

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) NOTES – NOVEMBER 17, 2016**

1. Call to Order and Quorum determination

Meeting called to order by Mr. Sullivan at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Nueces County: Glen Sullivan, P.E., Chair; City of Corpus Christi: Dr. Raymond Chong, P.E.; City of Portland: Brian DeLette, P.E.; Corpus Christi RTA: Gordon Robinson, PMP; Port of Corpus Christi Authority: David Krams, P.E.; San Patricio County Commissioner Fred Nardini; TxDOT – Corpus Christi District: Paula Sales-Evans, P.E.; Council of Governments: Richard Bullock.

MPO Staff: Jeffrey Pollack; Transportation Planning Director; Brigida Gonzalez: Assistant Transportation Planning Director; Daniel Carrizales: System Administrator; Vilma Jasso: Executive Secretary; Victor Mendieta: GIS Manager; Elena Buentello: Transportation Planner.

2. Introduction of visiting agency officials

Chairman Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

3. Presentation:

A. Harbor Bridge Project Update

Ms. Lorette Williams; Public Information Coordinator and Mr. Darrell Chambers: Traffic Control Engineer/Designer Coordinator/Deputy Technical Director with Flatiron/Dragados LLC (FDLLC), the developer for the Harbor Bridge project, gave a brief update to the TAC on the latest project developments. Members and public were invited to the public hearing being hosted this evening (11/17/16) from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Roy Miller High School Cafeteria - #1 Balttlin Buc Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78408.

4. Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Prioritization of Category 2 (Metropolitan and Urban Area Corridor) and Category 4 (Statewide Connectivity Corridor) Projects

Mr. Pollack reminded TAC members that the process of prioritizing candidate Category 2 projects had been initiated in a workshop at the previous TAC meeting. He reminded the TAC that staff had subsequently disseminated a short list of project candidates and had asked all members to identify—but not rank—priority projects from a regional perspective on behalf of their entity.

Staff tallied the individual votes for the various candidate projects, and, on the basis of this scoring, provided a roster of project priorities to which the estimated \$183M in Category 2 funding would be programmed between FY 2018 and FY 2026.

Dr. Chong noted that corridor improvements to the Agnes/Laredo corridors remain a high priority for the City of Corpus Christi. Mr. Pollack noted that MPO Staff recognize the unique opportunity and need associated with this project in light of the Harbor Bridge realignment. Ms. Sales-Evans commented that in light of the changes to Harbor Bridge connections that were highlighted in this morning's presentation, the scope and magnitude of that project may change, and it may be suitable for support from other sources. Mr. Pollack noted that projects on the alternates list, which might be characterized as local projects with regional significance, would, under typical conditions, be very appropriate fodder for support with Category 7 funds. He reminded the TAC that the MPO's Category 7 funds are committed to the Harbor Bridge project for the next 3-6 years.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend that TPC offer concurrence with the suite of priority projects as presented by staff to the TAC; Dr. Chong seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. DeLatte asked for next steps after concurrence by TPC.

Mr. Pollack stated that District staff would begin programming projects from the list with anticipated Category 2 funding and would prioritize environmental clearance and right-of-way acquisition accordingly.

5. Discussion Only:

A. Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) Grant Candidate Project Identification

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the FASTLANE program provides dedicated, discretionary funding for projects that address critical freight issues facing our nation's highways and bridges. He pointed out that applications must be submitted by 8:00 p.m. EST on December 15, 2016, and explained that staff from the Port had suggested a regional discussion of potential projects and the potential for a collaborative approach to the application. Mr. Pollack stated that MPO staff would be willing and able to provide technical and administrative support with an application but are not in a position to serve as the lead entity for an application this year.

Mr. Krams reported that the Port had been unsuccessful in its previous FASTLANE application and felt that a collaborative project and approach might be regarded more favorable. Leslie Ruta reiterated that this is year two of a five-year program and explained that this call for projects was released earlier than the 2016 call. Mr. Krams stated that the Port would be willing to lead a collaborative approach if there is regional consensus about moving forward in this funding cycle.

TAC members expressed enthusiasm for a regional collaboration to apply for support through the FASTLANE program but agreed that pursuing funding in the 2018 grant cycle was more realistic. TAC members agreed to resume a collaborative FASTLANE project discussion after the New Year in preparation for future phases of the program.

6. Staff Briefing:

A. Regional Parkway Mobility Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Study

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the consulting team continues to develop the technical memoranda that will make up the Final Report for the PEL. He commented that each of these products is being reviewed in draft form by the City of Corpus Christi and MPO.

B. Non-radioactive Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow Study

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the Final Report from the HazMat Commodity Flow Study is now available through the MPO website. Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC that staff were awaiting word from the TCEQ as to whether a grant application, submitted by the LEPC, had been successful. The grant would support additional data collection to inform the decision as to whether a routing process for Non-radioactive Hazardous Material is merited for our region. Mr. Pollack stated that if the grant application is unsuccessful, the MPO would revisit next steps.

C. 2016 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Annual Conference – Fort Worth, TX

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that MPO staff also attended and presented at the annual conference of the Association of MPOs. Mr. Pollack reported that there was strong interest among other MPO's in our work on active mobility planning.

D. 2016 American Planning Association Texas Chapter Conference – San Antonio, TX

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that MPO staff attended the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association and presented the MPO's Strategic Plan for Active Mobility, which was very well received.

E. Transportation Policy Committee Meeting (TPC) – December 8, 2016

Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2016.

F. TxDOT and Flatiron/Dragados LLC Harbor Bridge Public Hearing – December 8, 2016

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that there will be a Public Hearing regarding the Harbor Bridge Project immediately following the December TPC meeting. Mr. Pollack emphasized that the Public Hearing will be a distinct event administered by TxDOT and Flatiron/Dragados LLC and will not be part of the TPC regular agenda.

7. Future Agenda Items.

Mr. Krams suggested discussion of opportunities to fund safety improvements at rural rail crossings. Ms. Sales-Evans indicated that she or District staff would be prepared to lead such a discussion in January.

8. Public Comments on Agenda Items.

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.