

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2025

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

Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:00 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-Corpus Christi District

Mr. Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Emily Martinez, MPA Coastal Bend Council of Governments (non-voting)

MPO Staff Present:

Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Harry Horak, Victor Mendieta, and Carissa Tamez

MPO Attorney:

Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC AUGUST 7, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve August 7, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (2045 MTP Update) with Amendment 1

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed the DRAFT 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (2045 MTP Update) with Amendment 1 for review by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and TPC. A table of specific changes to the fiscally constrained project list in the 2045 MTP Update was provided as part of Amendment 1. All projects and programs of the Corpus Christi RTA listed in the agenda packet item were recently amended into the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For consistency, these projects must be listed in both the FY 2025-2028 TIP and 2045 MTP Update.

Discussion:

Mr. Walsh inquired about the timeline for the proposed safety projects, specifically asking whether the target year for implementation is 2028.

- Mr. MacDonald responded that the current amendment includes the safety projects in the 20-year Long Range Plan, which puts the safety projects within the planning horizon to 2045. He noted that funding is available through the current four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which runs through Fiscal Year 2028. While some carryover of funds is possible, it is limited. Therefore, the goal is to identify and initiate the projects as soon as possible, ensuring they are included in both the Long-Range Plan and the TIP. Mr. MacDonald added that 3 or 4 of the RSAP projects are already underway which are led by the City of Corpus Christi or the TxDOT District and emphasized the desire to see the remaining projects move forward to completion.

Mayor Skurow asked for clarification on the status of the projects currently underway, specifically whether they are in progress but not yet funded.

- Mr. Walsh stated that he assumes the \$13 million funding is available but questioned how projects are underway without official funding.
- Mr. MacDonald clarified that the district is using its own funds for the work.
- Mr. Walsh acknowledged that identified safety projects already in progress are now underway through TxDOT.
- Mr. MacDonald confirmed that necessary projects are funded either by the district or the City of Corpus Christi, which uses local bond money. He cited a current \$400,000 project at Staples and McArdle funded by the city.
- Mr. Walsh inquired about any projects in the City of Portland.
- Mr. MacDonald responded that there are no current safety projects in Portland from the RSAP. As the next Regional Safe System Plan is developed, some Projects in Portland may be identified.
- Mayor Skurow mentioned that the project at Moore Avenue and SH 181 in Portland is not funded by TxDOT but was included in the last safety plan to address wrong-way drivers.
- Mr. Casper noted that while the Moore Avenue and 181 intersection is challenging, it's not in the RSAP due to no serious injuries being reported.
- Mr. MacDonald stated that the Moore Avenue and SH 181 projects will get another chance to be added to the RSAP or the RSSP in the future.
- Mr. Walsh mentioned a Corpus Christi city representative was present and noted that an AFA with TxDOT District is needed to proceed with the design of their projects.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made a motion to release the DRAFT 2045 MTP Update with Amendment 1 for a one-month public comment period.

Mr. Granado seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2025 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD)

Mr. Casper presented this item.

As discussed earlier this year, the Corpus Christi MPO Title VI policy document is due for an update. The updated DRAFT 2025 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD) was provided for review and feedback. The TPC and TAC received an earlier version of this document in prior meetings. As reported by FHWA, and discussed in previous meetings, several federal executive actions have impacted environmental justice (EJ) considerations within metropolitan transportation planning regulations. The actions collectively reduce the emphasis on environmental justice and equity considerations in metropolitan transportation planning and related federal infrastructure initiatives.

The current Title VI policy was approved by the MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) on August 2, 2018. These policies are unchanged, and the Title VI complaint process is also found in the current document. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that transportation planning and programming be nondiscriminatory on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The federal statute was further clarified and supplemented by the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) stipulates involving the community, particularly those with disabilities, in the development and improvement of services.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mr. Walsh made a motion to release the DRAFT 2025 PAD for a one-month public comment period.

Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Mr. Casper presented this item.

