

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


September 5, 2024

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

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

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County, Chairperson
Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland
Mr. Mike Walsh, P.E. Texas Department of Transportation
Mr. Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

 _____ Judge David Krebs, Transportation Policy Committee Chairperson Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization	October 3, 2024 _____ Date
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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, MBA

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC AUGUST 1, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Granado made a motion to approve the August 1, 2024 minutes.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION for TXDOT Corpus Christi District Engineer Valente Olivarez, Jr

Discussion:

The Corpus Christi MPO recognized the outstanding Regional Leadership in Transportation provided by Valente Olivarez, Jr. Judge Krebs read aloud the resolution, which was subsequently moved for approval by Mr. Walsh and seconded by Mayor Skurow.

Motion:

The vote to approve the resolution was unanimous. Following the resolution's approval, the Transportation Policy Committee and Corpus Christi MPO Staff presented Mr. Olivarez with an Eagle with American Flag bronze statue as a token of appreciation and recognition for his dedicated service in advancing regional transportation.

B. DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 2

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 2 for review by both the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This 2045 MTP Amendment 2 is necessary to address inconsistencies within

the fiscally constrained project list after the 2045 MTP with Amendment 1 and the FY 2025-2028 TIP were approved.

Discussion:

None

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made the motion to approve the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 2 through Resolution 24-04.

Mr. Granado seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT CMP Regionally Significant Corridors Network

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff is asking, and the TAC recommended, the TPC approve the DRAFT Congestion Management Program (CMP) Regionally Significant Corridor Network for use in continuing development of the CMP. This is not final approval of the DRAFT CMP Regionally Significant Corridor Network. The ongoing CMP process will investigate additional routes for the DRAFT CMP Regionally Significant Corridor Network, such as adding the Texas State Highway Freight Network. The Congestion Management Process is an 8 step process that: identifies regionally significant corridors, determines what is acceptable and unacceptable congestion, and then uses objectives and performance measures to identify congestion hotspots, and develops a corridor specific toolbox of possible policies or projects to reduce congestion at those locations. This toolbox of policies and projects is customized to each individual corridor and the surrounding community context and describes the ongoing procedures for reducing delay prior to construction of new infrastructure and measuring performance effectiveness of investments after implementation.

Discussion:

None

Motion:

Mr. Walsh made the motion to approve the DRAFT CMP Regionally Significant Corridor Network as a working base for use in continuing the development of the CMP with the understanding that this is not final approval of the DRAFT CMP Regionally Significant Corridor Network.

Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

D. Resolution for Proposed Function Classification Change for SH 286

Ms. Sales Evans presented the item.

Federal Functional Classifications of roads must be updated occasionally for a number of different reasons. In this case, a specific roadway construction project – SH 286 Crosstown Extension from FM 43 (Weber) to FM 2444 (Staples), needs to have its Functional Classification changed prior to the project being let by TxDOT. TxDOT's justification for this change is provided in the Function Classification Check List and stated as: "Upgrading of this segment of SH 286 will improve mobility on the southside of Corpus Christi and will also relieve congestion on one of the major routes in the city by providing an alternate route to SH 358." Providing improvement to this alternate route will increase the reliability and efficiency of the SH 358 corridor which provides access to businesses and facilities that were a large portion of the community.

Discussion:

Mr. MacDonald explained that the cover memo includes a list of supporting documents, compiled by TxDOT local staff and headquarters, which forms the Functional Classification Change Packet. The MPO's contribution is the resolution, which represents the final step for TxDOT to proceed with the project on

October 1st, after ensuring that all necessary approvals and alignments with the 25-year, 10-year, and 4-year plans have been met.

Mr. Walsh pointed out that there is only one functional class higher than this and that would be interstate.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made the motion to approve the DRAFT Resolution 24-05 for the Functional Classification Change Request.

Mr. Granado seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

E. TPC Meeting Location Change Proposal

Discussion:

The TPC members that were present indicated that they would defer any decision on the venue change when Mayor Guajardo presents her request to the TPC.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow motioned to table Item 4E-TPC Meeting Location Change Proposal.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. MPO Boundary Update: Small Area Forecast Refresher

Mr. Casper presented the item.

Under the direction of the State Demographer, the Texas Demographic Center's Texas Population Projections Program collects information to produce the population projections for the State of Texas as required by state law (Chapter 468 of Texas Government Code). The Texas Population Projections Program produces projections for the entire state of Texas and each individual county in the state by age, sex, and race/ethnicity. These projections use assumptions about future events that may or may not occur. The current forecast, released October 24, 2022, consists of the projections of the resident population of the State for each year from 2020 through 2060. This accommodates the 2050 planning horizon of the upcoming 2050 Corpus Christi MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) and satisfies the requirement of using the most recent information. A change the State Demographer made was providing two scenarios for population growth to account for some uncertainties. The approved forecast uses the highest regional population growth developed by the State Demographic Office.

