

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND QUORUM DETERMINATION

Mr. DeLatte called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

TAC Members Present:

Mr. Brian DeLatte, P.E., City of Portland, Chairperson

Mr. Tom Yardley, Commissioner, San Patricio County

Ms. Liann Alfaro, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA)

Ms. Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., TxDOT – Corpus Christi District (CRP)

Ms. Mary Afuso, Coastal Bend Council of Governments (non-voting)

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta and Carissa Tamez.

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were offered or made.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TAC JANUARY 16, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Sales-Evans requested a correction on the meeting minutes from American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) to Associated General Contractors (AGC).

Ms. Afuso made a motion to approve the January 16, 2025, TAC Regular Meeting Minutes with requested revisions.

Ms. Alfaro seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Boundary Change

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

During the March TAC Workshop, there was lengthy discussion about the process used to adjust the MPO Planning Area Boundary. The TxDOT Corpus Christi District has asked, in Attachment 1, that the MPO Planning Area Boundary adopted in January 2025, be reconsidered. See Attachment 2, the TxDOT map that accompanied the letter. This map includes the 2010 MPO boundary and the 2025 MPO boundary with roadway projects. As noted in the TxDOT PowerPoint from TPP, there are both requirements and guidelines for determining the MPO Planning Area Boundary. Texas DOT Transportation Planning and Programming Division provides a template for the effort as shown in Attachment 3. The procedures for adjusting Urban Area boundaries are accessible in Section 6 of FHWA's Highway Functional Classification Concepts, Criteria, and Procedures document. Attachment 4 presents the January TPC MPA Boundary Approval agenda item.

Discussion:

Mr. DeLatte recapped the March workshop and the four primary concern including 1) the Port of Corpus Christi's submerged land, 2) reduction of the boundary in high-growth areas, 3) reassigning the population from declining urban core out in those high growth areas, and 4) consider the key change points on that new boundary.

Mr. DeLatte suggested the boundary change be revisited and with a joint workshop with the Transportation Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Committee, TxDOT, FHWA, State Demographer, and federal partners.

Ms. Sales-Evans further elaborated on comments made during the March TAC workshop, particularly identifying opportunities, economic or otherwise, that would be impacted with a reduced boundary.

Ms. Sales-Evans discussed the lack of participation levels within the area during the census that may have affected the regional numbers for the area. Information gathered from the adjusted boundary tied with the census, and the lack of involvement in Small Area Forecast, may or may not be reflected in the area correctly.

Ms. Sales-Evans noted that the adjusted urbanized boundary is the minimum and nothing states the boundary can't be beyond that suggested area. Ms. Sales-Evans wants the policy board to get a full understanding of the process and clarification of the pros and cons. She suggested the boundary needs to be revisited with the possibility of expanding the boundary beyond the adjusted urbanized area as originally presented and approved.

- Mr. MacDonald agreed and emphasized the importance of federal guidance and the need to revisit the reasons for adjusting the urbanized boundary.

Ms. Sales-Evans clarified they aren't trying to change the numbers and that it should be collectively recognized that the numbers may not be the only factor for planning future developments. She further stated that we never delved into the aspect that migration may be happening from the more urban center and moving out to other areas.

- Mr. MacDonald discussed internal migration within the region. The state demographer did county level estimates which were considered a part of the process.

Mr. DeLatta stated that with the small area forecast, there seems to be a misunderstanding in regards to the process of internal migration. Mr. DeLatta questioned if the internal migration can now be adjusted.

- Mr. MacDonald responded that it can be revisited within the small area forecast. It was further noted that the new population growth that the region had was small and that there was a struggle to find population to reallocate.

Ms. Sales-Evans stated the minutes on the attachments were included and that sometimes the discussion and motion may not exactly match what was in the recommended motion from the original information packet.

- Mr. MacDonald suggested that Ms. Sales-Evans can review the TAC motions and discussions on the Corpus Christi MPO website. Any language for the spoken motions needs to be clear so we can make sure the motions are verbatim.

Mr. Yardley commented that a joint meeting with the Transportation Policy Committee and TAC is needed regarding the boundary change to eliminate any misunderstandings or disconnects.

- Ms. Alfaro is also in agreement with a joint meeting, and she noted a statement that was also made that there are quite a few new policy members. This process would give the new members and herself a better understanding of the process and how we have come to this boundary. She doesn't believe we need to start from scratch but to have the joint meeting to have everyone on the same page.

Mr. DeLatta mentioned suggested scheduling and making TAC available for the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. DeLatta suggested June 5, 2025.

- Mr. MacDonald also mentioned that the joint meeting should include the Federal/State partners, TPP and a Facilitator.

Motion:

Ms. Sales-Evans made a multi-part motion:

1. To recommend Transportation Policy Committee rescind the approval of the previously adopted MPO boundary from the January 2, 2025, TPC meeting.
2. Recommend that the Transportation Policy Committee and Technical Advisory Committee convene a joint workshop to discuss the MPO boundary and any revisions to address everyone's issues and concerns.
3. Include the email from the Technical Advisory Committee chair on April 8th, 2025 in the TAC minutes, that summarizes the remarks made in the workshop.

Mr. Yardley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sales-Evans made another comment about the next joint workshop to consider taking official notes and minutes.

