

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) MINUTES
February 1, 2018**

1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination

Judge Simpson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the City of Corpus Christi Council Chambers.

Present: Judge Simpson, San Patricio County; Mr. Zahn, Port Corpus Christi; Mayor McComb, City of Corpus Christi; Mayor Krebs, City of Portland, Mr. Martinez, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority and Mr. Caron, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation – Corpus Christi District (TxDOT).

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

2. Introduction of Visiting Agency Officials

Judge Simpson welcomed all in attendance.

3. Welcome new TPC member, Eddie Martinez (Chair, Board of Directors, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority)

Judge Simpson and TPC members welcomed new TPC member Eddie Martinez.

4. Approval of the September 13, 2017 TPC Meeting Minutes

Judge Simpson called for approval of the minutes of the Rescheduled TPC meeting of September 13, 2017. Mayor Krebs made a motion; Mr. Caron seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Possible Action

A. Election of Officers for the Transportation Policy Committee

The MPO by-laws indicate that the TPC shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among its voting members during the first meeting of each calendar year.

Mr. Zahn nominated Judge Simpson as Chair of the TPC for calendar year 2018; Mayor Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Krebs nominated Mr. Zahn as Vice Chair of the TPC; Judge Simpson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Performance Targets

Staff present this opportunity to brief the TPC on progress to date in establishing performance targets, as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Mr. Pollack informed the TPC that the deadline for establishing performance targets, for the five safety performance measures that are defined in the Safety Performance Measure Final Rule, is the end of February. He explained that MPOs have the option to establish their own targets or to agree to support the state DOT targets; the MPO TAC took action to recommend to the TPC that the MPO adopt the state targets for all five safety performance measures.

Mr. Zahn made a motion to adopt, by way of resolution, the state's performance targets for each of the five measures that are part of the Safety Performance Measure Final Rule. Mayor Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Krebs inquired as to whether the MPO was still evaluating the merits of a designated routing process for hazardous material. Mr. Pollack responded that the MPO is still exploring strategies for filling the data gap regarding the origins and destinations of local freight, as this information is needed to augment the commodity flows study of hazardous material that the MPO undertook in 2016.

Mayor McComb raised the question of how to enhance safety outreach around highway safety.

Mr. Caron stated that TxDOT has been working diligently to upgrade safety programs, both in terms of education and safety treatments on roadways. He pointed out that it has been over ten years since there has been a fatality-free day on Texas roadways.

C. Funding Awards for the 2018 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program

Mr. Pollack reminded the TPC that the MPO opens a competitive call for proposals every two years in order to allocate Category 9 funds, also known as Transportation Alternative Set-Aside funds, which are dedicated to non-vehicular infrastructure projects. The MPO received three project nominations totaling approximately \$1.2M under the Call for Projects (CFP), which closed on December 13, 2017. The program includes \$580K in funding available for each year for both FY 2019 and FY 2020 for a total of \$1.16M available for the 2018 CFP.

Review, scoring, and ranking of nominated projects is performed by a review panel comprising MPO and TxDOT-CRP staff; projects are scored on six criteria that were defined by the TAC and approved by the TPC in 2015. The two highest ranking projects under this call were both City of Corpus Christi projects. Sufficient funding is available to fund the highest ranking project (Dr. Hector P. Garcia Park Hike and Bike Trail: Phase II) entirely and to fund the second ranking project (Schanen Ditch Hike and Bike Trail: Phase IV) partially. The City has confirmed that it will be able to deliver the Schanen project in its entirety as scoped despite receiving only partial funding.

Mr. Martinez made a motion to approve the TAC recommended allocation of TA funds for the 2018 CFP; Mayor Krebs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Funding for air quality programs in near non-attainment communities

Mr. Simpson invited Gretchen Arnold, Chair of the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group, to brief the TPC. Ms. Arnold informed the TPC that during the 85th Texas Legislature, Governor Abbott discontinued (by way of line item veto) \$6M in funding for air quality improvement programs in communities that are near non-attainment with federal ozone standards; two important programs in the Corpus Christi airshed are at risk as a result of this veto:

1. 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
2. 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 (TCEQ) stations in order to be able to better demonstrate the impacts of long-range transport on local ozone levels

Ms. Arnold explained that Port Corpus Christi and the Port Industries had committed to funding the two programs at a reduced, Band-Aid budget as a stop gap, but she explained that this funding is not a sustainable long term proposition. Partners in the Corpus Christi Air Quality Group drafted a resolution template, an adapted version of which is before the TPC, by which local decision makers might request the reinstatement of these funds.

Mayor Krebs made a motion to request, by way the enclosed resolution, that the 86th Texas Legislature restore funding for air quality programs in near non-attainment communities; Mr. Zahn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. 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. TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant Application

Mr. Pollack reported that staff had submitted an application for a TxDOT Traffic Safety Grant to support an Active Mobility Safety Outreach Campaign, including a full-time campaign coordinator and part-time intern to be housed at the MPO. Mr. Pollack thanked TPC members and partners from the cities of Portland and Corpus Christi and from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi for their commitment of staff time to the campaign as non-federal, in-kind match. Successful applicants will be notified in late spring or early summer and funds would be available at the start of FY 2019.

C. FHWA Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather

Mr. Pollack reported that MPO staff are collaborating with partners at the City of Corpus Christi Engineering Department, TX A&M University – Corpus Christi faculty, and the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program for a possible submission to the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) for funds to design an innovative shoreline protection feature along a portion of Laguna Shores Rd. The funding opportunity is through FHWA’s Resilience and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program.

D. FY2019-2022 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) Update

Mr. Pollack explained that staff were beginning the two-year update of the MPO’s four-year plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) from FY 2017-2020 to FY 2019-2022; he stated that this document would be coming before the TPC later in the spring.

Mr. Caron asked whether there would be other actions triggered by the TIP update as a result of FAST Act requirements.

Mr. Pollack responded that yes, the TIP Update would necessitate an amendment of the MPO’s 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as well as an update of the MPO’s Public Participation Plan, both of which will be coming before the TPC later in the spring as well. Mr. Pollack stated that the FAST Act also requires a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the MPO, TxDOT, and Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority.

Mr. Zahn asked whether there has been any indication of new funds available through Proposition 1 or Proposition 7. Mr. Pollack responded that the MPO does have Prop 1 and Prop 7 dollars currently programmed in its four year plan.

Mr. Caron invited Paula Sales-Evans, Director of Transportation Planning and Development for the TxDOT-CRP District to the podium. Ms. Sales-Evans commented that rather than disperse individual allocations of proposition dollars, the Texas Transportation Commission was merging those funds, which has translated into availability of additional Connectivity dollars for our region.

- 7. **Future Agenda Items:** No future agenda items were noted.
- 8. **Public Comments on Agenda Items:** There were no public comments.
- 9. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.