levels.
- Approve Evaluation Criteria and Weighting: The evaluation criteria and weighting are necessary for attaining the performance-based planning and programming process, objectively prioritizing the region's transportation needs, and helping improve transparent decision-making.
- Approve Project Scoring and Ranking: This step is also important for the performance-based planning and programming process to prioritize transportation projects with the evaluation criteria and weighting through a competitive selection process in an inclusive and equitable manner.
- Financial Plan: The MTP must be fiscally constrained with the reasonably expected available funding for the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The Corpus Christi MPO will work with the TxDOT Corpus Christi District and the CCRTA to develop the fiscally constrained plan.

Attachment 2 is an excerpt from the Corpus Christi MPO's Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD). There are responsibilities required of the Corpus Christi MPO as a recipient of federal funds to address discrimination and achieve inclusion and equity with special emphasis on the underserved communities. The Corpus Christi MPO will follow the PAD principles throughout the development of the 2050 MTP.

Attachment 3 is an excerpt from the Corpus Christi MPO's FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that shows the subtasks related to the MTP development.

Based on the After Action Report of 2045 MTP finding, the Corpus Christi MPO staff scheduled the final adoption of the 2050 MTP on November 7, 2024, before the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday. Since the MTP development process requires considerable time, the Corpus Christi MPO staff would like to periodically inform the TPC about the MTP development overview and schedule.

Mr. MacDonald assured the TPC that the Corpus Christi MPO staff will provide the TPC with portions/chapters of the 2050 MTP with reasonable time for review and discussion.

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**D. TxDOT 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Process Overview**

Mr. MacDonald briefed members on the TxDOT 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) process.

Every year, the Corpus Christi MPO is required to nominate Category 2 and Category 4U projects for TxDOT’s 10-year plan, or the UTP. The process starts subsequent to the adoption of the current Fiscal Year’s UTP in August, after which TxDOT starts developing the next UTP.

The 2023 UTP Development Process presentation and TxDOT funding category table are attached as references. The most recent 2024 UTP development schedule released by the TxDOT Transportation Planning & Programming (TPP) Division was distributed as a handout. Based on the process and schedule, the Corpus Christi MPO needs to nominate the potential candidate projects for Category 2 as a leading agency and Category 4U as a coordinated agency for the TxDOT Corpus Christi District in December, selecting from the attached 2020 – 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Fiscally Constrained Project List for MPO funding (attachment 3). The list of projects approved for 2023 UTP is attached as a reference (attachment 4).

There are factors to consider for the selection such as the Performance-based Planning and Programming criteria, the inflation rate, the funding levels, and so forth. The Technical Advisory Committee will discuss this item in their November TAC meeting and a workshop will be held after the meeting. Their recommendation will be brought to the TPC at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

There were questions regarding the status of projects such as the SH 361 Flyover and Regional Parkway as well as the required process to advance these projects and add new projects in the list. Mr. MacDonald answered that the priorities of the projects are determined by the criteria based on the performance-based planning and programming. Mr. MacDonald requested that local entities inform the Corpus Christi MPO staff if any entity has new projects to be included in the MTP. These potential projects will be included in the unfunded project list until the call for projects is officially issued.

**5. MEMBER AGENCY STATEMENTS FOR ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

**A. TxDOT End the Streak event on November 4, 2022**

Mr. Olivarez informed the TPC members and the public that there is an event held by TxDOT and the City of Corpus Christi for preventing roadway deaths on November 4, 2022.

End the Streak is TxDOT’s effort to raise awareness about the long streak of traffic deaths in Texas. Texas has lost at least one person every day on Texas roads since November 7, 2000, totaling 79,000 people, over 22 years. This event urged people to protect themselves and others from the cause of these fatalities such as distracted driving, drunk driving, and speeding.

The detailed information will be distributed via TxDOT’s communication department. The Corpus Christi MPO will post the information on its website if it becomes available.

**B. Texas State Demographer Presentation on December 1, 2022**

Mr. Casper informed the TPC members and the public that the Texas State Demographer will present the state demographic data, trend analysis, and forecast during the December TPC meeting. The demographic data is crucial not only for transportation planning but also economy, area development, and so forth, therefore the Corpus Christi MPO staff encourages the people to tune in.

**6. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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| <b>A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Virtual Meeting:</b> | <b>November 3, 2022</b>  |
| <b>B. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting:</b>       | <b>November 17, 2022</b> |
| <b>C. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting</b>     | <b>December 1, 2022</b>  |
| <b>D. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Virtual Meeting:</b> | <b>December 1, 2022</b>  |

**7. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.**