

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 02, 2010

1) Roll Call

- Secretary Michelle Leftwich called the meeting to order at 1:37pm. The Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Hidalgo County MPO Office at 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas. Present were representatives from the Cities of: Alamo, Donna, Edcouch, Hidalgo County, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Penitas, Pharr, TxDOT, Weslaco, LRGVDC Transit and Hidalgo County RMA. Ex-Officio Members present: Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, McAllen Transit and Hidalgo County Judge's office.

2) Adoption of Minutes from: January 05, 2010

- Secretary Michelle Leftwich asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were needed to the minutes of: January 05, 2010. *The City of La Joya made a motion to approve January 05, 2010 minutes listed as presented. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

3) Cost Over-Run Projects

- No action was needed at this time.

4) Kimley-Horn Update on Project

- Mr. Canon stated reminded everyone that a couple of months ago staff and Kimley-Horn had a Public Forum meeting at the McAllen Convention Center in McAllen. He noted that several different kinds of Professionals were invited to the meeting. Mr. Canon stated that staff sent out flyers to everyone; including City Halls and several businesses. He also announced that staff and Kimley-Horn have scheduled several Public Meetings on February 25th at the UTPA International Building at 1:30 pm and at 6 pm. Mr. Andrew Howard, Kimley-Horn, gave a brief update on the Scenario Planning initiative with a Power Point presentation. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

5) Discussion of Operational Improvements Criteria

- Mr. Canon stated that the staff has come up with options with a criteria that may be used. Ms. Amanda Hernandez stated that there were several examples that were provided for everyone to review. She stated that staff is looking for guidance from the TAC Members. She requested for if anyone have any comments or suggestions to turn them in to staff. Mr. Canon stated that an Operational Improvements Criteria Committee will be created. He requested if anyone would like to volunteer for the Committee. He noted that this committee will submit any recommendations to the TAC Committee. The Cities of: Weslaco, McAllen, Mission, San Juan, Alamo, Edcouch, Penitas, Hidalgo County and TxDOT volunteered to be a part of the Operational Improvements Criteria Sub-Committee. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

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6) MTP Update

- Mr. Canon stated that several spreadsheets have been passed out for everyone to review. He stated that three (3) options are provided for everyone to review. He stated that after a meeting with TxDOT we were advised that there will be no CAT 2 funding and CAT 7 funding was drastically reduced. Each option shows what projects have funding On or Off System Projects. Mrs. Sofia Hernandez, Hidalgo County Judge's Office, stated that a meeting has been scheduled for February 12th in Austin with Judge Ramirez, Senator Hinojosa and Chair Delisi. She noted that the meeting will specifically pertain to the CAT 2 & 7 funding. Mr. Canon noted that he has also been invited to attend this meeting as well. He noted that he will give an update of the meeting at the next TAC Meeting. After further discussion, the members decided to wait to move forward with these options until a report is given to all the members regarding the meeting in Austin with Judge Ramirez, Senator Hinojosa and Chair Delisi. Mr. Canon requested for everyone to review option two (2) and submit a status on the project(s) listed for your entity. ***The City of Edcouch made a motion to table this item until further notice. The City of La Joya seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

7) Thoroughfare Plan Update

- Mr. Canon stated that a map was provided for everyone to review. He stated that all requests that were turned in were implemented. He stated that staff will request that each entity submit the map to their commission and for a resolution to be approved. He stated that the Policy Board will also be asked to adopt a resolution for the Thoroughfare Map. Mr. Canon stated that when all of the resolutions will be submitted to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for final Adoption of the Thoroughfare Map. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

8) Discussion on Transit Surveys

- This item was tabled at this time.

9) Emergency Evacuation Model

- Mr. Canon stated that the LRGVDC Homeland Security has scheduled a meeting on Thursday, February 4th at 10 am. He stated that TRB in DC gave a presentation on what other MPO's are doing regarding the Evacuation Model. Mr. Canon stated that staff is currently working on creating another sub-committee and we will ask for volunteers. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

10) Status Reports

- Calendar: February & March 2010
Mr. Canon stated that he will attending Border Trade Advisory meeting in Dallas on Feb. 23- 24th. He also advised everyone that he will not be attending next month's TAC meeting because he will be attending the AMPO Policy Meeting in Washington, DC. Mr. Canon stated that if any of the members would like to attend any of the meetings up in Austin; members were more than welcome to attend and staff would look into any accommodations that needed to be made.
- HCMPO Budget Report
Mrs. Linda De La Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO budget.
- Legislative Update
Ms. Amanda Hernandez gave a brief update on the Legislative issues.

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- Innovative Finance Ideas
Mr. Canon stated that staff has come up with some Innovative Finance Ideas. The Policy Board has requested for staff to look into other forms of funding for Hidalgo County. He asked if anyone has any other ideas to please submit them to staff for review. Mr. Canon stated that a spreadsheet for Jobs for Main Street Act (Stimulus 2) was handed out for everyone to review. He briefly went through the information that was provided. He asked for everyone to review the listed projects and come up with a ranking. He requested for everyone to have a ranking ready by next month's TAC Meeting. He noted that we will need to do a TIP Amendment next month with these new rankings. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

11) HCRMA Update

- No updates were given at this time.

12) LRGVDC Transit

- Mr. Luis Guajardo stated that a new route starts Friday, February 5th in Hargill and Cameron West. He noted that a contract will be signed with UTPA for FY2010. He stated that the LRGVDC is in negotiations with STCC and UTPA to increase student ridership. He advised everyone that a Bus Rodeo is currently in the process of been scheduled and will be held at the Weslaco City Hall.

13) Rio Transit

- No updates were given at this time.

14) Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District

- No updates were given at this time.

15) Old or New Business

- No updates were given at this time.

16) Adjournment

- *The City of McAllen made a motion to adjourn at 3:36 pm. The City of Donna seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*