

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

December 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
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland
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 NOVEMBER 3, 2022 TPC REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve the November 3, 2022, TPC Meeting Minutes. Mr. Zahn seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. PRESENTATION

Dr. Helen You, Associate Director, Texas State Demographic Center presented the Statewide Demographic Trends, Issues, and 2050 Forecast.

The Texas Demographic Center housed at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) produces population estimates and projections and other demographic information for the State of Texas. Dr. You, the Associate Director of the Texas Demographic Center and project manager for the forecasts, presented *the Population Trends and Projections: Texas and the Corpus Christi MPO Area* based on the numbers just published in November.

The population changes in the United States and selected states between 2010 Census and 2020 Census shows that Texas (15.9%) and Utah (18.4%) grew at double the national average (7.4%) and Texas' 4 million was the largest numeric change. However, beginning in 2020 the growth rate in Texas slowed from a 1.6% annual rate to a 1.06% annual rate. Between 2020 and 2021 approximately 79% of the total growth in the United States happened in Texas, due primarily to people moving to Texas. However, 87% of population growth in Texas occurred within the triangle between San Antonio, Houston and Dallas-Ft Worth, east of the I-35 Corridor. In contrast, between 2010 and 2020 over half (143) of the 257 counties in Texas decreased in population.

Nueces County increased by approximately 13,000 in population and San Patricio County has increased by approximately 4,000 in population between the 2010 Census and the 2020 Census. The data shows a gradual population increase in Nueces County from 2000, 2010 and 2020. Hispanics are the majority race group in Nueces County. San Patricio County shows a population decrease between 2000 to 2010 but an increase between 2010 to 2020. Hispanics exceed 50% of the total population in 2010 and 2020 in San Patricio County.

Population change has three components: Natural Increase (births minus deaths), Net (incoming minus outgoing) International Migration, and Net Domestic Migration. Statewide, the proportion of population growth from 2010 to 2020 were Natural Increase 48.1%, International Migration 20.8%, and Domestic

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Migration 31.1%. However, between 2020 and 2021, Natural Increase and International Migration both declined to near zero, as the pandemic negatively impacted the population growth. Also, Nueces County lost population between 2020 and 2021 due to domestic migration, while San Patricio County gained population due to Domestic Migration. In Texas, more than half of counties had net out Domestic Migration, while some counties gained considerable population from incoming Domestic Migration. Nueces County lost population primarily to San Patricio County and San Antonio, while San Patricio County lost population to the large Texas cities in the Triangle and to other states.

The birth rate for Texas began to decline in 2008, and the contrast between Generational Population Pyramids in Texas between 2010 and 2020 clearly exhibits the trend. The younger generations, specifically Generation Alpha (2013-) population, shrinks after 2015.

Texas Demographic Center (TDC) projects the population using the deaths, net migrants, and births, with the migration rate being the most unpredictable factor among these three. Because domestic migration is the most volatile factor, the TDC created two different scenarios for the new forecasts; continuing the same domestic migration rate as between 2010 and 2020 and decreasing to half of the 2010-2020 domestic rate. The birth rate is projected to stop declining for both scenarios.

The current (November 2022) Projected 30-year Population change between 2020 and 2050 for Nueces County is increasing from 353,178 to 363,055. While for San Patricio County it is increasing from 68,755 to 75,816. The two-county total growth over 30 years is from 421,933 to 438,871. The reason for the difference from the previous forecast is that the 2010-2020 data indicates that both counties lost a considerable number due to Domestic Migration after 2013, while the Natural Increase and International Migration are either decreasing or plateauing.

This demographic information can be found at <https://demographics.texas.gov/>

Judge Canales inquired if a comparison can be made with other coastal counties such as Galveston and Brazoria so that Nueces County can analyze the differences and possible causes of these growing counties and Nueces County. Dr. You answered that the TDC website has a clickable map of counties to show the population changes. Judge Canales also asked if these population decreases can be translated into an economic impact. Dr. You replied that she saw a news article related to the topic and that she would look at the correlation between population increase/decrease and its economic impact.

Mr. Leyendecker inquired if the Generational Population Pyramids that show the migration by these age cohorts in the region are available so that the region can analyze the future workforce. Dr. You said that it is not available at present. However, since UTSA has the age cohort migration data, it possible to generate the Pyramids.

Mayor Skurow inquired about how International Migration was determined. Dr. You answered that the number is based on the American Community Survey and Department of Homeland Security information. The US Census would have the household counts, but there is a possibility that some illegal immigrants were not included in the International Migration number.

TPC members thanked Dr. You for the informative presentation.

5. ACTION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. TxDOT 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Category 2 and 4U Project Nomination

Mr. MacDonald briefed the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) that the Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT Corpus Christi District (TxDOT-CRP) jointly nominate Category 2 and 4U projects for TxDOT's 10-year Transportation Program called the Unified Transportation Program (UTP). The current 2024 UTP development schedule is attached as a reference. Each TxDOT District submits their initial nominated projects to TxDOT Headquarters in Austin by December 2, 2022.

