

HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 27, 2005
5:30 P.M.

1 Roll Call

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. The Policy Committee Meeting was held at the TxDOT Offices, 600 West Expressway 83, Pharr, TX. 78577. Present were representatives from The City of Hidalgo, Hidalgo County, McAllen, Palmview, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan and TxDOT. Also present was Ex-offio members San Juan Economic Development and LRGVDC Transit.

2 Citizen Input

ACTION ITEM

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios asked if their was any citizen input. There being none, the chairman proceeded on to the next item.

3 Adoption Of Minutes For September 22, 2005

ACTION ITEM

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios asked if there were any additions or corrections that needed to made. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT made one correction on Item 4. **The City of Peñitas made a motion for approval of the minutes with the corrections, Hidalgo County seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

4 Election of New Policy Committee Secretary

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that at our last meeting, The City of Edinburg changed their Policy Committee Representative from Commissioner Eddie Johnson to Mayor Pro-Tem Noe Garza. Mr. Canon stated that according to the HCMPO Bylaws, the individual serving as the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Secretary is the Representative himself/ herself only; not the entity they represent. Mr. Canon did state that the HCMPO did provide a copy of our Bylaws to The City of Edinburg and they are in agreement and understand the process of our Bylaws. As per the Committee's vote they will nominate City of Edinburg, Mayor Pro-Tem Noe Garza as the new Secretary. **Hidalgo County made a motion for approval to nominate Mayor Pro-Tem Noe Garza as the new Secretary of the Policy Board, The City of McAllen seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

5 Amendment of MTP

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that The City of Peñitas requested to add two projects on to our MTP. Both projects were ranked pretty good. These projects will be funded by TxDOT's funds. Project 1: HWY: US 83; Limits: FM 1427 to .25 Mi W of FM 2221; to be widen to 6 lanes and Project 2: HWY: US 83; Limits: 0.5 Mi E of Bus 83 to FM 1427; to be widen to 6 lanes. **County of Hidalgo made a motion for approval to add these two projects on to the HCMPO MTP, The City of Palmview seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

6 Amendment of FY2006-2008 Transit TIP

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that TxDOT recommended to make some changes on the FY06-08 Transit TIP. A spreadsheet and other attachments were included in the packet for further review the changes. The recommendation for approval consisted of 1.) use the new excel Financial Summary Spreadsheet (attached) 2.) The addition of 5310 funds for computer software purchase in the amount of \$42,000 (federal) for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. **Hidalgo County made a motion to approve the changes/ recommendation to the FY2006-2008 Transit TIP, The City of Peñitas seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

7 Amendment of FY2006-2008 TIP

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that the TAC Committee reviewed the following projects and approved to present it to the Policy Board for final approval. Mr. Canon stated that the HCMPO has completed the public involvement process in accordance with the adopted Public Involvement Policy. **The City of Peñitas made a motion to approve the recommendation of projects from TxDOT to be added on to the FY2006-2008 TIP, The City of Palmview seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Note**** Several of the Policy Board Members discussed on other pending projects that have begun but are still pending to be finalized. Examples given were: I Rd, Sugar Rd, the Expressway and the Nolana Loop. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that the district was still pending the Environmental analysis and other information in order to proceed with the I Rd and Sugar Rd. projects.

8 Adoption of Multi-Modal RFP

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated the RFP was presented to the TAC committee and approved the RFP with the recommendation that the release date and the deadline date for submission of proposals be moved back. All of the requests were changed. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, recommended to look further into the Bike Plan and for it to be implemented. **The City of San Juan made a motion to approve the Multi-Modal RFP with the recommendations from the TAC, TxDOT seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

9 Staff Update

A. Discussion on the Public Involvement Policy (PIP)

No update was given at this time.

B. HAZ-MAT Update

No update was given at this time.

C. EarMark Projects Update

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that he met with Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC Executive Director and Mr. Ken Jones is helping the HCMPO with this project. Mr. Jones has also sent out a memo to the Cameron County MPO's (Bville & Harl. / San Benito MPO) to help participate with this regional project. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that TxDOT is currently have a portable ITS building but that is still under remodeling. TxDOT is currently still waiting for more information; so for the moment this building is vacant. They are in the process of installing cameras, signs and other accessories. **Report only.**

D. Budget Update

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that he is still waiting to hear from TxDOT for an exact amount. He stated that we are the only one's in the state that grew by 49%; from our last census. Mr. Canon attended an AMPO conference in Denver, he was asked by the AMPO board to serve on the Committee under 2 categories: Public Outreach and Planning Projects. We will be given the opportunity to review the new regulations that are coming out on the SAFETEA-LU bill before FHWA goes to the ruling process. He also gave some update on the Border Infrastructure. There are no hard rock amount, but we will end up with a good amount of funding. **Report only**

E. Calendars: November (Confirm Date for November Policy Committee Meeting)

(Proposed Date: Thursday, November 17, 2005 @ 5:30 pm @ TX DOT)

Mr. Andrew A. Canon reminded everyone that at our last policy meeting the board voted to combine the November and December Policy Meeting for Thursday, November 17, 2005 @ 5:30 pm at TxDOT conference room. He stated that if something does come up after this date; that the MPO staff would let everyone know that we need to have an emergency TAC / Policy Meeting.

10 **Off System Report**

Mr. Jacinto Garza, L & G Engineering, gave a brief update on Mile 2 (from 107 to Taylor) being widen to 4 lanes.
Report only.

11 **Letting Report**

Report only.

12 **Old or New Business**

Several of the board members went into further discussion regarding the Pharr connector.

13 **Adjourn**

The City of Palmview made a motion to adjourn, The City of San Juan seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.