

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2010

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairman Noe Garza called the meeting to order at 5:35pm. The Transportation Policy 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, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Palmhurst, Sullivan City, TxDOT, Weslaco, LRGVDC Transit and Hidalgo County RMA. Ex-Offio Members present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A) Adoption of Minutes from:
December 10, 2009
 - Chairman Noe Garza asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were needed to be made to the minutes of: December 10, 2009. ***The City of Alamo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The City of La Joya seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***
- B) Presentation: US 2010 Census
 - Mrs. Mary Lou Cavazos, Partnership Specialist US Dept of Census, gave a brief presentation regarding the 2010 US Census. She stated that they have given out information to all of the entities in Hidalgo County and would like everyone's help to spread the word. She noted that US Census staff has already begun to contact the families located in rural communities. Mrs. Cavazos stated that all of the brochures were available in English and Spanish. She requested from all of the Entities present to allow the Census Department to give a brief presentation at their community. The US Census is hiring fulltime and part-time employees. She noted that everyone was welcome to apply as long as they were an American Citizen and 18 years of age. Mrs. Cavazos left some brochures and other pertinent information to pass out. ***No action was taken at this time.***
- C) Approval of Bylaw Amendment #16
 - Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District (HCCRD) submitted a request to consider granting membership and voting rights as a member for both the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). He noted that at the last Policy Meeting in December a consensus was to move forward with the request to the TAC. After further discussion, some of the members were concerned on how the voting structure was going to be if Mr. Godfrey Garza represents the Hidalgo County RMA and Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District. Mr. Godfrey Garza stated that the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District will designate another board member to the Policy Committee. Several of the members recommended that the HCCRD be granted Ex-Offio membership. ***The City of Weslaco made a motion to grant the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District Ex-Offio Membership to the Transportation Policy Committee. The City of La Joya seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***
- D) Discussion of MTP Amendment #1
 - Mr. Canon stated that a brief presentation was provided for everyone to review. He also noted that an MTP spreadsheet was also provided. Mr. Canon stated that staff attended a meeting at TxDOT in regards to the CAT 2 and CAT 7 funding. He stated that Hidalgo County MPO will not be receiving any CAT 2 funding and the CAT 7 funding was reduced well below what TxDOT had originally estimated. Mr. Canon stated that we needed to look at the funding limitations and revise the 2035 MTP so that it will be financially accordance to the TIP and STIP development. Mr. Canon briefly went through the Financial Forecast for Updating the STIP, UTP and MTP which was provided to Staff at the December meeting at TxDOT. The members briefly went through some of the projects that were in questioned. After further discussion, Mayor Norberto Salinas, Mission, stated that all of the board members should get together and speak to Honorable Juan Hinojosa. In addition, Mayor Salinas suggested that Category 7 to be used for Off-System transportation projects and other projects on a case by case if it is the cities only project. ***Reports only, no action was taken at this time.***

Approved:
February 18, 2010 Policy Meeting

E) Thoroughfare Plan Update

- Mr. Canon stated that everyone will receive an updated thoroughfare map. Staff is requesting that all of the members review the map provided and submit any changes, corrections and or additions that need to be made by the next meeting. He noted that a Thoroughfare Plan meeting has been scheduled for January 25th at 1:30 pm. Mr. Canon noted that once all of the changes are made; the map will be submitted to City Commissions and the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for final approval and adoption, and will also be presented to the TPC for adoption. **Reports only, no action needed at this time.**

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

- A) Ethical Standards Affidavits
- B) Calendar: February & March 2010
- C) HCMPO Budget Report
- D) Legislative Update

- Mr. Canon reminded everyone to turn in their affidavits. He noted that there were still some members that have not turned their affidavit. He advised everyone that the HCMPO budget was provided for everyone to review. He noted that all of the pending invoices have been paid. Mr. Canon stated that staff will be attending the TRB meeting in Washington, DC. Ms. Amanda Hernandez briefly went through the Legislative Update. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB V OFF SYSTEM REPORT

- No updates were given at this time.

TAB VI LETTING REPORT

- Reports only, no action was taken at this time.

TAB VII Mr. Godfrey Garza, Hidalgo County RMA, gave a brief update. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB VIII EXECUTIVE SESSION-DIRECTOR EVALUATION

- This item was tabled until next month's Policy Meeting.

TAB IX OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- No updates were given at this time.

TAB X ADJOURNMENT

- **The City of Hidalgo made a motion to adjournment. The City of Donna seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**