Last month the TPC released the MPO DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Plan (PPP) for a minimum 45-day public comment period. This month, MPO staff are providing an opportunity to receive comments from the public and from TPC and TAC members on the Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2025 PPP. Once adopted, the PPP defines the processes that the Corpus Christi MPO will use to provide any interested or potentially impacted citizens with reasonable opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. This PPP identifies the outreach and involvement activities for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Planning process and updates to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. This is an opportunity in the 45-day public comment period for TPC members to provide comments or ask questions regarding any concerns. Any major changes to the TPC recommendation for future approval of the 2025 PPP can be made at this TPC meeting.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

None.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. DRAFT 2025 Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary Briefing

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

The Corpus Christi MPO Planning Area Boundary Change process has been on-going for about 2 years. The next step in the process was determined during June 5, 2025, Joint TPC-TAC Workshop. This step is for the TAC to eventually recommend to the TPC a DRAFT MPO Planning Area Boundary Change as part of a future Boundary Change Package required by TxDOT.

The key component of the MPO Planning Area Boundary Change is the proposed boundary. The DRAFT MPA Boundary consists of:

- Current Corpus Christi MPO Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary
- Areas added based on approved 2020 Census Adjusted (Smoothed) MPO Urban Area.

There are still some adjustments for the TAC to consider in recommending to the TPC the DRAFT MPO Planning Area Boundary and items for the TxDOT Boundary Change Packet. These adjustments were described briefly and further described in the policy options section. This includes possible new information from FTA and CCRTA staff. Currently, the CCRTA and FTA staff are not able to provide specific guidance or recommendation on whether or not the Corpus Christi MPO should include areas with federally funded transit services in the City of Robstown and Port Aransas in the new MPA Boundary. The TAC was asked to consider the information and discuss their next steps in this process. Additionally, the process will continue for a few months to complete the components of the TxDOT Boundary Change Checklist.

Discussion:

None.

B. TREDIS Tool Overview

Mr. Casper and the Consultant presented this item.

The Corpus Christi MPO is developing the TREDIS tool to provide econometric assessment of transportation projects and quantify the incremental benefits and costs of the various proposed projects. TREDIS presents both benefit-cost analysis (BCA) and Net Present Value (NPV) results to help ensure that the transportation funding is devoted to projects that are an efficient and effective investment for the region. The kickoff information from the consultant on this project for TPC is provided through a slide show. The consultant team presented this information to the TPC through a prerecorded video.

Discussion:

Mr. Casper thanked TxDOT for allowing the MPO to use their TREDIS license, which helps conserve resources, noting that TREDIS is a valuable tool.

Ms. Martinez asked whether the tool would be used to support project decision-making.

- Mr. Casper confirmed that she was correct, explaining that every project submitted for the TIP will receive a benefit-cost score, internal rate of return, and present value score. These metrics, along with other gathered data, will assist the TPC in making decisions. He emphasized that TREDIS will be a factor, but not the only factor, in the evaluation process.

Mayor Skurow asked who the consultant is for the TREDIS tool.

- Mr. Casper responded that High Street is the prime consultant, and EPB is the subconsultant. He added that EPB now owns the licenses and rights to the TREDIS software and is assisting with implementation.

C. Regional Safe System Plan (RSSP)

Mr. Casper presented this item.

USDOT has stated that it is necessary to methodically consider Safe System objectives when planning and developing transportation investments. A Safe System Approach (SSA) Plan contains the following five elements—safe road users, safe vehicles, safe speeds, safe roads, and post-crash care—in an integrated and holistic process. Achieving zero traffic deaths and serious injuries requires all five elements working in synergy so that weaknesses in one element may be compensated for with solutions in other areas, creating layers of protection against harm on the roads.

This effort is the inaugural Regional Safe System Plan (RSSP) that is aligned to the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and consistent with the USDOT Safe System Strategic Plan. A summary of the Regional Safe System Plan will become a Chapter in the 2050 MTP. The Regional Traffic Safety Task Force will be briefed throughout the effort and relied upon implementing the RSSP. As a kickoff of the RSSP process for the TPC, MPO staff provided a slide show presentation from the consultant team, and the scope, schedule and cost for the consultant effort.

