

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING NOTES  
Thursday, March 23, 2017**

**1. Call to Order and Quorum determination**

Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**2. Introduction of visiting agency officials**

Mr. Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

**3. Presentation:**

**A. Rural Rail Crossings – TxDOT**

America Garza, Traffic Engineering Supervisor with the TxDOT Corpus Christi District, presented about the allocation of state funds for safety improvements at rural rail crossings.

**4. Discussion and Possible Action:**

**A. Congestion Management Process (CMP)**

Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC that the CMP is a systematic process that provides safe and effective integrated management and operation of the multimodal transportation system; he presented the TAC with the draft final CMP, which reflects TAC member input from previous meetings as well as from follow up meetings regarding with individual TAC members about specific metrics.

Dr. Chong inquired about specific metrics within the Equity/Accessibility Performance Topic Area.

Mr. Pollack stated that the inclusion of these metrics was based on staff's review of best practices and was intended to help prioritize projects that facilitate access to a essential destinations, such as academic institutions, medical services, or primary food sources.

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that staff had nearly finished a pilot scoring of all projects in the MTP per the performance metrics defined in the CMP. He stated that, per guidance from the TAC, staff had proceeded with completion of the CMP document as part of the MPO's commitment to embracing a performance-based approach to project prioritization with the understanding that the approach is inherently adaptable, as individual metrics can be excluded or weighted to reflect changing regional needs and priorities.

Mr. DeLatte inquired as to whether all metrics within the CMP would apply to all projects, and he asked about the process for modifying metrics and/or their relative weighting.

Mr. Pollack responded that the pilot scoring underway would help identify those metrics that would be only selectively applicable, thus potentially helping staff to organize metrics into a tiered hierarchy.

Mr. Robinson complimented the effort reflected in the CMP update, commenting that the update was the most detailed-oriented undertaking of performance measures that he had experienced.

Mr. Krams made a motion to recommend Transportation Policy Committee approval of the updated Congestion Management Process; Dr. Chong seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Discussion Only:**

**A. Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) FY 2017 and creation of MPO's 10-year plan**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that the draft exhibits published by TxDOT as part of the March update of the state UTP indicate that the MPO will be receiving approximately \$36M in Category 12 funds.

Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC of the MPO's obligation under HB 20 to create a 10-year Plan, which will in essence be the first 10 years of the MTP and will include the projects from the 4-

year TIP. He stated that staff wish to use the completion of the pilot scoring of the MTP projects per the performance metrics in the CMP as a starting point for discussion of priorities in creating the 10-year plan. Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC that they had already defined planning targets for the approximately \$183M in Category 2 funds that the MPO is expected to receive over the 10 year planning period.

He explained that, depending on participation in the Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program, for which the MPO is providing backstop funding out of Category 7, the MPO will have an estimated \$11-31M in Category 7 freeboard in the out years of the 10-year planning window. Staff identified projects from the MTP that may be good candidates for consideration for programming this Category 7 freeboard; Mr. Pollack stated that the availability of pilot project scoring data, which will be available next month, will present a good first opportunity to compare performance data with TAC members' sense of local priorities.

Mr. Krams asked for clarification on the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) project. Mr. Pollack explained that this was a flexible line item that could represent investment in any best practice technology from enhance real time messaging to connected vehicle technology.

Ms. Sales-Evans commented that incorporation of the projects costs and other funding sources on the corresponding handout would convey a better overall picture of the projects and Mr. Pollack concurred.

Mr. Pollack reiterated staff's interest in bringing forth information on emerging connected and automated technology to inform decisions about investments in relevant infrastructure. TAC members expressed interest in/support for this approach.

#### **B. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): Project Updates/Status**

Ms. Sales-Evans explained that the security of TAP funds awarded for FY2016 projects hinges on the obligation of those funds—in the form of contracts with service providers—by early summer in order to allow sufficient time for contract approval at the federal level. She also commented that her staff have found that establishing Advanced Funding Agreements has been taking between five months and a year, and the onus is on the local partner to initiate and drive the process of establishing these agreements.

The projects whose funding has not yet been obligated and is thus in jeopardy are the Schanen Ditch Hike and Bike Trail and the Garcia Hike and Bike trail. The City of Corpus Christi is local partner for both FY 2016 projects.

### **6. Staff Briefing:**

#### **A. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) FY 2017-2020 amendments**

The MPO will be submitting TIP amendments as part of the August cycle. Because action will be required by TAC in June and TPC in July, member entities whose projects are the subject of amendments will need to have details prepared in May.

#### **B. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) FY 2018**

Staff are working on the draft FY 2018 UPWP for TAC consideration and possible action in April.

#### **C. FASTLANE**

The future of FASTLANE and other federal grant programs for transportation is uncertain, but staff would like to initiate discussions about potential project candidates and a collaborative application process over the next few months in order to be prepared if a FASTLANE call is issued in the fall.

#### **D. Non-radioactive Hazardous Materials Commodity Flow data collection effort**

At the March 14<sup>th</sup> Port Optimization Work Group meeting, Port staff discussed the Port's collaboration with the MPO is pursuing freight origins and destinations data from industry partners.

**E. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Certification Review – April 18-20, 2017**

FHWA and Federal Transit Administration representatives will be in town in mid-April to conduct the federal certification review of the MPO and will thus be present for the next TAC meeting. Mr. Pollack requested TAC members' cooperation in engaging with our federal partners during their visit.

**F. Transportation Policy Committee Meeting – April 6, 2017**

**7. Future Agenda Items**

**8. Public Comments on Agenda Items:**

Opportunity for public comment on any Agenda Item or any subject within the Committee's jurisdiction (except a matter related to pending litigation) is provided at the conclusion of the meeting, or as specified by the Chairperson of the TAC. Proceedings are recorded. We ask that remarks be brief (limited to three minutes), that you identify yourself, and give your address.

**9. Adjourn**