Mr. DeLatte's April 8th 2025 Email - RE: MPO Boundary

Good afternoon Rob,

I'm following up on the discussion at the March 20, 2025, TAC Workshop. During that meeting, there appeared to be a consensus among TAC members that concerns remain regarding the recent MPO boundary revision process. Several members noted that their respective TPC members shared similar concerns. At the conclusion of the workshop, the TAC recommended to Craig that MPO staff convene a joint TPC/TAC meeting to review the boundary revision process and explore potential adjustments to address these concerns.

The key issues raised by TAC members included:

1. *The potential negative impact of removing or reducing the submerged Port of Corpus Christi property from the MPO boundary.*
2. *The reduction of the MPO boundary in high-growth residential areas, including London, Portland, Calallen, and the SH 44 corridor.*
3. *The reassignment of population and employment from declining urban core areas to rapidly growing areas.*
4. *The need to consider key corridor connections at the MPO boundary to ensure consistency in travel demand modeling and transportation system planning.*

I'm reiterating the desire for a joint meeting in an effort to reduce confusion and provide a single forum where all stakeholders can have their questions answered.

Thanks,

Brian

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update 2025

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The scheduled update to the Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan is due in July 2025. Aspects of it related to Equity need to be removed due to new federal government direction. Attachment 1 has these sections highlighted. Also, TxDOT completed Statewide Strategic Public Engagement Guidance in January 2024 that will be used to finalize the document. The public review period for this document will be a minimum of 45 days. The requested action is reviewing the current Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) and providing feedback on the outreach and communications efforts during development of the 2045 MTP Update and the 2025-2028 TIP. This task will use the feedback received from the After-Action survey distributed to the TAC on March 13, 2025, for additional updates.

A PPP defines the processes that the Corpus Christi MPO will use to provide any interested or potentially impacted citizens with meaningful opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. The updated 2025 PPP will identify the outreach and involvement activities for both the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Planning process and updates to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program process.

Discussion:

Ms. Afuso volunteered the Council of Governments for the access to the Area Agency on Aging.

Mr. Yardley enquired if there was a minimum size for the public outreach groups.

- Mr. Casper responded that the public outreach groups should be no less than five people for us to send a person.
- Mr. McDonald added that any and all groups are welcome.

Ms. Sales-Evans asked if the MPO has developed a one-page factsheet that gives an introduction to what MPO is, what the MPO can do, and that can be helpful for public outreach events.

- Mr. Casper and Mr. MacDonald both confirmed that the MPO can provide one and there are plenty of examples to reference from to develop one.

B. Corpus Christi MPO Program Addressing Discrimination (PAD) Update 2025

Mr. Casper presented the item.

This document is due for an update in September 2025. As reported by FHWA, several executive actions have recently impacted environmental justice (EJ), Title VI, and equity considerations within metropolitan transportation planning regulations. On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14148, titled "Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions." This order rescinded several prior executive orders, including:

- Executive Order 11246 (September 24, 1965): Addressed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- Executive Order 12898 (February 11, 1994): Focused on environmental justice in minority and low-income populations.
- Executive Order 13583 (August 18, 2011): Established a coordinated government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.
- Executive Order 13672 (July 21, 2014): Amended previous orders to enhance equal employment opportunity in the federal government and among federal contractors.

The revocation of these orders signifies a shift away from mandated consideration of environmental justice and equity in federal actions, including transportation planning. On March 10, 2025, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy rescinded two memos from the previous administration that encouraged states to incorporate climate change and equity considerations into infrastructure projects. These memos had emphasized:

- Designing infrastructure to account for climate change.
- Adopting electric vehicle charging and renewable energy technologies.
- Involving disadvantaged and underrepresented groups in project planning.

These actions collectively reduce the emphasis on environmental justice and equity considerations in metropolitan transportation planning and related federal infrastructure initiatives.

Discussion:

None

C. After Action Report for the 2045 MTP Update and FY 2025-2028 TIP

The MPO asked the TAC members to review and evaluate the processes used that resulted in the 2025 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (2045 MTP Update) and the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The comments received during these processes were distributed in the March workshop packet. Attachment 1 shows the results of the survey of TAC members and their alternates. This evaluation will result in an After-Action Report (AAR). An AAR is a structured approach for assessing performance by reflecting on the work of a group and identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement from successes and failures. An AAR requires an open professional discussion from all participants to adjust the processes that will result in the 2050 MTP and the 2027-2030 TIP. This approach will contribute to the Corpus Christi MPO’s culture of continuous organizational learning and improvement.

Discussion:

Mr. Yardley commented that it was interesting that responses varied, ranging in scores from 2-10, and that there was less clustering than expected.

- Mr. Casper replied that we need to be more effective with some of our agencies and that improvement is needed.

Ms. Sales-Evans noted some of the questions on the survey were a little unclear and vague, and it was hard to understand what we were looking for which may have had affect on the answers.

Mr. Casper said that the survey results will be consolidated and presented to the Transportation Policy Committee and use them to develop the PPP.

6. TAC MEMBER STATEMENTS ON LOCAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Mr. DeLatte provided an update on the FM 893 widening project, noting the installation of drainage culverts and the potential for residential development.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	May 1, 2025
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	May 15, 2025
C. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	June 19, 2025 Change

Mr. DeLatte noted that there is a policy committee meeting on June 5th that is an opportunity for a joint workshop.

Mr. DeLatte requested a poll for Technical Advisory Committee members to vote on if and when to reschedule the June 19th meeting.

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.