

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING NOTES
Thursday, July 20, 2017**

1. Call to Order and Quorum determination

Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Glen Sullivan, Nueces County; Gordon Robinson, Corpus Christi RTA, Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County; Raymond Chong, City of Corpus Christi, David Krams, Port of Corpus Christi Authority; Paula Sales-Evans, TxDOT CRP District

Staff Present: Jeff Pollack, Brigida Gonzalez, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta and Elena Buentello

2. Introduction of visiting agency officials

Mr. Sullivan welcomed all in attendance.

3. Discussion Only

A. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Narrative Refinement

Mr. Pollack stated that during the MPO's Federal Certification Review (FCR), the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) requested that the MPO's CMP narrative include more documentation/discussion about how we measure congestion on a periodic basis and how this information feeds back into the planning process within our MPO.

He explained that FHWA differentiates between non-recurring and recurring congestion. Non-recurring congestion refers to occasional, typically unexpected disruptions at various/ unpredictable points within the transportation system whereas recurring congestion describes the predictable presence of large numbers of vehicles on specific roadways. Both types of congestion can be mitigated proactively by various measures to enhance mobility options and overall safety and efficiency; this is the premise of the performance-based planning framework that is defined in the recently updated CMP narrative. In so much as congestion is a function of inefficiency in the transportation system, all of the activities undertaken by an MPO to enhance transportation efficiency—from travel demand management to capacity projects—are congestion mitigation strategies and thus fall under the CMP.

Mr. Pollack stated that, despite not yet having received the draft report from the FCR, staff are making an earnest attempt to address FHWA's comments proactively. Staff has already begun enhancing the CMP narrative with additional data about congestion levels in the region and an enhance explanation as to how these data inform the planning process in the MPO.

Mr. Pollack asked for feedback and/or concurrence from the TAC as to whether the multiple metrics of congestion in the MPO's performance-based planning framework sufficiently account for congestion in the MPO's project prioritization process; all members concurred and encouraged staff to use language that aligns with FHWA language.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested that the Performance Measurement Topic headings be amended to explicitly include in order to better align with the terminology used by FHWA.

Mr. Delatte asked how other MPOs with metrics that implicitly address congestion, as our metrics do, demonstrate explicit treatment of congestion issues. Mr. Pollack stated that MPO's are widely divergent in the structure of their CMPs.

B. Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA Grants) Notice of Funding

Mr. Pollack explained that the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the INFRA Program, which replaces the FASTLANE Program, was published in the Federal Registry on July 5: [link](#). Applications are due by close of business (COB) November 2, 2017 through Grants.gov. TAC members confirmed their continued interest in a collaborative submittal with the Port as the lead entity.

Mr. Pollack stated that he and Ms. Sales-Evans had discussed the SH-35/SH-361 interchange on the east side of Gregory as a potential project candidate but that the project scope may not yet be clearly enough defined for submittal. Mr. Pollack also mentioned the deepening/widening of the Ship Channel could be an appropriate fit but that it did not necessarily represent a collaborative initiative that was directly relevant to multiple entities in the MPO.

Leslie Ruta, Revenue Accountant for the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, explained that the Port was considering three potential projects. She identified the eligible category types and stated that the Port is interested in both small and a large category projects. Ms. Ruta reiterated the application's emphasis for collaboration and the Port's interest in collaborating through the MPO.

Ms. Sales-Evans requested a follow-up discussion to consider potential state freight projects that may result from the recent freight workshop.

The TAC agreed to revisit this issue at its August meeting with the intent of identifying one or more candidate projects at that time in order to be able to uphold the time line for application submittal.

4. Presentation

A. Update – TxDOT Projects Outside the MPO Boundary

Ms. Sales-Evans from the TxDOT-CRP District provided an update on regionally significant projects outside the MPO Boundary. The District will provide similar updates on a quarterly basis.

5. Staff Briefing

A. Travel Demand Model Update

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that MPO staff had nearly completed the collection and formatting of demographic data for use in the update of Travel Demand Model; MPO GIS Manager Victor Mendieta will present the details of this work to the TAC in August.

B. Federal Certification Review Report

Mr. Pollack stated that staff is still awaiting the draft FCR report from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), but hopes to schedule a presentation by FHWA to the TAC once it is delivered.

C. Loss of Air Quality Funding for Near Non-attainment Communities

Mr. Pollack stated that Governor Abbott, by way of line item veto, had eliminated \$6M in funding for air quality improvement programs in communities that are near non-attainment with federal ozone standards. For Corpus Christi, this translates to a loss of \$200,000 per year for the next two years. Two programs are at risk:

1. Supplemental air quality monitoring by the College of Engineering at the University of North Texas, which operates three research grade monitoring stations in Nueces County to augment data collected by the two Texas Commission on Environmental Quality stations in order to be able to better demonstrate the impacts of long-range transport on local ozone levels
2. AutoCheck/CleanFleet, which provides free screening of private and fleet vehicles and offers repair vouchers for grossly polluting vehicles to reduce emissions of the precursors of ozone pollution

Mr. Pollack stated that both of these programs make a meaningful contribution to our ability to preserve our attainment status. He reported that the members of the Transportation Policy Committee had expressed strong interest in forming a coalition to help mitigate this loss of funding.

Gretchen Arnold, Chair of the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group and Pollution Prevention Partnership, will present to the TAC about the issue at the August 21 meeting.

D. Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Presentation

Mr. Pollack reported that Dr. Kristie Chin, who coordinates the Texas Innovation Alliance on behalf of the University of Texas at Austin, will present to the TAC at the September meeting with the objective of helping the TAC better understand the states-of-the-art in autonomous and connected vehicle technology, research, and market place. He encouraged TAC members to notify others from their organizations of the opportunity and to suggest specific topics or questions to him in anticipation of Dr. Chin's visit.

Mr. Sullivan expressed an interest in ongoing conference calls between partners in the Alliance.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested that the presentation should start with the basics and should answer fundamental questions, including:

- What are the principal drivers of this technology (i.e. what problems does it solve or so that we may anticipate potential funding sources for the associated infrastructure.
- How quickly is the technology changing?
- Are there national (or state) policy changes on the horizon that might force our hand (or help justify) investments in infrastructure to support this new way of doing business.

E. Transportation Policy Meeting, August 3, 2017

Mr. Pollack stated that the August TPC meeting would be cancelled due to members' availability.

6. Future Agenda Items

7. 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.

Dr. Chong announced that Mr. Charlie Cardenas is the City's new Deputy Director of Streets Operations.

Mr. Richard Bullock notified members of two Council of Governments Workshops being held in August (August 2nd - Federal / State Community Resources Workshop; August 17th - Prepare for the Census Workshop).

8. Adjourn

All meetings of the MPO committees are open to the public. Any persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact the MPO at 884-0687 at least 48 hours in advance so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Información en Español: Si usted desea esta información en Español o si desea explicación sobre el contenido, por favor llámenos al teléfono (361) 884-0687 o comuníquese con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a ccmpo@cctxmpo.us. Nuestras oficinas están ubicadas en el 602 N. Staples Street, Suite 300, Corpus Christi, TX 78401. Copias se proveerán a petición.