

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CORPUS CHRISTI MPO)
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 7, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

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

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County
Mr. Charlie W. Zahn, Jr. Port of Corpus Christi
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland
Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi
Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E., TxDOT - Corpus Christi District (CRP)
Ms. Veronica Toomey, Coastal Bend Council of Governments

Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, and Karla Carvajal

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC OCTOBER 12, 2023 RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023 minutes. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. TxDOT 2025 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Projects Process and Discussion

TxDOT and the Corpus Christi MPO update the TxDOT 10-year Unified Transportation Program (UTP) each year on a similar schedule as illustrated in the current 2025 UTP process. The approval process contains action milestones for both TxDOT and the Corpus Christi MPO to perform. The 2025 UTP covers the 10 years from FY 2025 through FY 2034. The TxDOT 2025 UTP Schedule illustrates that the most recent UTP Document was made available to the public in October 2023 for projects in fiscal years 2025-2034. Corpus Christi MPO staff are asking the TPC members to review the current set of 2024 UTP projects for possible changes: cost estimate revisions, delayed projects, and “new projects” as part of the public comment portion of the TxDOT 2025 UTP process. TxDOT headquarters is requesting the initial list of projects for the 2025 UTP on December 1, 2023. This schedule requires the TPC to approve and submit an initial list of projects for the TxDOT-CRP District to TxDOT HQ as a first step in the year-long process.

Discussion:

Mr. MacDonald presented the TxDOT 2025 UTP list of projects. These projects are worth \$390 million for the region, highlighting the annual TxDOT updates, totaling \$110 billion statewide. He explained the approval process, project evaluation, scoring, and funding distribution. The focus was on funding categories 2 and 4, with a mention of a new funding category CAT 10CR for Carbon Reduction. Mr. MacDonald presented the 2024 and 2025 UTP project lists, including the three proposed new projects for submittal and scoring at the state-level. The committee recommended submitting the full 2025 UTP list of projects to TxDOT.

Recommendation:

The Corpus Christi MPO Staff and Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the TPC approve the DRAFT 2025 UTP list of projects with the addition of the three projects for submittal to TxDOT.

Motion:

Mr. Zahn made a motion to approve the DRAFT 2025 UTP projects for submittal to TxDOT. Judge Krebs seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. TxDOT End the Streak Campaign Presentation

The item was tabled.

B. Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership Annual Report

Executive Director Sharon Bailey acknowledged the Coastal Bend Air Quality Partnership's 30-year collaboration with the MPO, focusing on comprehensive air quality efforts. Ms. Bailey highlighted the organization's evolution from the Corpus Christi air quality partnership, led by Gretchen Arnold, to the current Coastal Bend partnership. Ms. Bailey emphasized extensive collaboration with municipalities, counties, cities, the military, universities, and more.

The presentation delved into the history of the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group, noting its benchmark status for achieving national ambient air quality standards. Ms. Bailey touched upon the mission of the partnership, urging all emission sources to reduce their impact on air quality and provided a comprehensive overview of emission sources, emphasizing the community-wide responsibility to lower emissions.

Ms. Bailey highlighted the success of the organization in maintaining compliance with national ambient air quality standards and discussed plans for a community air action plan. Ms. Bailey elaborated on the working groups involved, ranging from public policy to transportation, with the goal of ensuring community-wide participation.

Financial support from the MPO and other stakeholders was acknowledged, with a detailed breakdown of operating expenses for 2022. Ms. Bailey expressed gratitude for this support and emphasized the reciprocal relationship, pledging assistance to the MPO in navigating environmental regulations. Ms. Bailey touched on future plans, including the development of the Coastal Bend community action plan with 10 working groups. A detailed timeline was outlined for community outreach, open houses, and a call for input to ensure a community-driven plan. Ms. Bailey highlighted the partnership's true sense of collaboration, displaying logos of involved entities.

Ms. Bailey recognized Mayor Guajardo and Mayor Skurow for their support and involvement and gave an overview of the board of directors' composition, key roles, and their contributions to ongoing research initiatives.

Ms. Bailey closed the presentation with an appreciation for Gretchen Arnold, the former leader of the Air Quality Partnership, and shared her contact information, encouraging continued collaboration and assistance to the MPO in their environmental initiatives.

C. New Harbor Bridge Update

Mr. Olivarez reported progress on the Harbor Bridge project, specifically noting the installation of four pairs of permanent cable stays on the North Tower and two pairs on the South Tower by the end of the calendar year. Additionally, they highlighted the upcoming milestone related to the completion of the next phase of Interstate 37 at the interchange, aiming for a January finish with efforts to open two lanes for westbound travel from Interstate 37 to downtown Corpus Christi after Christmas.

D. Adjusted Urban Area Status Update and Urban Density Discussion

Mr. Casper highlighted that a year ago, the Census Bureau introduced the 2020 Census-Designated Urban Areas, initiating the adjustment process. This one-year process allows both MPOs and State DOTs nationwide to modify the Census Designated Urban boundaries to harmonize functional classifications using the nine prescribed criteria. After two online and one in-person meetings, the TAC approved a list of adjustments, that were then approved by the TPC in October and submitted to TxDOT. TxDOT compiled them into a submission

to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA reviewed all proposed adjustments statewide and used a common methodology while reviewing them. While the FHWA approved most adjustments that the TPC submitted, three areas; south of Port Aransas, north of Gregory, and west of the Corpus Christi airport, differed from the TPC recommendations.

The Adjusted Urban Area will serve as the foundation for federal functional classification and upcoming planning efforts. The next steps involve conducting a small area forecast, allocating growth based on approved control totals, and adjusting the MPO boundary, accordingly, to incorporate areas reaching urban density by 2050. The process is advancing, with a calibrated model expected by the end of February and preliminary forecasts expected in March.

E. Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Roadway Functional Classification Update

Mr. Casper explained that MPOs with populations exceeding 200,000 must adhere to an eight-step process outlined in federal regulations when developing the regional Congestion Management Process. The initial step involves identifying significant routes susceptible to congestion, dependent on federal or local functional classifications. These classifications are subject to specific guidelines updated in 2013 and 2023. The federal functional classification dictates eligibility for federal funds. Mr. Casper detailed the existing regionally significant corridors, highlighting the tiered approach that was used. Mr. Casper emphasized the relevance of the National Highway System to funding categories 2 and 4 and discussed the breakdown of functional classifications in the MPO, showcasing the percentage of lane miles and traffic for each category. Mr. Casper emphasized the impending federal functional classification process and the anticipated influx of information for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

6. TPC MEMBER STATEMENTS ON LOCAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

Judge Krebs reminded the TPC that they will appoint and elect new officers for 2024 at the January meeting.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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| A. Joint Regional Traffic Safety Task Force: | Regular Meeting | December 13, 2023 |
| B. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting | January 4, 2024 |
| C. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting | January 18, 2024 |

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 pm.