This is an annual process wherein the Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT-CRP select the nominated projects, and TxDOT-CRP submits these projects to TxDOT Headquarters after the approval by the TPC for the UTP that is eventually approved by the Texas Transportation Commission in August.

The projects submitted for 2023 UTP are provided as Attachment 4 and the nominated projects for 2024 UTP are provided as Attachment 5. The listed projects are the same, but some of the projects' updated construction estimates have drastically increased from the 2023 UTP to 2024 UTP due to inflation. The TAC discussed and recommended keeping all projects and submitting the 2024 UTP list with new estimated project costs to the TxDOT Headquarters and revising this list as the actual funding levels become available.

Mayor Guajardo commented on one of the nominated projects, FM 624 (Northwest Blvd, CSJ# 0989-02-057), and noted that the City of Corpus Christi would propose to include bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure required by the City of Corpus Christi's adopted corridor plan and requested the project scope be modified.

Mr. MacDonald replied that the scope of any project in this list can be discussed between sponsor agencies, thus the FM 624 project scope can be modified based on the discussion between the City of Corpus Christi and TxDOT-CRP. Today's action is to submit the list of nominated projects to TxDOT Headquarters by the initial deadline, December 2, 2022. There will be a few more chances to discuss these projects again in the 2024 UTP process.

Mayor Skurow inquired that if the scope of the project is changed, the funding category is also changed. Mr. MacDonald answered that it is possible in the Corpus Christi MPO's project selection process.

Mr. Olivarez, Jr. assured the TPC members that these projects are the most current placeholders for the next 10-year period and there are opportunities to make changes in the scope and cost until it is finalized.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve submitting the TxDOT-CRP District 2024 UTP Candidate Project List to TxDOT Headquarters. Mr. Leyendecker seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Corpus Christi MPO Small Area Forecast Task Force

Mr. Casper explained to the TPC the reason and purpose for creating the Corpus Christi MPO Small Area Forecast Task Force.

Developing a demographic forecast for a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a federal requirement for ensuring that the plan is based on the latest available estimates for population, land use, travel, employment, congestion, and economic activity. The proposed Small Area Forecast Task Force will develop the process to create future development scenarios for the transportation needs of the region.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff listed the potential members for the Corpus Christi MPO Small Area Forecast Task Force in the Item 5B memo such as TAC members, City and County Departments, Regional Economic Development Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, Independent School Districts (ISDs), Higher Education Institutions, and so forth.

The TAC recommended creating the Small Area Forecast Task Force and agreed to the initial list of members including the TAC members at their November meeting. The Corpus Christi MPO staff requested that the TPC approve the creation of the Small Area Forecast Task Force.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the creation of the Small Area Forecast Task Force. Mayor Guajardo seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Resolution to Enter into a Non-Construction AFA with TxDOT for \$2.0 million of STBG Program Funds

Mr. MacDonald explained to the TPC the status of the \$2.0 million STBG Funds the Corpus Christi MPO would receive for planning efforts. This STBG Fund is a COVID relief fund and is 100% federal, not requiring any local match. The Corpus Christi MPO staff has been working with TxDOT to receive these funds by submitting the required documents. Attachment 2 listed the expected work to be done by consultant teams with this funding, and Attachment 3 is the actual Attachment to the Non-Construction

Advanced Funding Agreement (NCAFA) between the Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT that provides more details on the proposed scopes of services.

The Resolution 23-02 2022 NC-AFA DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY authorizes the Corpus Christi MPO Transportation Planning Director to enter into a NC-AFA and related agreements with TxDOT. Mr. MacDonald requested the TPC's approval of Resolution 23-02.

Mr. Leyendecker made a motion to approve Resolution 23-02 2022 NC-AFA DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS FOR REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND COMMENT

A. Harbor Bridge Project Update

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

Some of the issues related the Delta Frame identified by International Bridge Technologies (IBT) are attributed to the foundation. These issues are resolved, and the work would be resumed around mid-December.

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

Mr. MacDonald briefed the TPC about the current status of the Corpus Christi MPO Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants. There were no new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or announcements of awarded grants. The Corpus Christi MPO staff will keep maintaining the regional dialogue and coordination efforts and inform the TAC and TPC if new opportunities become available, or grants are awarded to this region. Mr. MacDonald requested the TPC to inform the MPO staff if any entity is proposing to submit grant applications.

7. MEMBER AGENCY STATEMENTS FOR ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

None were offered.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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| A. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting and Workshop: | December 15, 2022 |
| B. Transportation Policy Committee Regular Meeting | January 5, 2023 |
| C. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force Virtual Meeting: | January 5, 2023 |
| D. Technical Advisory Committee Regular Meeting and Workshop: | January 19, 2023 |

9. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.