



Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization

510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX. 78596

(956) 969-5778
(956) 969-5821 fax

Planning Partners:

Alamo
Alton
Donna
Edcouch
Edinburg
Elsa
Granjeno
Hidalgo
Hidalgo County
Hidalgo County RMA
La Joya
La Villa
LRGVDC Transit
McAllen
Mercedes
Mission
Palmhurst
Palmview
Peñitas
Pharr
Progreso
Progreso Lakes
San Juan
Sullivan City
TxDOT
Weslaco

TO: Technical Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Mr. Andrew A. Canon
HCMPO Transportation Director

DATE: November 5, 2009

SUBJECT: **Technical Advisory Committee Meeting**

The **TAC Meeting** is scheduled to meet as follows:

DATE: Thursday, November 12, 2009

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: **Hidalgo County MPO Office**
510 South Pleasantview Drive
Weslaco, TX 78596

NOTE**

The entire Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Packet is available for review or download at:

www.hcmpo.org

Enclosed are the agenda and other pertinent information for your review prior to the meeting. Please bring all of your correspondence to the meeting.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 969-5778.

Additional Partners:

FHWA
FTA
Fish & Wildlife
McAllen Transit
Rio Grande Valley Partnership
Weslaco Chamber of Commerce
Gobierno de Tamaulipas
San Juan Economic Development

AGENDA

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

**HCMPO Conference Room
510 South Pleasantview Drive
Weslaco, TX.**

***November 12, 2009
@ 1:30 PM***

- 1) Roll Call Chairman

- 2) Adoption of Minutes from November 03, 2009 **(ACTION ITEM)** Chairman

- 3) Approval of Transportation Enhancement Program Call 2009 **(ACTION ITEM)** MPO Staff

- 4) Approval of MTP Progress **(ACTION ITEM)** MPO Staff

- 5) Old Or New Business Chairman

- 6) Adjournment

HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, November 03, 2009
1:30 PM

DRAFT

1 Roll Call

Vice-Chairman Ed Taylor, called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M. The Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the HCMPO Conference Room, Weslaco, TX. Present were representatives from The Cities of Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Hidalgo County, Hidalgo County RMA, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes Mission, San Juan, Weslaco and LRGVDC Transit. Ex-Offio Members Present were: Hidalgo County Auditor's Office and McAllen Transit.

2 Adoption of Minutes from October , 2009

(ACTION ITEM)

Vice-Chairman Ed Taylor asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No Corrections were noted to the minutes of September 1, 2009. ***The City of Mercedes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The City of San Juan seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

3 Cost Over-Run Projects

(NO ACTION WAS TAKEN)

None at this time.

4 Approval of Bylaw Amendment

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that the attachment provided; on page 4. B. (Attendance); Staff is requesting the following changes to read as follows: to change it to three (3) consecutive meetings and be informed by the MPO Director. If the entity should be absent for four (4) consecutive meetings; they will be informed of their absence by the TPC Chairman that they will be placed in Ex-Offio status immediately. Mr. Canon noted that the changes listed will clarify and make the Bylaws more specific. ***The City of La Joya made a motion to approve the Bylaw changes as presented. The City of Alton seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

5 Approval of Revenue Projections for 2035 MTP

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that a new attachment was provided for everyone to review. He stated that some new updates were made this morning. He noted that the MPO has been working with TxDOT to develop the following funding. Mrs. Linda de la Fuente gave a brief summary of the attachments provided. Mr. Ed Taylor, City of McAllen, stated that the currently we are paying off debt that we borrowed in past. He noted that our debt retirement will take longer to eliminate. Mr. Taylor expressed his concerns that we need to show debt retirement in the MTP. He stated that we need to show the public why we have a debt and where it was spend. Ms. Robin Boone, TxDOT, also gave a brief summary of the projection and answered questions for clarification. Mr. Canon stated that this is still an ongoing process and will be brought back for discussion in the up coming weeks. ***The City of La Joya made a motion to approve the Revenue Projections for 2035 MTP as presented. The City of San Juan seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

6 Approval of Transportation Enhancement Program Call 2009

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that as of today, staff has received three (3) projects for approval. He stated that the City of McAllen has submitted two (2) projects: 1) Bicentennial Hike and Bike Trail Corridor Enhancement 2) STC Pedestrian Bridge at Pecan Campus & Business 83 Corridor Enhancement. The City of Edinburg submitted one: 1) City of Edinburg Walking Trail and Regional Bike Route Project. UTPA has one (1) project: 1) Hike and Bike Trail. Ms. Michelle Leftwich, City of Mercedes, and Ms. Melisa Gonzalez, City of San Juan, both showed interest that their cities may have a project to submit for support. Mr. Canon advised them that they should submit their projects as soon as possible. He noted that the TPC Board will be taking action on Thursday, December 10, 2009. Mr. Canon advised them that another TAC Meeting has been scheduled for next week therefore we can ask for another approval if any other requests are submitted. ***The City of Mercedes made a motion to approve the Enhancement Project(s) for the City of McAllen, Edinburg and UTPA. The City of La Joya seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

7 MTP Update

(DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that a 2030 Level of Service Map for everyone to review. He stated that since we have not received the Forecast Modal; staff took the 2030 and built out all those projects that were identified as completed. The TPC board had approved this being done since we have not received the modal. He stated that a spreadsheet has been provided for everyone to review. He stated that this document will be brought back at every TAC meeting for review and comments up until it gets adopted by the TPC in December. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

