

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING NOTES  
Tuesday, December 12, 2017 (RESCHEDULED)**

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

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

Present: Glen Sullivan, Nueces County; Howard Gillespie, San Patricio County; Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, Corpus Christi District; Gordon Robinson, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority; Richard Bullock, Coastal Bend COG; Brian DeLatte, City of Portland; and Dr. Raymond Chong, P.E., City of Corpus Christi.

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. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MPOs, States, and Transit Providers**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC of a May 27, 2016 Final Planning Rule that requires the cooperative development of a written agreement by MPO(s), state(s), and transit providers describing their mutual responsibilities for carrying out performance based planning and programming in metropolitan areas. The Corpus Christi MPO, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), and TxDOT-CRP District must establish a memorandum of understanding that meets the requirements of the Final Planning Rule due by May 27, 2018 (2 years after the publication date of the planning rule).

Mr. Pollack stated that the establishment of the MOU represents an opportunity to formalize—and potentially bolster—existing practices by which the RTA planning process is integrated into MPO activities. Mr. Pollack indicated that MPO staff will be reaching out to RTA staff to set up meetings in the first part of the new year, and he asked that Mr. Robinson inform his colleagues as such.

Ms. Sales-Evans inquired as to what guidance had been delivered from TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP); she also asked whom would be the TxDOT signatory for the MOU.

Mr. Pollack responded that guidance on the MOU to date had been delivered by FHWA. Brigida Gonzalez, Assistant Transportation Planning Director for the MPO stated that MPO staff anticipate that the TxDOT District Engineers will be the signatories for the MOUs in their respective MPOs.

Dr. Chong asked whether, under this new agreement, RTA project would be incorporated into the MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Ms. Gonzalez responded that RTA is an eligible participant in the MPO's TIP activities.

**B. TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant**

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that TxDOT provides grant funds, to support the mission of the Texas Traffic Safety Program, that help identify traffic safety problem areas in order to implement programs to reduce the number and severity of vehicular crashes throughout the state. Application deadline for the FY 2019 annual grant is **January 11, 2018**. Mr. Pollack explains that MPO staff are interested in pursuing funds to support active mobility safety outreach, including the hiring of a full time coordinator and part-time intern. Staff's proposed program of work would include three foci with multiple strategies supporting each: fostering safe, active access to schools; producing and disseminating bike and pedestrian safety informational materials; and conducting hands-on bicycle safety and skill development.

Mr. Pollack outlined staff's strategy for securing the requisite match as in-kind contributions of partner staff time and pro-bono licensing of curricula and content from the Ghisallo Cycling Initiative in Austin.

Ms. Sales-Evans encouraged staff to emphasize the traffic safety dimension of the proposed outreach, both in terms of creating a compelling grant proposal and in terms of the efficacy of the proposed strategies. Mr. Pollack responded that staff is mindful of this aspect of the approach, stating that the driving public was by necessity a principal target audience, as safe practices by pedestrians and cyclists could not alone affect the change that we are seeking.

### **C. Performance Targets**

Mr. Pollack reminded the TAC that they had, at the October meeting, unanimously recommended that the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) take action to adopt state targets for safety performance measures, as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Mr. Pollack asked TAC members to remind their counterparts on TPC that action—and thus a quorum—will be required at the first TPC meeting of the new year in order to meet FHWA’s February deadline.

Mr. Pollack informed the TAC that staff was making good progress in securing a consultant to assist with the collection of travel speed and delay data to inform the MPO’s congestion-related metrics, for which performance targets will eventually be required. He reported that the highest ranking firm would be visiting with staff on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> for a scope and contract negotiation discussion. He also reported that staff had been working with Texas Transportation Institute to determine what data are readily available from their INRIX data set, which would inform the scope of work undertaken by the consulting team.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked about the status of the MPO’s Congestion Management Process Narrative revision. Mr. Pollack responded that staff were in the process of revamping the document on the basis of FHWA’s last round of feedback, after which staff will furnish another working draft for review by FHWA.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if staff had heard anything further as to when the MPO might expect FHWA’s feedback from the Federal Certification Review conducted in April. Mr. Pollack responded that staff had not yet received the draft report, which was originally scheduled for delivery in early summer.

## **4. Staff Briefing**

### **A. Senate Transportation Committee Hearing Re: Hurricane Harvey Impacts (November 15, 2017)**

Mr. Pollack reported that he and Mr. Caron, TxDOT-CRP District Engineer, had participated in a hearing with the state Senate Committee on Transportation about impacts from Hurricane Harvey. He stated that he had utilized the opportunity to highlight priority needs, including select projects on US 181 and I-37, that the MPO had identified through scenario planning.

### **B. Funding Year (FY) 2018 Member Contributions**

Mr. Pollack requested TAC member assistance in facilitating the processing of the requests for annual member contributions to the MPO’s local planning funds, which staff mailed out earlier in December.

### **C. MPO Holiday Office Closures (December 15, 25-26, 2017 and January 1, 2018)**

Mr. Pollack gave TAC members notice of the anticipated dates of MPO office holiday closure.

### **D. Transportation Policy Committee Meeting – January 4, 2018**

Mr. Pollack indicated that staff may be seeking an alternative date for the January meeting of the TPC—currently scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup>—or simply deferring to the regularly scheduled February meeting in order to increase the likelihood of member availability.

Mr. Robinson stated that RTA Board Chair Curtis Rock’s resignation takes effect in January.

## **5. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**6. Future Agenda Items.**

There were no future agenda items.

**7. Adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.