

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

September 18, 2025

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

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

TAC Members Present:

Mr. Brian DeLatte, City of Portland, Chairperson

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

Mr. Daniel McGinn, AICP City of Corpus Christi

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

Mr. Tom Yardley, Commissioner, San Patricio County

Mr. Juan Pimentel, P.E. Nueces County

Mr. Wesley Vardeman, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Ms. Mary Afuso, Coastal Bend Council of Governments (Non-Voting)

MPO Staff Present:

Craig Casper, AICP, Harry Horak, Victor Mendieta, and Carissa Tamez

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TAC AUGUST 21, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Yardley made a motion to approve the TAC August 21, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes.

Mr. Pimentel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (2045 MTP Update) with Amendment 1

Mr. Casper presented this item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed the DRAFT 2045 MTP Update with Amendment 1. The specific changes to the fiscally constrained project list in the 2045 MTP Update as part of Amendment 1 were provided. All projects and programs of the Corpus Christi RTA listed below were recently amended into the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). For consistency, these projects must be consistent and listed in both the FY 2025-2028 TIP and 2045 MTP Update.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Ms. Sales-Evans made a motion to recommend the TPC to approve the DRAFT 2045 MTP Update with Amendment 1.

Mr. Pimentel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Casper presented this item.

As discussed earlier this year, the Corpus Christi MPO Title VI policy document is due for an update. The TPC and TAC received an earlier version of this document in prior meetings. As reported by FHWA, and discussed in previous meetings, several federal executive actions have impacted environmental justice (EJ) considerations within metropolitan transportation planning regulations. The actions collectively

reduced the emphasis on environmental justice and equity considerations in metropolitan transportation planning and related federal infrastructure initiatives.

The current Title VI policy was approved by the MPO Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) on August 2, 2018. The Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that transportation planning and programming be nondiscriminatory on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The federal statute was further clarified and supplemented by the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) stipulates involving the community, particularly those with disabilities, in the development and improvement of services.

Discussion:

Mr. DeLatte asked if the changes being made to the MPO documents are in line with what other MPOs across the state are doing.

- Mr. Casper clarified that while some MPOs have removed discussions on equity and environmental justice, others are in the process of updating. He emphasized that Title VI remains unchanged and that the approach is varied among MPOs.

Mr. Pollack expressed strong opposition to the proposed changes, particularly the rollback of protections for vulnerable community segments. He stated he would vote "no" on the edits, emphasizing that it was a matter of principle. However, he acknowledged the challenges the MPO faces in meeting federal mandates. Mr. Pollack indicated that his decision to vote "no" was not a critique of MPO staff but a stance on preserving protective language for disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Yardley asked whether MPOs have the flexibility to deviate from federal guidance.

- Mr. Casper explained that MPOs can adopt stricter standards than federal minimum requirements, though they must comply with the baseline federal guidelines. He also noted that some MPOs are independently retaining focus areas related to equity.

Mr. DeLatte asked for clarification on why certain focus areas were removed from the document.

- Mr. Casper explained that these areas were removed based on the federal guidance, which set a minimum bar. He suggested that, if necessary, the MPO could revise and reintroduce these focus areas.

Mr. Casper outlined the development of a community impact tool that would help analyze the effects of projects on vulnerable communities. This tool will allow the MPO to adjust project selection to better align with community needs, though the formal policy would remain unchanged.

Ms. Sales-Evans emphasized the complexity of evaluating the positive vs. negative effects of projects on communities. She questioned whether the current document would meaningfully affect this evaluation process.

- Mr. Pollack acknowledged the challenge of accurately capturing and evaluating the benefits of projects, especially those serving vulnerable communities, which might not be in geographically designated areas.

Ms. Sales-Evans questioned if there were any comments from the policy board when this was presented to them.

- Mr. Casper responded that there were no comments to indicate the chance of non-adoption of the document but reiterated that the item can be moved back a month to reassess the proposed changes.

Mr. Pollack suggested that any revisions should focus on the minimum compliance to avoid further unnecessary edits, while still recognizing the importance of addressing community needs.

- Mr. Yardley agreed with the sentiment of minimizing unnecessary changes, emphasizing the importance of not rolling back valuable previous work in the plan.

Mr. DeLatte asked for a clear list of the federal edits versus those that are not required but were made, so the team could focus on what is mandatory for compliance.

- Mr. Casper confirmed that the MPO would highlight the required changes and send the revised document for review by the next meeting. The MPO staff will prepare a version of the document highlighting necessary changes, particularly focusing on deletions of outdated or repealed executive orders, statutes, and guidelines and a revised document shared before the next meeting to allow members to review and ensure alignment with federal requirements.

Motion:

Mr. Pollack made motion to table the DRAFT 2025 Program for Addressing Discrimination (PAD) to allow MPO staff to send TAC a track changes document for review prior to the next TAC meeting. Mr. Vardeman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Casper presented this item.

