

HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 13, 2007
1:30 PM

1 Roll Call

Mr. Andrew Canon called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. The Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the MPO Office, 1801 South 2nd St., Suite 430, McAllen, TX.. Present were representatives from The Cities of Alamo, Edinburg, Elsa, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Penitas, San Juan and TxDOT. Ex-Offio members also in attendance were: Hidalgo County Auditor's Office and LRGVDC Transit.

2 Adoption of Minutes from February 13, 2007

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon asked if there were any changes and or corrections that needed to be made to the minutes. **TxDOT approved the minutes, The City of Elsa seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

3 Cost Over-Run Project(s)

None at this time.

4 Request for Wilber Smith Time Extension

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that Wilbur Smith submitted an email to the MPO requesting a time extension. Wilbur Smith currently have some volunteers working on this project and are waiting for some final input. They are requesting a two-month extension. **The City of McAllen approved the Wilbur Smith time extension, TxDOT seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

5 Approval of FY2008-2011 TIP

Mr. Canon stated that a spreadsheet was provided for everyone to review. It was discussed that over programming is allowed due to project falling-out due to ROW, environmental includes projections of bonds. The finance department only looks at the whole amount not by specific projects. Programming submits list of projects that are being let. This item will be brought back to the April TAC for approval. A Public Meeting has been scheduled for: March 27, 2007 at 5:30pm at TxDOT. Maps will be provided at the public meeting. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

6 Improving the Reliability & Predictability of TIP Programming Option for TPC Action

Mr. Canon stated that an attachment was provided for everyone to review. Mr. Canon stated that one of the leading causes delayed project lettings is increased project costs because of both inflationary pressures and less frequently, and occasionally expansion of project scope. The proposed recommendation were to: 1. add 5% per year cost increase to projects programmed for contract letting in 2,3, or 4 of the TIP to adjust for expected increases in the cost of construction. 2. All projects are to be budgeted in "year of expenditure" dollars. 3. All projects estimates should include utility relocation and drainage cost estimates. 4. All projects that have rolled over more than two TIP cycles should be removed and have to re-compete for TIP inclusion. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

7 Discussion on Annual Project Listing

Mr. Canon stated that we received the information from TxDOT. Attached you will find the FY2005 Annual project listing. He stated that in 2006 we have a total project letting of: \$91,808,961. This amount includes Bicycle and Pedestrians projects in the amount of: \$431,000. This is the listing that we will take to the Policy Board for Approval. All of the projects have been verified that all of the projects are within our Urbanized Area. If anyone has any comments or corrections please contact the MPO before the Policy Meeting. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

8 Innovative Funding for Proposed hotel tax increase

Mr. Canon stated that we found out some great research regarding the hotel tax increase. We can only use hotel tax increases for: 1. directly for tourism 2. County-but population to high. Mayor Palacios requested to sent out memo's on behalf of the Hidalgo County MPO to gain support for the Senate Bill 1888 for the increase of vehicle registration fee of \$10. **Reports only, no action taken at time.**

9 Discussion on MPO Policy Training

Mr. Canon stated that the MPO wanted to have another MPO policy training on May 3, 2007 at 5:30 pm at TxDOT. The last mpo training was done back in June 2004. The MPO will be sending out information to everyone at a later date. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

10 Review of Category 7 Project: Status and Funding

The City of McAllen requested to view the list of projects that are in the Category 7. TxDOT will be providing the status of all projects in Category 7. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

11 Staff Update

A. Calendar: March & April

Reports only.

B. Update on Border-to-Border Conference

Mr. Canon stated that the Conference is coming along very good. If anyone would like to attend will need to register as soon as possible. We currently have 3 countries (US, Canada & Mexico) that will be attending and speaking.

12 Old or New Business

There were several discussions regarding the approval of cost over-run projects. The current policy is if it is over by \$1; it must be approved by TAC & Policy. It was requested that the current resolution be rewritten where ROW and/or environmental requirements for on-system projects not be 100% acquired. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

13 Adjourn

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

