

Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2010

TAB I ROLL CALL

- Chairman Noe Garza called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. 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 County, Hidalgo, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr, San Juan, Sullivan City, TxDOT, Weslaco, LRGVDC Transit and Hidalgo County RMA. Ex-Offio members present: Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District.

TAB II CITIZEN INPUT

- Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Proyecto Azteca, gave an acknowledgement to the MPO staff for all of their efforts to reach to the general public. She shared her thoughts on regionalizing as a whole instead of individual entities.

TAB III PRESENTATION / ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

A) Adoption of Minutes from: October 14, 2010

- Chairman Noe Garza asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No corrections were needed to be made to the minutes of October 14, 2010. ***The City of La Joya made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19, 2010 as presented. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously***

B) Consideration and Approval of TIP #2 and MTP #3 Amendments

- Mrs. Maria Champine stated that we need to remove from the TIP and to move from the funded section to the unfunded in the MTP the "Cold Storage" portion of the Pharr International Bridge project due to the inability to utilize CBI funding for this type of improvement. The RMA has requested to include the "International Bridge Trade Corridor" into the FY2012 of the FY2011-14 TIP and the 2010-2035 MTP. The funding source will be identified as Bonds. The information on the limits, length, cost and type of improvement was provided to staff and was incorporated into the TIP and MTP documents. She noted that the public involvement period ended on December 5th and no comments from the public were received. Mr. Canon stated that the resolution with all of the verbiage was included for everyone to review. He noted that both of the projects information was listed on the resolution. Mrs. Champine stated that a sample of the TIP / MTP spreadsheets was also provided for everyone to review. She noted that from now on everyone will need to fill out all of the information requested on the sheet when there will be an addition or change on the TIP /MTP. Mr. Canon noted that staff never required entities to fill out a form but this will be a great help to verify all the information needed is listed. He noted that the TAC members have reviewed and approved the form. ***The City of La Joya made a motion to approve the TIP #2 and MTP #3 Amendments as presented. The City of Alamo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

C) Consideration and Approval of MPO Planning Contract

- Mr. Canon stated that at the guidance at the previous TPC meeting, staff has attached the amendment #1 to the Planning Contract which deletes Article 4, section 4 of the current planning contract. He noted that this amendment will make the HCMPO the MPO for the LRGVDC and the MPO Director will take guidance on HR, procurement and policies from the LRVDC Executive Director and guidance from the TPC on all Transportation Planning aspects. Mayor Norberto Salinas requested that the Planning Contract stay as is. He noted that since we didn't have any issues in the past and that it would be better and easier for the Board members to have closer contact with the Director. Mayor Salinas noted that it would be a bit difficult having Mr. Ken Jones oversee the MPO as a hole because he is not present and does not participate on a daily basis with the MPO. After further discussion, Mr. David Franz stated that we can approve the contract to remain as it is now and have staff look into if there will be any legal issues with the way it currently reads. Mr. Canon requested the assistance of Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, and contact state office if there are any issues. He noted that he would advise the members if there are any issues that needed to be addressed. ***The City of Mission made a motion to continue working under the current HCMPO Planning Contract. The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

D) Consideration and Approval of Operational Improvement Projects Funds (OIP)

- Mr. Canon stated that at last month's meeting, staff provided the TAC members twenty five (25) applications for the OIP currently identified in the 25 year MTP and FY11-14 TIP. Mr. Canon reminded the members that the cities of: Mission, Pharr, Weslaco and the County, requested that the OIP identified in the MTP and TIP be reallocated to CAT 7 to be used for cost overruns. He noted that staff has provided everyone with a spreadsheet of all of the 25 projects that were submitted for the OIP with initial benefit/ cost analysis. He advised the members that the TAC members reviewed all of the projects and the request from Mission, Weslaco, Pharr and the County, after further discussion the TAC members voted to leave the funds in whole in the OIP category and Not assign them to Category 7 for cost overruns. Mayor Norberto Salinas stated that there was a need for these funds to be allocated back to CAT 7 to cover any cost overruns that the TIP projects might incur such as: FM681, FM2221, Sam Houston, South McColl and Westgate. After further discussion, this item was put to a vote and the members voted to reallocate the OIP funds back into the CAT 7. ***The City of Mission made a motion to reallocate the OIP funds back into the CAT 7 Funds. The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

E) Consideration & Approval of Time Extension for the CMP Contract

- Mr. Canon stated that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met this past week and agreed to approve JACOBS the Time Extension only for the CMP Contract to March 4, 2011. ***The City of Alamo made a motion to approve JACOBS a Time Extension Only for the Congestion Management Plan to March 4, 2011. The City of La Joya seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

*Approved:
February 17, 2011 Policy Meeting*

- F) Update on CAT 7 Funding
- Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that after a conference call with FHWA, HCMPO Staff and TxDOT Finance staff. He stated that after the reconciliation of the books from CAT 7 funds all over the state, they said that the HCMPO will be receiving about \$33 million additional monies from CAT 7 Funds. He stated that the funds may be available in FY2012. He noted that once the Commission takes action then the HCMPO will be able to use those funds. He stated that he will provide more information later on the beginning of next year. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**
- G) Monthly Letting Update
- No reports were given at this time.
- H) Presentation on 83/281 Interchange
- Mr. Jorge, TxDOT, stated that Mr. Steve Abrams, TTI, will be given several options to alleviate congestion on Expressway 83/281 Interchange. He gave a brief power point presentation to the Board Members. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

TAB IV STATUS REPORTS

- A. Calendar: January & February 2011
- Mr. Canon stated that a Transportation Policy Training has been scheduled for Thursday, January 20th at 5:30 pm at the HCMPO Office. He noted that the training will be solely on how the MPO works. He stated that a notice will be sent out to everyone at a later date. Mr. Canon stated that the HCMPO Office will be closed on Monday, January 1st for New Years Eve, Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and Monday, February 21st for Presidents Day Holiday. Mr. Canon stated that some of the MPO staff will be attending the Texas Transportation Forum in January 2011 and that he will also be attending the TRB Conf., DC in late January 2011.
- B. Update on Thoroughfare Plan Cut-Off Date
- Mr. Andrew Canon stated that the cut-off date was March 31st. He noted that will be asking the Policy for approval of the Thoroughfare Map and will also be presented to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for Adoption.
- C. Legislative/ RTAP Update
- Mrs. Amanda Longoria gave a brief update on Legislative and RTAP.
- D. HCMPO Budget Report
- Mrs. Linda De La Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO Budget.
- E. APER
- Mrs. Linda De La Fuente gave a brief update on the HCMPO APER.

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

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB VIII HIDALGO COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL DISTRICT

- No reports were given at this time.

TAB IX LRGVDC TRANSIT

- Mr. Tom Logan gave a brief update on LRGVDC Transit.

TAB X McALLEN EXPRESS

- No reports were given at this at this time.

TAB XI OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Canon stated that a Proxy form was provided for everyone to review. He stated that the members only need to submit the new proxy if they were going to make any changes.

TAB XII ADJOURNMENT

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