

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

JULY 17, 2025

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

Mr. DeLatte called the meeting to order at 09:03 a.m.

TAC Members Present:

Mr. Brian DeLatte, City of Portland, Chairperson

Mr. Jeff Pollack, Port of Corpus Christi, Vice Chairperson

Ms. Paula Sales-Evans, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation-Corpus Christi District

Mr. Tom Yardley, San Patricio County

MPO Staff Present:

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TAC JUNE 26, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Yardley made a motion to approve the TAC June 26, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

Mr. Pollack seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) with Amendment 2

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

The Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) is amending the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include fourteen new projects. These projects, along with two existing projects, will use Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportionment years 2022 through 2024 for formula funds 5307, 5339, and 5310. The total federal amount across all fourteen projects is \$23,460,816. This amendment fully accounts for all previously unallocated awards apportionments.

Also, CCRTA has added the following project, which is currently funded using CCRTA's local sales tax revenue:

- A/E for the Rehab/Renovation of the Maintenance Building

Additionally, CCRTA has made changes to the following two projects:

- MPO Project # CCRTA-116: The current federal FTA funds are decreasing from \$1,257,052 to \$896,326 because the project is estimated to come in under budget.
- MPO Project # CCRTA-118: The federal FTA amount is increasing from \$142,400 to \$266,965 to ensure all projects within this project are fully funded. Therefore, the amendment to the FY 2025-2028 TIP will include fourteen federally funded new projects and one locally funded project, for a total of fifteen projects.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend that TPC approve the DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) with Amendment 2.

Mr. Yardley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with Amendment 1

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

During the last several months, the Texas MPOs and TxDOT-TPP have been working on new Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs). The Corpus Christi MPO has an approved 2-year UPWP, therefore we did not have to develop a new UPWP for FY 2026. However, in discussions with FHWA/FTA staff in Texas, there is a clarification for all MPOs in Texas regarding the ***“2.5% Set-Aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options”***.

Discussion:

Mr. Pollack understood that this item is a requirement, and it's not extra money, but he inquired about the MPO will use with the reallocated dollars.

- Mr. MacDonald stated that the MPO is working on a Safe System Plan that addresses the same activities. He further noted that the MPO will meet the objective on tracking how the MPO is using these specific funds toward safe and accessible transportation options through other initiatives.

Motion:

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend that the TPC approve the draft FY 2025 and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with Amendment 1.

Ms. Sales-Evans seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Program (PPP)

Mr. Casper presented this item.

A Public Participation Plan (PPP) defines the processes that the Corpus Christi MPO will use to provide all interested or potentially impacted citizens with meaningful opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. The 2025 PPP will identify the outreach and involvement activities for both the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) process and updates to the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process. Section 3 of the 2025 PPP outlines the adopted policies and principles for public outreach. These have not changed from the 2021 PPP.

The scheduled update to the Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Program is due in July 2025. Aspects of it related to equity need removal due to the new federal government direction. The focus of this document has returned to Title VI compliance. TxDOT recently completed the Statewide Strategic Public Engagement Guidance in January 2024, that was used to update the document. The public review period for this document is a minimum of 45 days.

Discussion:

Mr. Yardley expressed concern regarding the MPO's level of public engagement, identifying it as a potential weak link. Mr. Yardley acknowledged that attending community meetings is a positive initial step toward improving outreach.

- Mr. Casper noted that when Mr. MacDonald attended past events, QR codes were distributed to the public, allowing them to access a survey to provide feedback directly from their cellphones or computers.

- Mr. Yardley emphasized that any effort to improve public engagement is beneficial. He acknowledged that while the solution is unclear, this challenge is not unique to the MPO but is also evident in other boards on which he serves. Reaching the public and obtaining feedback remains one of the most difficult aspects of the work.
- Mr. Casper observed that public involvement is becoming increasingly challenging, noting that individuals are more stretched for time.
- Mr. MacDonald outlined the MPO's multipronged approach to public outreach, which includes online surveys, virtual meetings via Zoom and Teams, and attending city council and commission meetings to share information with the public. He noted that TxDOT meetings tend to draw strong attendance and expressed interest in setting up a display at those events to share information about the MPO's planning process leading up to TxDOT projects. Additionally, Mr. MacDonald shared that Craig recently visited the London ISD to introduce the MPO. The team aims to conduct one to two outreach events each month, with the goal of building momentum and increasing engagement throughout the two-year development cycle for the 2050 Long-Range Plan.

Ms. Sales-Evans followed up by suggesting that, given the ongoing outreach and public meetings, the TAC meeting agendas should include a standing update report. The report would highlight recent outreach efforts, notable questions or feedback received, and items that may warrant further consideration. It would help demonstrate that the MPO is actively listening to the public and that the committee is taking that input into account.

- Mr. MacDonald agreed with the suggestion and noted that, as part of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), a standing item will be added to future TAC agendas. This item will provide ongoing updates and additional information. Public comments will be incorporated throughout the various phases and chapters of the plan over the coming years. He added that updates related to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the Safe System Plan will also be included on the agenda starting next month.

