

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2010

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairman Noe Garza called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. 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, Alton, Edcouch, Edinburg, Hidalgo, Hidalgo County, La Joya, Mercedes, Mission, Palmhurst, TxDOT, San Juan, Weslaco, LRGVDC Transit and Hidalgo County RMA.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A) Adoption of Minutes from:
January 21, 2010

- Chairman Noe Garza asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were needed to be made to the minutes of: January 21, 2010. *The City of La Joya made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

- B) HCMPO Director Evaluation

- Chairman Noe Garza stated that the Board needed to go into Executive Session at 6:48 pm. *The City of La Joya made a motion to go into Executive Session. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*
- Chairman Noe Garza called the meeting back from Executive Session. *The City of Alamo made a motion to come back from Executive Session. The City of Edcouch seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

- C) Jobs for Main Street Act (2nd Economic Stimulus)

- Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that a copy of a power point presentation was provided for everyone to review. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, handed out a White paper for review. Mr. Jorge briefly went through the handout and answered questions as discussions were being held. Mr. Jorge stated that the White paper listed the history of the Hidalgo County area. He stated that several projects that were ready back on FY2000; TxDOT Commission allowed the Hidalgo County projects to be let and projects were completed. He stated that the Hidalgo County area used all of the funds that were provided in advance because several projects were ready. Mayor Norberto Salinas, City of Mission, requested that CAT 7 funding should list Off System Projects only. Mr. Salinas requested for this item to be placed at next month's Policy Meeting and for the board to take action. Mr. Jorge briefly went through the list of projects that were accelerated back in the early 2000's in Hidalgo County. Chairman Noe Garza stated that Hidalgo County Judge Rene Ramirez, Senator Hinojosa and Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. had a meeting with Chairman Delisi in Austin regarding the shortfall of funding for Hidalgo County. After further discussion, the Board members requested that at next month's Policy Meeting to add an item listing CAT 7 will only list Off System Projects. Chairman Noe Garza advised all of the Board members to assist staff in meeting with our Legislators, Senators and Congressman to help plan for future projects. *A consensus was approved to list Off System Projects only on CAT 7 list.* Reports only, no action was taken at this time.

*Approved:
March 18, 2010 Policy Meeting*

D) Operational Improvements Criteria

- Ms. Amanda Hernandez stated that staff is looking into Project Selection Criteria. She stated that a spreadsheet was provided for everyone to review. This is a sample of data the MPO would like to review in the selection of projects for operational improvements. Values will be assigned for classification purposes and will be discussed at a later date. **Reports only, no action was taken at this time.**

E) Thoroughfare Plan Update

- Mr. Canon stated that staff is still working with all four (4) Hidalgo County Precincts. He noted that staff will be meeting with all of the cities to pass a resolution within their commission to adopt the Thoroughfare Map. He stated that this item will be brought back for final approval. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

F) MTP Update

- This item was discussed with Item: C.

G) Emergency Evacuation Model

- Mr. Canon stated that the TRB Committee had several workshops regarding the Transportation Model. He stated that the LRGVDC Homeland Security and other committees are coming together to discuss the Emergency Evacuation Model. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

A. Ethical Standards Affidavits

- Mr. Canon stated that there is still a couple of Affidavit from some entities that are still pending. He stated that if anyone needs further information to please contact Mary Escalona.

B. Calendar: March & April

- Mr. Canon reminded everyone that he will be attending the Border Trade Advisory Committee Meeting next week in Austin and attend the AMPO Policy Meeting in Washington, DC. He advised everyone that the Scenario Workshops were scheduled for next week at UTPA at 1:30pm and 6pm. He stated that the previous Scenario Workshops that we had back in August 2009 went very well. He noted that MPO staff has contacted and mailed out a couple of hundreds flyers inviting professionals to attend the workshops.

C. HCMPO Budget Report

- Mrs. Linda De La Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO budget.

D. Legislative Update

- Ms. Amanda Hernandez gave a brief update on Legislative bills.

E. Scenario Planning

- This item was discussed with item IV. B.

F. Innovative Financing

- This item was not discussed at this time.

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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 HCRMA REPORT

- Mr. Badiozzamani gave a brief update on the current HCRMA Project. He stated that the next RMA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23rd at 5:30pm at Pharr City Hall.

TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT

- No updates were given at this time.

TAB IX LRGVDC TRANSIT

- Mr. Manuel Flores, LRGVDC Transit Director, gave a brief update on the new routes that will take into affect within the next few weeks. He noted that LRGVDC Staff is currently in negotiations with the University of Texas Pan American and South Texas College to provide public transportation for students. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

TAB X McALLEN EXPRESS

- No updates were given at this time.

TAB XI OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Canon reminded everyone that the 3rd Annual Border to Border Conference is scheduled for November 16-18, 2010 in El Paso, Texas.

TAB XII ADJOURNMENT

- *The City of Edcouch made a motion to adjournment. The City of La Joya seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*