

HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 08, 2008
1:30 PM

1 Roll Call

Mr. Andrew Canon called the meeting to order at 1:39 P.M. The Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the HCMPO Conference Room, Weslaco, TX.. Present were representatives from The Cities of Alamo, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr, San Juan and TxDOT. Ex-Offio members also in attendance were: Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, LRGVDC Transit and Watershed.

2 Adoption of Minutes from November 13, 2007

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon asked if there were any changes and or corrections that needed to be made to the minutes. Their being none. *TxDOT made a motion to approve the minutes, McAllen seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

3 Approval of FY08-11 TIP Amendment

The TIP is being amended so that it reflects the total project cost and remove category 2 allocation for the remaining of FY2008, FY2009 thru FY2010. TxDOT presented to two spreadsheets for this category. One illustrated the existing TIP and the other illustrated the total project cost and only showed Category 2 on FY2011 plus advancing funding from FY2012 to FY2011. The committee requested for TxDOT to present another scenario to the TPC. Another scenario was to not advance any funding from FY2012 and just have the TPC decide which scenario will be better for Hidalgo County. *No action was taken at this time but a recommendation was made to have the Policy Committee Board decide which option would be better suited for Hidalgo County..*

4 Approval of Revised By-Laws

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that the revisions are being made to update to establish Ex-Offio members a voting status to: Hidalgo County RMA, LRGVDC Transit and McAllen Express. Each one will be given 1 Vote. Another change was to elect a person to be the chairperson for the Technical Advisory Committee and the MPO Director will be serving only as staff. Raymond Sanchez, TxDOT, stated that he would like to see the current By-Laws and compare both of them and then make a recommendations to the Policy Committee Board for approval. After further discussion, TxDOT will provide the Original By-Laws for the Hidalgo County MPO for everyone to review. *TxDOT made a motion to table this item and bring forward the originals to compare with, The City of McAllen seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

5 Approval of the FY08 UPWP Amendment

(ACTION ITEM)

The FY2008-09 UPWP was submitted to TxDOT, FHWA and FTA in July of 2007. It was reviewed and approved by FHWA and FTA; who also provided some recommendations. It was recommended that some verbiage of the be changed. It was also recommended to remove the \$6,000 in local funds that the HCMPO receives from the Hidalgo County RMA for the administrative support provided to them. These funds are not part of the federal planning funds the HCMPO receives from FHWA and FTA. The verbiage was changed according to the recommendations from FHWA and FTA and the local funding was also removed. *The City of Mercedes made a motion to approve the FY08 UPWP Amendment with the recommendations from FHWA and FTA, TxDOT seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

6 Update on Annual Project Listing

Mr. Canon stated that this is only for everyone's review only. These projects have already been let in FY2007. Some are currently being worked on or are completed. *No action needed, reports only.*

Technical Advisory Committee Minutes
To Be Approved On:
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7 Update on Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

Mr. Canon stated that this is a report from the Hidalgo County MPO for FY2007. This document has been issued to TxDOT locally and to TxDOT Austin. On page 17 a summary report has been provided for everyone to review. This report shows a detail percent on where our funds were spent. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

8 Discussion on MTP

Mr. Canon stated that the projects that were dropped from TIP will be prioritized on the MTP. The revenues will not be compound. If anyone would like discuss this any further or have any other suggestions please contact the MPO staff. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

9 Staff Update

A. Calendar: February & March 2008

Mr. Canon stated that the next upcoming TxDOT Commission meeting has been scheduled for January 31, 2008 in Victoria, Texas. The TPC Executive Committee stated that Hidalgo County needed more representation at the TxDOT Commission meetings. The MPO staff and the Executive Committee have been discussing to change the TAC from the 2nd Tuesday of the month to the 1st Tuesday of the month & TPC meetings from the 4th Thursday of the month to the 3rd Thursday of the month. This will help the TPC board in being able to attend the Commission meetings. This will be taken to the TPC board for consideration. **The Tx Transportation Forum will be taken place on April 20-22, 2008 in Austin, TX. Reports only, no action needed at this time.**

10 Old Or New Business

Mr. Canon stated that the MPO staff have been working on Innovative Financing ideas for extra funding. However we have a 1.4 billion shortfall in our needs and with cut in funding in CAT 2. We might want to start thinking of other way to get a local gas tax with the Legislature. These funds could be kept locally and used locally. The TPC Executive members, MPO Staff and RMA board members had a meeting to find creative ideas for additional funding. MPO Staff is looking into which states have sales tax in place and gather information how this is going for them and if it will benefit Hidalgo County. Further discussion will be brought back to the Feb. 2008 meeting. The vehicle registration charge will be effective Feb. 01, 2008. An update will be given at the Hidalgo County Commission meeting and the Hidalgo County RMA board meetings in Feb. 2008.

11 Adjourn

The City of McAllen made a motion to adjourn, The City of Edinburg seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.