Discussion:

Mayor Skurow inquired whether the consultants have previously worked with other MPOs across the country, and if there are any studies or statistics showing that their work has led to a measurable reduction in fatalities.

- Mr. Casper responded that they would provide a conservative estimate and expressed optimism that achieving Vision Zero fatalities in the region by 2050 is realistic, though zero injuries may not be achievable. He emphasized that success would depend on addressing the five pillars, including improving driver behavior and prioritizing seatbelt use.

Mayor Skurow asked if there are existing statistics from other regions demonstrating that this analysis has been effective.

- Mr. Casper confirmed with Mayor Skurow that yes, there are statistics available. He explained that the software can perform a “postmortem” analysis comparing data before and after improvements to measure effectiveness over time. He added that some proven countermeasures are even more effective in practice than the estimates used by Federal Highway.

Mayor Skurow then asked who owns the license for the software.

- Mr. Casper clarified that DiExSys currently owns the license for the software and is serving as a subconsultant to High Street. He added that the MPO holds a license, which allows them to analyze data for any location within the region.
- Mayor Skurow confirmed that High Street will be responsible for pulling all the data to prepare a report for the TPC.
- Mr. Casper confirmed and added that the Safety Task Force is being reconvened, and they are currently in the process of finalizing all necessary details.
- Mr. Walsh sought clarification, emphasizing that the outcomes are highly dependent on project selection. He noted that the results won’t be fully known until the selected projects are implemented and move forward.
- Mayor Skurow stated that the issue is tied back to both schedule and budget. She expressed concern that the project appears to be behind schedule and noted that completing it by the end of the year would be unacceptable, as it would feel rushed and constrained by too short a time frame.
- Mr. Casper mentioned that the updated list of safety projects includes 32 project locations that are ready to proceed. He highlighted that some have a benefit-cost ratio as high as 500:1. Projects range from simple improvements like adjusting traffic signals to allow only protected left turns to more extensive safety enhancements.

Mayor Skurow asked how the TREDIS tool will be integrated with the safety analysis.

- Mr. Casper explained that the TREDIS software allows the integration of results from the DiExSys Zero Vision Suite. This enables the MPO to evaluate the economic impacts of safety improvements by combining safety analysis with TREDIS modeling.

Mr. Walsh asked about the process when there’s differing interest among entities; for example, if Entity A does not want to proceed with a project but Entity B does, or if Portland, not currently on the list, wants to be included.

- Mr. Casper responded that implementing projects is completely the local entities choice and that any project location can be analyzed. If a location in Portland is concerning then the MPO staff can diagnose the crashes occurring at it. He added that they have a regional safety service level to use as a benchmark for comparison among locations.

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

- Mr. Walsh mentioned a few announcements:
 - The bidding for the project on FM 893 is underway and selection of a contractor is next with expected to start construction within the next two months.
 - He noted that the old Harbor Bridge was permanently closed as of September 3, 2025 and will no longer be open to pedestrians or drivers. Demolition is scheduled for November (date TBD).
 - The hike and bike path on the new Harbor Bridge is now fully open to pedestrians 24/7. Sidewalk work continues on the North Beach side to connect to existing city infrastructure, creating a continuous pedestrian path. Once completed, the North Beach area will become much more pedestrian-friendly.

- Mr. MacDonald introduced Harry Horak as the Corpus Christi MPO's new System Administrator. He also announced that a new employee will be joining the team soon as a Transportation Planner I.

7. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Judge Krebs announced that the Committee will go into Executive Session under Chapter 551 of 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 2:46 p.m.
- The TPC went into Executive Session at 2:48 p.m.
- The TPC concluded Executive Session at 3:52 p.m.
- The TPC reconvened at 3: 54 p.m.

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

Motion:

None.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	September 18, 2025
B. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force	Virtual Meeting	September 24, 2025
C. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	October 2, 2025

10. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.