

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

JULY 17, 2024

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

TPC Chairperson Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County, Chairperson
Judge Connie Scott, Nueces County, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E., TxDOT Corpus Christi District
Mr. David Engel, Port of Corpus Christi Authority
Ms. Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Governments
Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra, Nueces County Assistant Attorney

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

2. NON AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC JUNE 6, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Judge Scott made a motion to approve the June 6, 2024 minutes. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with Amendment 1

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 1 for review by the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This Amendment 1 was necessary due to a review by FHWA of the FY 2023-2026 TIP With Amendment 2. The proposed DRAFT 2045 MTP with Amendment 1 Fiscally Constrained Project List was shown as Attachment 1. FHWA staff determined there were inconsistencies with a few projects in the 2045 MTP compared to projects in the FY 2023-2026 TIP with Amendment 2. Those projects include:

- **NEVI Charging Station New Project** (MPO-077) (CSJ 5000-00-187) \$1,202,800 CAT 10
- **Holly Rd. Train Trestle to Tourism Trail** (MPO-049) (CSJ 0916-022-282) \$13.034 million CAT 9
- **SH 286 Construct Freeway Extension by Upgrading Existing 2-LN Rdwy to 4-LN Divided Highway** (MPO-05) (CSJ 0326-01-056) \$65.0 million CAT 2/CAT 7

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the release of the DRAFT FY 2020-2045 Transportation Plan with Amendment 1 for a one-month public comment period. Judge Scott seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was provided as Attachment 1. Both the Corpus Christi MPO staff and Technical Advisory Committee recommend the Transportation Policy Committee approve this TIP. A table summarizing the funded projects was highlighted. Attachment 3 was shown to detail the DRAFT FY 2025-2028 TIP fiscally constrained project list. The MPO staff and TxDOT-CRP District Staff met on June 24 to confirm the details of project descriptions and funding for the TIP document and the TAC had a Special meeting on June 28th to discuss issues and finalize the document. All updates are incorporated into the revised FY 2025-2028 TIP. The TAC recommended approval after their Special Meeting on June 28th. To date, one public comment has been received and has been addressed by MPO staff. The public comment and response documents were included in the TPC packet for this agenda item.

Discussion:

Mr. Olivarez emphasized that their fiscal year starts on September 1, and they are working urgently to get the SH 286 Crosstown Extension project ready for bidding by October, despite delays. Additionally, there's an ongoing discussion about the New Harbor Bridge mitigation project, which is planned to be designed and completed by 2025. Mr. Olivarez explained that the MPO processes work on a long-range 25-year plan for projects involving right-of-way purchases, environmental processes, and development. Additionally, TxDOT focuses on a 10-year plan for construction funding and a more immediate four-year plan (TIP/STIP), ensuring that projects for fiscal years 2025 and 2026 are ready for construction. This approach allows the industry to prepare and bid on these projects with confidence.

Motion:

Judge Scott made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2025-2028 TIP. Mr. Engel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with Amendment 2

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff recommended that the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) review and discuss the DRAFT Amendment 2 to the FY 2023 and FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This Amendment 2 was requested by TxDOT as part of their April 8, 2024 Work Order Letter 2 for FY 2024 that specified the requirement for the Corpus Christi MPO to have specific language in the current Unified Planning Work Program related to the federal requirement to spend a minimum of 2.5% of the MPO's Federal Planning funds (PL) on planning activities *"...to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities,..."*

Throughout the DRAFT UPWP with Amendment 2 document the title of Subtask 3.3 was changed from "Complete Streets, Active Transportation and Micro-mobility Planning" to "2.5% Set-Aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options." Additionally, a minor reallocation of funds from one subtask to this subtask was proposed to simplify verification of compliance with the 2.5% minimum funding levels.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP with Amendment 2. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

D. DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

Each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is both the annual budget document for the Corpus Christi MPO and the document

that coordinates among agencies and informs the public about ongoing transportation planning projects throughout the region by all local agencies. Key assumptions in this new two-year UPWP are:

- the total Transportation Planning Funding (TPF) amounts shown in the table on page two of the cover memo and in the UPWP document are the same as from FY 2024. Future UPWP amendments may be made with a revised allocation from FHWA/FTA;
- there is approximately \$700,000 of carryover funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) that are a 100% federal grant for the completion of the Corpus Christi MPO Planning Tools and Studies project.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Judge Scott made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP. Mr. Engel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

E. 2050 MTP Development: Vision, Goals, and Chapter 1

Mr. Casper presented the item.

This item is requesting that the TPC review, discuss and approve the attached DRAFT Vision and associated Goals for use in continuing to develop the 2050 MTP. The Corpus Christi 2050 MTP is scheduled for the 5-year update on February 6, 2025. Today's action is not final approval, but approving them for use will allow objectives and performance measures for the objectives to be developed. It is possible that the Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures may be adjusted later, but it is necessary to have the foundation now upon which the 2050 MTP can be built. These forthcoming objectives and performance measures will be used to evaluate the existing conditions, identify locations and magnitude of needs, track changes over time, and evaluate projects submitted for prioritization and possible inclusion into the 2050 MTP.