Ms. Sales-Evans suggested a possible adjustment to the meeting agenda format. She proposed splitting the current "Non-Agenda Public Comments" item into two parts: Item 2A would remain for public comments, while a new Item 2B could serve as a brief report on public input received during MPO outreach efforts or submitted via the MPO website. Rather than reading all comments aloud, this report would provide an overview, highlighting key themes or issues that TAC may want to consider for future agendas.

- Mr. MacDonald added that the TAC members can bring up comments/feedback they receive or hear from their own meetings and interactions during the agenda item. He further noted that since transportation involves multiple agencies, this feedback would be helpful to inform and guide discussions across all agencies.

Mr. Yardley asked whether the Hillcrest neighborhood has any active community groups or organizations that hold local meetings as part of outreach efforts.

- Mr. MacDonald noted that the MPO has participated in the TxDOT Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings for the past five to six years, since he assumed the role of MPO Director.
- Ms. Sales-Evans explained that outreach efforts for the Harbor Bridge project began once the project received environmental clearance and a developer was secured. At that time, there was no formal outreach forum; instead, efforts included discussions on specific issues at the senior center, scheduled visits to churches, in-home meetings, door-to-door engagement, and distributing flyers. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) was the primary organized group involved, with a defined purpose and timeline aligned with the project's outreach needs.
- Mr. Yardley noted that during the 45-day public comment period, there is an opportunity to engage with the Hillcrest community.
- Mr. Pollack asked Mr. Yardley to clarify his specific needs or goals. He suggested focusing efforts on the Washington-Coles neighborhood, given existing funding and the concentration of

residents. He then inquired if there was a particular consideration regarding the Hillcrest neighborhood.

- Mr. Yardley stated that, although he does not live in Corpus Christi and observes from a distance, the Hillcrest neighborhood appears to be overlooked.

Motion:

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend that the TPC approve the DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Program (PPP) for a 45-day public comment period.

Mr. Yardley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Schedule

Mr. Casper presented this item.

Discussion:

Ms. Sales-Evans highlighted past challenges with TIP/STIP revisions due to inconsistencies in planning documents, which often resulted in exceptions. A meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2025, to address these issues. She emphasized the importance of ensuring consistency in project language and descriptions to avoid further discrepancies. Preparing amendments requires significant time and coordination for MPO. She also noted that some projects may experience fiscal year shifts due to statewide efforts to balance letting schedules and contractor bids. Projects not ready for inclusion in the TIP may need to be considered for deferral based on development schedules and readiness.

Mr. Casper noted that an additional complicating factor about the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is set to expire at the end of 2026. While the administration is working on a new transportation bill, there has been no indication of the funding levels for 2027–2028. For the first time since the implementation of the gas tax over 100 years ago, the uncertainty around future investment levels is causing concern among individuals.

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

The item wasn't presented due to a lack of quorum.

C. DRAFT 2025 Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary Briefing

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

The Corpus Christi MPO Planning Area Boundary Change process has been on-going for about 2 years. The next step in the process was determined during the June 5, 2025, Joint TPC-TAC Workshop. This step is for the TAC to recommend to the TPC a DRAFT MPO Planning Area Boundary Change to be part of a future Boundary Change Package required by TxDOT.

Additionally, the process will continue for a few months to complete the components of the TxDOT. Boundary Change Checklist, specifically:

- Resolution of Support from the City of Robstown or a request by the City of Robstown to join the Corpus Christi MPO that would start a separate process involving MPO Bylaw Changes and MPA Boundary Adjustments. The MPO staff presented the Resolution of Acknowledgement/Support on May 21, 2025. The City Attorney proposed changes to the Resolution. The City Council tabled the item pending additional information about TxDOT funding. The next meeting of the Robstown City Council is on July 21
- Final Minutes of the TPC Meeting approving the new MPA Planning Area Boundary
- Consideration of the federally supported CCRTA routes/stops in the Cities of Robstown and Port Aransas that are not currently within the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Boundary.

- Possible TPC Minutes approving new MPO Bylaws if the City of Robstown, City of Gregory, or the City of Port Aransas joins the MPO as a voting member.

Discussion:

Ms. Sales-Evans raised a question regarding the City of Gregory, asking about what the process is for adding additional seats to the policy board and how it is reflected in the bylaws.

- Mr. MacDonald explained that if the City of Gregory seeks a specific seat on the committee, they must first request it through TAC as part of a recommendation, followed by approval from the TPC. If granted a seat, bylaws can be amended as needed. He noted that the current representation by Mr. Yardley on the TAC and Judge Krebs on the TPC has been in place for approximately 20 years. The City of Gregory must formally request approval to the MPO .

Mr. Yardley asked Mr. MacDonald about the timeline for approving the boundary change.

- Mr. MacDonald responded that, following discussions with federal and state partners on July 11, 2025, the timeline for approving the boundary change is December 2026. Once the boundary is changed, MPO documents will be updated accordingly.

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

None were made or offered.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	August 7, 2025
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	August 21, 2025
C. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	September 4, 2025

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.