

*HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 17, 2009*

1 *Roll Call*

Chairman Angie Garza called the meeting to order at 5:53 P.M. The Policy Committee Meeting was held at the HCMPO office, 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas. Present were representatives from The Cities of: Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Edinburg, Hidalgo, La Joya, McAllen, Mission, Pharr, San Juan, Sullivan, TxDOT, Hidalgo County RMA and LRGVDC Transit and McAllen Transit.

2 *Citizen Input*

Chairman Angie Garza asked if there was any citizen input. Their being none, the chairman proceeded to the next item.

3 *Adoption of Minutes from August 20, 2009*

(ACTION ITEM)

Chairman Angie Garza asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of August 20, 2009. None were noted, the City of Hidalgo made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009 as presented. The City of Pharr seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the

5 *Acceptance of Final Report of CMP by Jacobs*

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon noted that Steve Taylor from Jacobs Engineering would be presenting the final report for the CMP. Mr. Steve Taylor, with Jacobs Engineering presented the FINAL report on the Winter and Summer 2009 Congestion Management Process. Mr. Andrew Canon informed members present that the total cost of the study was \$180,000 and any future studies would be done every other year to incorporate those projects that are still pending during the next two years. *The City of La Joya made a motion to approve the Final Report for the CMP as presented by Steve Taylor, with Jacobs Engineering. The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

6 *Adoption of FY 2035 Project Selection Criteria*

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon gave a brief update on the MTP 2010-2035 Project as follows: Mr. Canon noted that the Data Criteria Subcommittee and the TAC Committee unanimously recommended that the FY MTP 2010-2035 Project Selection Criteria be used to rank the highway projects listed in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The point distribution was updated, and now the projects will be ranked by the total possible points a project may receive. Mario Jorge, District Engineer with TxDOT, recommended that Mr. Canon and his staff conduct a forecast and re-evaluate the needs, before plugging in the Criteria. *The City of Alton made a motion to Adopt the FY 2035 Project Selection Criteria as recommended by staff. The City of Edinburg seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

7 *Adoption of Multi-Modal Project Selection Criteria*

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon informed the members present that at a previous Multi-Modal Subcommittee and TAC meeting, the committees had recommended to approve the scoring for the proposed bicycle facilities. This new criteria will allow the TPC the opportunity to properly rank the proposed bike facilities based upon several criteria and provide for a ranking of these projects. Mr. Cano concluded his presentation by noting that this ranking will NOT be the sole decision making tool for these projects, but will serve as a compliment to those projects that may have a bike lane identified as a part of the project. *The City of Donna made a motion to Adopt the Multi-Modal Project Selection Criteria as recommended by staff. The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

8 *Approval of "Plan B" Project for Stimulus Funding*

(TABLED)

Mr. Andrew Canon recommended that this item be tabled. Mr. Canon noted that after his visit in Austin regarding "Proposition 12", staff is not ready to make their recommendation on how the Stimulus Funding is to be distributed on projects that are currently pending. City of Pharr noted that he would like for the members present to really consider funding Sugar Road, since this project has been pending for over twenty-five years and it is a project that is going to benefit not only the City of Pharr but other neighboring cities as well. *Members present were in consensus to table this item as recommended by Mr. Andrew Canon.*

9 Update on ARRA Funding and TxDOT Commission Actions

(DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon informed the members present that MPO Directors and District Engineers were invited to Austin on Wednesday, September 16, 2009, to discuss and to prepare a criteria and presentation to the Commission for selection of projects from the remaining Proposition 12 funds. At this time Mr. Canon turn over the meeting to Mr. Jorge, Tx DOT Engineer. Mr. Jorge gave a synopsis of the meeting held at TxDOT on Proposition 12 funding in Austin as follows: As you reccall, voters in 2007 approved Proposition 12 and the authority for issuance of \$5 billion bonds for mobility projects. The bonds are to be repaid out of the general revenue funds. At the meeting held on Wednesday we were provided with the following breakdown concerning the \$5 billion in Proposition 12 fund: \$1 billion for the State infrastructure Bank (SIB); 2) \$1 billion for non tolled projects (authority up to \$2 billion) (toll projects cannot be included); \$1.85 billion for new constuction, the remaining \$150 million is dvided between Right of Way and Engineering. The group was asked to look at the original criteria developed for the ARRA projects, at which time the Commission will decide on (1) State Wide Corrative: (2) Preservation and (3) MPO Mobility. No tolls roads will be funded. The Group proposed a distribution of the funds as follows: Commission 25%; District 25% and MPO's 50%. Mr. Jorge concluded his presentation by stating that this distribution was not finalized and John Barton will be presenting options to the commission for their review and acceptance or revisions as well, at the October Meeting. Mario Jorge, TxDOT Engineer noted that he will be making his recommendation to the Advisory Committee to fund the current projects as follows: (1st Priority - Sugar Road); (2nd Priority - Business 83 - Mercedes); and (3rd Priority - 107SH). *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

10 Funding Update for FY 2035 MTP Development

Mr. Andrew Canon informed the members present that this item had already been discused at the beginning of the agenda.

11 Staff Update

A. October, November & December

Mr. Canon gave a brief update on the calendars and his report: 1) For the month of October - 2009, Mr. Canon informed the members present that a Safe Route to School (SRTS) Workshop is scheduled for October 5, 2009 at TxDOT - Pharr District Conference Center at 10:00 a.m.: 2) The TPC meeting for December 2009 needs to be set. Member were in consensus to set the TPC meeting for December 10, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.; and 3) Out of State Travel Request - Mr. Canon noted that he is seeking approval for out of State Travel for himself to attend the Annual Transporation Research Board Conference. This conference is being attended by more than 10,000 transporation professionals and will host many workshops and peer exchange program on Transporation Planning. Mr. Canon concluded by informing members present that this conference is a part of the FY 2010 UPWP as approved by the TPC. No discussion took place on this item, members present were all in concensus to approve Mr. Canon's Out State Travel as presented.

B. HCMPO Budget Report

Mr. Canon briefly went through the HCMPO budget report. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

12 Off System Report

None at this time

13 Letting Report

Reports only, no action taken at this time.

14 HCRMA Update

Mr. Behrooz Badiozzamani gave a brief update on the Hidalgo Trade Corridor. Hand-Out were provided to members present. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

15 Old Or New Business

None at this time.

16 Adjournment

The City of Alton made a motion to adjourn. The City of Edinburg seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Diana Martinez, Secretary

Policy Committee Minutes,
Approved on:
Thursday, October 15, 2009