Discussion:

Judge Scott expressed her approval of the vision statements presented. She also asked if these were previously used goals for the last MTP.

Mr. Casper noted that they were not previously used. He stated that the MPO has consolidated the goals from seven into five, combining security and safety, and this represents the current plan.

Mr. Olivarez clarified that the goals referred to lead into the performance measures previously used to score projects and will continue to be used going forward.

Mr. Casper explained that the performance measures, such as PM1, PM2, and PM3, will be used consistently, as directed by Congress. He also mentioned that the goals have been expanded, incorporating proven countermeasures for safety projects as required by FHWA.

Mr. Olivarez explained that projects brought by the TPC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members will be scored and ranked using performance metrics for a 25-year plan. TxDOT projects will also be ranked similarly, and the final plan will eventually be presented to the TPC for approval.

Mr. Engel inquired whether discussions about a second route to the island, which he has heard mentioned previously, are still ongoing, as he does not see it included in the current discussions.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the MPO staff will integrate various projects into the 25-year planning process (2050 MTP), including the proposed Regional Parkway, which was included in the previous plan (2045 MTP) but needs resubmission for the new 2025-2050 timeframe. This project, along with others, including State Highway 361, is undergoing necessary planning and environmental analysis by TxDOT and will be considered for inclusion in the 25-year 2050 MTP list once these studies are complete. The MPO uses the required performance-based planning, including the 25-year plan, a 10-year plan, a 4-year plan,

and a 2-year letting schedule to help stakeholders understand and prioritize projects. Projects are scored and ranked through these processes, and the MPO will eventually allocate funding based on these rankings as well as considerations for project readiness. A consultant will assist in evaluating and prioritizing projects, and stakeholders will have a chance to review how projects are assessed against set goals and objectives. Opportunities for project implementation earlier in the plan years, such as developer contributions to accelerate project development and funding, will be considered to adjust the listing of priorities. Currently, the focus is on developing the objectives and performance measures that will be used to identify and rank projects for the next 25 years.

Motion:

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the DRAFT Vision and associated Goals for use in the continued development of the 2050 MTP. Mr. Olivarez seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Additional Discussion:

After approval, as a point of clarification, Mr. Olivarez asked if MPO staff could explain the difference between the adjusted urbanized area and the planning area as shown in the graphics.

Mr. Casper explained that the Census Bureau designates urban areas based on residential density without consulting others, leading to inconsistent boundaries for urban areas. To address this, adjustments are made with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to create smooth boundaries for the Adjusted Urban Areas. After the Adjusted Urban Areas are determined then future locations of households and jobs are allocated around the region. The contiguous areas that reach urban density are then brought into the Metropolitan Planning Area. The current adjustment process is not at the step of forecasting future urban areas and adjusting the planning area boundary. In Texas, there are 12 out of 24 MPOs that will adjust their Metropolitan Planning Boundary, four that have asked to and eight that are required to. The Corpus Christi MPO is one of the eight that is required to make boundary adjustments.

Mr. Olivarez explained that TxDOT is leading the development of long-range projects, including the Regional Parkway and State Highway 361, which are currently in the planning phase. A specific budget for planning has been allocated, and public engagement for these projects is expected to begin this fall. As these projects progress, decisions will be made regarding the use of funding from TxDOT or MPO categories, with priorities set by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and TPC for moving projects forward and allocating funds for construction.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Regional Coordination Group for Federal Transportation Grants Update

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff provided updated information concerning the Regional Coordination Group, which is the monthly Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting item. Monthly updates are provided to the TPC when new information is available.

Mr. MacDonald explained that the TAC members are tasked with coordinating local governments that propose to apply for federal transportation funding, in 23 major grant program categories, and announcements of funding opportunities are announced every few months. The Summary Table shows current funding opportunities. Mr MacDonald highlighted the recent award of \$5.88 million for the CCRTA in acquiring Low or No Emission buses. Additionally, the CCRTA is applying for a SMART Grant.

Discussion:

Ms. Martinez shared that the Coastal Bend Council of Governments applied for a charging station partnership with Francis Energy but was not selected in the first round. However, they were highly recommended for the second round, and potential sites include Portland, Rockport, and Robstown in Nueces County.

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

Mr. Olivarez announced his retirement from TxDOT at the end of July and expressed his appreciation for the collaboration and the accomplishments achieved in the region. TPC members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Olivarez for his dedication to delivering transportation projects in this region. He was invited to the next TPC meeting for an official recognition of his services to the MPO.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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| A. 2050 MTP Public Meetings: | | July 16, 17 and 18, 2024 |
| B. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting/Workshop | July 18, 2024 |
| C. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting | August 1, 2024 |
| D. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting/Workshop | August 15, 2024 |

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.