Last month the TPC released the MPO DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Plan (PPP) for a minimum 45-day public comment period. This month, the opportunity to receive comments from the public and from TPC and TAC members on the Corpus Christi MPO DRAFT 2025 PPP was provided. Once adopted, the PPP defines the processes that the Corpus Christi MPO will use to provide any interested or potentially impacted citizens with reasonable opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. This PPP identifies the outreach and involvement activities for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan development process and updates to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program.

Discussion:

Ms. Sales-Evans questioned whether MPO has considered using social media platforms to increase public engagement by promoting MPO meetings and educating the public about what an MPO is and its role.

- Mr. Casper introduced Harry Horrak, the MPO's new System Administrator, who will also take on responsibilities for the MPO's social media. He expressed hope that the new administrator will help expand and enhance the MPO's social media presence.

Motion:

Mr. Pollack made a motion to recommend the TPC approve the DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Mr. Yardley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2050 MTP Update

Mr. Casper presented this item.

Mr. Casper notified the TAC of RSSP Kick-off, Chamber of Commerce Infrastructure Committee and October Public Meetings

Discussion:

Ms. Sales-Evans expressed concerns about the level of detail and the type of information provided by consultants. Ms. Sales-Evans felt that quick presentations weren't offering enough clarity on the criteria and methods being used for safety project prioritization. She suggested forming a sub-working group or organizing a workshop to go deeper into the analyses and methodology, especially for safety projects.

She emphasized that high-level presentations don't allow enough room to truly understand how decisions are being made. Specifically, she pointed out that many of the safety projects suggested were small, off-system improvements that might not be easily deliverable due to the complexity of federal requirements for funding and local government involvement. She proposed a more robust, corridor-level approach to assessing and prioritizing projects, such as analyzing a multi-mile stretch of roadway for safety issues rather than isolated locations.

- Mr. Casper acknowledged the concerns and offered to host a workshop to address specific topics in more detail. He highlighted that the boundary information from the FTA would be available soon, and there were several ongoing analyses, including crash rates, congestion, and benefit-cost analysis. He invited the group to share any specific areas they wanted to discuss further. He also noted that crash rates in the Corpus Christi MPO area are higher than the state average and compared to peer MPOs (Rio Grande Valley and Killeen). This data indicated a higher-than-average rate of crashes across all levels (property damage, serious injury, fatal).
- Ms. Sales-Evans added that the elevated crash rates might also be tied to behavioral issues like speeding, seatbelt use, and driving under the influence. She mentioned the unique nature of the Corpus Christi area, which may have different dynamics compared to South Texas or military communities, suggesting that peer comparisons might not fully represent the area's challenges. She also reiterated that focusing on individual small safety improvements, like signals, might not lead to meaningful change in the long run and proposed a more comprehensive, corridor-focused approach for addressing safety.
- Mr. Pollack agreed with Ms. Sales-Evans that a more holistic view of corridors would be better, not only for safety but also for mobility and efficiency. Mr. Pollack pointed out the challenge of distributing funds broadly versus concentrating them on end-to-end corridors that make more sense from an origin-destination perspective and emphasized that a fundamental reimagining of how projects are prioritized and funded might be needed, though he acknowledged it would be a significant shift in approach.
- Mr. Casper shared that the Regional Safety Action Plan has already identified High Injury Networks (HINs) that consist of corridors with crash rates significantly higher than the average. These corridors would be revisited as part of the Safe System Plan. He also mentioned the idea of combining congestion management corridors with crash analysis, to focus on both issues simultaneously. Mr. Casper stated he would investigate this idea further and bring it up at the next meeting for discussion.

Mr. McGinn inquired about the Chamber of Commerce meeting, asking if the agenda was more about introducing the process or something more in-depth.

- Mr. Casper explained that the meeting would serve as an introduction to the 2050 MTP, with a focus on educating the Chamber's Infrastructure Committee about the MPO's role, the performance-based process, and the adoption process. A PowerPoint presentation (still in development) will be used, and there will be a survey to engage the public electronically.
- Mr. McGinn requested to receive the PowerPoint once ready and asked if it would be used for other groups as well.
- Mr. Casper confirmed that the PowerPoint will be shared with partner agencies for similar presentations.
- Mr. Yardley mentioned ongoing discussions with the Mayor of Gregory about possibly becoming their own representative instead of having Mr. Yardley represent them. He requested the PowerPoint to share with the City of Gregory during their discussions.

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

None were made or offered.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force	Virtual Meeting	September 24, 2025
B. Transportation Policy Committee	Regular Meeting	October 2, 2025
C. Technical Advisory Committee	Regular Meeting	October 16, 2025
D. 2050 MTP	Public Meetings	October 21, 22 or 23, 2025

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.