Discussion:

Mayor Skurow raised concerns about the implications of including additional areas that are not required to be incorporated into the planning region.

Mr. Casper stated that guidance says the Metropolitan Statistical Area (entire two counties) can be used or just the areas currently urbanized or expected to be urban by 2050, although it remains uncertain whether these areas can be added, but MPO staff will bring back additional details to next month's meeting.

Mayor Skurow also expressed her concern about potential unintended consequences for urban areas and rural funding, emphasizing the need for a thorough understanding before making a final decision.

Mr. MacDonald mentioned that expanding the region to encompass two or three full counties is a possibility, but including up to six counties might also be considered. He referenced other MPOs, such as Dallas, which have opted to include entire urbanized areas to avoid complications with open land. However, he noted that the Technical Advisory Committee, as well as the MPO staff, are leaning against these larger options due to potential impacts on rural funding. The TAC collectively favors options that do not involve extending to two or six full counties.

Mayor Skurow reiterated the need for a balanced approach to funding, pointing out that incorporating rural areas to qualify for rural funding could detract from the urban funding available. She acknowledged the expertise of the TAC members in finding a balance that makes sense.

B. 2050 MTP Timeline Review, Texas Transportation Commission adopting Connecting Texas 2050

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

Mr. MacDonald presented a video from the Texas Transportation Commission adopting Connecting Texas 2050.

The 2050 MTP Timeline shows decision points made by the Transportation Policy Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee. The timeline also shows a General Public section where MPO planning documents (MTP, Active Transportation, Safety Action Plan, etc.) are discussed with the public during public engagement events. The timeline will be updated monthly and be brought to TAC and TPC every month. It will also be available on the MPO website so people can follow along looking for opportunities to talk about any components of the long-range transportation plan.

Discussion:

Mr. Granado inquired about the significance of February 6th, to which Mr. MacDonald clarified that it is the deadline for approving the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Mr. MacDonald then gave the example of the projects involving the RTA and TxDOT that had been paused because it wasn't initially included in the long-range plan. The projects had to be paused until meetings could be arranged with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to prove that the MPO had taken action on the necessary long-range plan amendments in recent months, including the one approved earlier that day. He emphasized that the approval process hinges on the specific language of the project description and funding amounts, which must align with federal rules, as reviewed by FHWA and FTA.

Mr. Granado expressed concern about relying on February 6th as the final deadline, noting that the policy committee doesn't always have a quorum, making it risky to wait until then. He suggested that it would be in their best interest to hold the public meeting and final approval meeting as soon as possible, even if it requires scheduling a special meeting.

Mr. MacDonald responded by stating that everything should be finalized by January, at which point the plans will be opened up for public comment. This would allow for the submission of additional projects if needed. He assured the group that work on these plans is ongoing in the background.

Mr. Walsh added that having a quorum in January and February is crucial.

Mayor Skurow then asked about the mention of pipeline projects, seeking clarification on what that entails.

Mr. MacDonald explained that there is a list of pipeline projects included in the statewide plan, but the locations of these projects are deliberately vague for security reasons. Mayor Skurow reflected on her early experiences with the MPO, noting that rail projects had been included on maps, and she found pipelines to be an interesting component of transportation barriers, as well as a potential asset for transporting certain commodities. She emphasized that pipelines are something on her radar.

Mr. MacDonald mentioned that the MPO is currently involved in the San Patricio Industrial Master Plan and is actively engaged in sharing relevant information, though they do not publish details about pipeline projects. He clarified that while there are currently no specific pipeline projects listed, they do intersect with transportation projects.

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

Mayor Skurow requested that the MPO staff follow up with TxDOT regarding the pilot program for anti-walking signs on the highway, specifically any available statistics related to the program's effectiveness.

Mr. Walsh responded that he has some preliminary data that can be shared with the group.

7. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Krebs announced that the Committee will go into Executive Session under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to discuss the renewal contract of the MPO Transportation Planning Director and will return to open session.

The TPC recessed into Executive Session at 3:19 p.m.

The TPC went into Executive Session at 3:22 p.m.

The TPC concluded Executive Session at 4:30 p.m.

The TPC reconvened at 4: 31 p.m.

8. POSSIBLE ACTIONS REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT OF THE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIRECTOR

Mr. Granado made a motion to accept the Employment Contract of the Transportation Planning Director and increase Mr. MacDonald's salary to \$167,500.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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| A. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting/Workshop | September 19, 2024 |
| B. 2050 MTP Public Meetings: | | September 24-25, 2024 |
| C. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting | October 3, 2024 |

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.