8 Staff Update

A. Calendar: November & December 2009

Mr. Canon stated that the HCMPO have scheduled a series of Public Meetings through the month of November and December. He noted that due to pending confirmations; we are unable to provide locations. He noted that the public meetings were scheduled for: Monday, November 30th, Tuesday, December 1st, Thursday, December 3rd, Friday December 4th and Tuesday, December 08th. He noted that the November 30th and December 4th meeting will take place at the HCMPO office all day long. Mr. Canon advised the members that SB585 requires all of the MPO's to have an affidavit in place for all TPC Board members including proxies. He stated that staff is currently contacting all entities. He noted that if an entity does not submit in an affidavit to the HCMPO, the entity will not have voting status at Board meetings until an affidavit has been submitted. Mr. Canon stated that a spreadsheet listing all of the names for each entity that currently need to have an affidavit in file has been passed out. He noted that the affidavit needed to be Notarized. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

B. HCMPO Budget Report

Mrs. Linda De La Fuente gave a brief update on the MPO Budget. She stated that Task #5 has not exceeded the 75% mark because we are pending to close out invoices from Jacobs for the Congestion Management Plan (CMP). She noted that once these invoice is processed; the task will rise up to almost 100% and we will be in compliance. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

9 HCRMA Update

Mrs. Flor E. Koll stated that the RMA has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center. Mrs. Koll gave a brief RMA update. ***Reports only, no action was taken.***

10 Old Or New Business

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that a Resolution was provided for everyone to review. He noted that the resolution is to authorize the redistribution of under-run ARRA Funds and approve prioritized listing of projects list to be considered as backup for ARRA Funding. Mr. Canon apologized for not providing the resolution ahead in advance. He noted that he had a meeting with Mayor Buddy de la Rosa, Weslaco, this morning and he understands what will occur should the Westgate project not be ready to let. Mr. Canon stated that if the Westgate project is not ready the ARRA funds will be redistributed to other projects but Westgate will use CAT 7 and 11 funds. ***The City of Mercedes made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. The City of Weslaco seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

11 Adjourn

The City of La Joya made a motion to adjourn. The City of Mercedes seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.



John David Franz, Mayor
Thomas Pérez, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem

COUNCILMEMBERS
Siglinde Franz
Daniel Dillard, II
Pedro Fonseca
Alvin Sámano

Joe Vera, III - City Manager, CECD, CFE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hidalgo County MPO, Transportation Policy Committee
FROM: City of Hidalgo, Texas
DATE: Wednesday, November 4, 2009
SUBJECT: Proposed City of Hidalgo Transportation Enhancement Project for Program Call

The City of Hidalgo submits this memo to accompany its proposed Transportation Enhancement Project in response to the Program Call for Enhancement Projects by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). Among the top priorities on the City of Hidalgo Parks Master Plan Updates 2009, was the extension of the hike and bike trail systems for the City of Hidalgo. The project extends a completed TEA21 series hike and bike trail system. The extensions included in this project will further the range of the hike/bike trail system east on US 281, via a designated bike lane, six miles to the entry to Santa Ana Nation Wildlife Refuge, and a similarly designated bike lane north two miles along SH 336, crossing the floodway bridge, and joining with the McAllen hike and bike system at the intersection of SH 336 (10th Street) and 2nd Street.

Both routes will require designation as bike lanes, but the route north along SH 336 (10th Street) will also require the installation of bridge rails on the floodway bridge of a height to meet cycling safety standards (as shown in the AASHTO Guide to Bicycle Facilities). The hike and bike routes of Hidalgo, Pharr, McAllen would thus be united. The project also anticipates the addition of Bridge Street to the City's hike and bike system, by installing sidewalks and appropriate lighting along the route from Flora Street north to Coma Street, and by burying the utilities and removing the existing utility poles.

Further, the project would extend the existing trail lighting along US 281 and SH 336 (10th Street) north to Produce Road, and east along US 281 to McColl Road. The project would install a median strip in Coma Street from the location of the Hidalgo Chamber of Commerce west to Bridge Street, with crossings at 1st, 3rd, and 4th Streets as a safety measure for pedestrians and cyclists alike. Lastly, there would be established a cycling terminal facility in the heart of the city's historic district, using an existing structure.

The project will complement the recently completed Hike & Bike system, which already affords people the option of traveling on foot or on a bicycle from home to school, to shopping areas, to parks and other points of interest, and to government buildings safely along well-designed and well-lit routes. The trail system will reduce excessive vehicular traffic as well as provide additional recreational and utilitarian options for getting from one place to another.

If there are questions regarding this project, please contact Damaris Kazmierczak, with Reyna & Associates, at the office 956-583-7431 or by cell phone at 217-791-3147 or at reyna_associates@yahoo.com.





Queen City of the Rio Grande Valley

November 4, 2009

Mr. Andrew Cannon, Director
Hidalgo County MPO
510 S. Pleasantview Drive
Weslaco, TX 78596

RE: Mercedes Landscaped Entranceway - Transportation Enhancement Program 2009 Call

Dear Mr. Cannon;

The City of Mercedes requests that the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization consider supporting submission of the above-mentioned landscaping project as an Enhancement Program candidate. The proposed project includes drip irrigation, soil stabilization, native landscaping, and decorative LED lighting around the Expressway ramps entering and exiting Texas Avenue from both approaches.

This intersection is the entrance and departure corridor for hundreds of thousands of people annually attending event at the Livestock Showgrounds and even those visiting the Outlet Mall and our newly improved historic downtown.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (956) 565-3114, ext. 128.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Leftwich, AICP
Assistant City Manager

xc: Ricardo Garcia, City Manager
Mario Jorge, P.E., TxDOT
Melba Schaus, P.E., TxDOT
Steven Walker, Landscape Architect, TxDOT



