

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

AUGUST 1, 2024

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

Judge Krebs called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

TPC Members Present:

Judge David Krebs, San Patricio County, Chairperson

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland

Mr. Mike Walsh, P.E. Texas Department of Transportation

Mr. Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Ms. Emily Martinez, Coastal Bend Council of Governments

Ms. Mary Esther-Guerra Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

MPO Staff Present: Rob MacDonald, P.E., Craig Casper, AICP, Daniel Carrizales, Victor Mendieta, and Karla Carvajal, MBA

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC JULY 17, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Granado made a motion to approve the July 17, 2024 minutes. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION for TXDOT Corpus Christi District Engineer Valente Olivarez, Jr

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

Discussion:

Due to Mr. Olivarez's absence from the TPC meeting, Mr. MacDonald proposed rescheduling the presentation of the resolution to the September 5th meeting.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made the motion to table the approval of the Resolution Of Appreciation for TXDOT Corpus Christi District Engineer Valente Olivarez, Jr. Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 1

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 1 for review by the public and the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This Amendment 1 to the 2045 MTP is necessary due to a review by FHWA of the FY 2023-2026 TIP With Amendment 2. The proposed DRAFT 2045 MTP with Amendment 1 Fiscally Constrained Project List is shown in Attachment 1. FHWA staff determined there are inconsistencies with a few projects in the 2045 MTP compared to projects in the FY 2023-2026 TIP with Amendment 2.

Discussion:

None

Motion:

Mr. Granado made the motion to approve the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 1. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

C. DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 2

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff developed the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 2 for review by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Amendment 2 is necessary to address additional inconsistencies within the fiscally constrained project list after the 2045 MTP with Amendment 1 and the FY 2025-2028 TIP were approved. The proposed DRAFT 2045 MTP with Amendment 2 Fiscally Constrained Project List is shown in Attachment 1. Unless otherwise noted, all of the projects had adjustments to either projects names, descriptions, project limits, cost estimates or funding sources.

Discussion:

Mr. Granado inquired about the highlighted Regional Parkway (MPO-022) project in the cover memo.

Mr. MacDonald explained that TxDOT is currently doing an environmental clearance document for Regional Parkway that's going to take a couple of years to complete. He noted that the project may be renamed or given a new description and that MPO staff wanted to make sure that the information was accurate going forward into the next long range plan. The project was highlighted to act as a reminder to not forget about the project and that some of the money that needed to be taken out of the long range plan to meet fiscal constraint.

Motion:

Mr. Granado made the motion to release the DRAFT 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2045 MTP) with Amendment 2 for the one-month public comment period. Judge Krebs seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

D. DRAFT 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) Objectives

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The preliminary 23 objectives were developed to help achieve the Goals. These Goals were adopted for use last month for purposes of continuing the development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP). Neither the Goals nor the proposed objectives are for final adoption, and all may change. After the objectives are approved for use, specific measurable performance measures will be developed for each objective. The Corpus Christi MPO staff is seeking feedback from the TPC on the objectives and if there is disagreement, to state which parts of the objectives need specific adjustments.

Discussion:

Mayor Skurow inquired about the definition of a safety project.

Mr. Casper explained that all projects incorporate a safety component. He noted that some projects are funded specifically with safety funds, categorized under Category 8 funding, or are specifically designated as safety projects, categorized under Category 7 funding.

Mr. Walsh added that this also includes what TxDOT refers to as the Highway Safety Improvement Program funds. He explained that these funds are allocated through an analysis process, and TxDOT has been awarded these funds as part of a grant program. In this program, they submit projects and provide justification for them, utilizing their crash analysis system or known crash reduction methods. Mr. Walsh then asked Mr. Casper to elaborate on how the analysis would work on the back end if it is reviewed again by the MPO.

Mr. Casper stated that he believes there is an output by SSI that involves a benefit-cost analysis.

Mr. Walsh expressed his concern with the use of the word “all” in Objective 4. He also noted that once the projects are awarded, they are locked, and any changes could potentially cause issues with the system.

Mr. Casper suggested that before TxDOT processes the projects through their system, they should consider running them through the MPO’s software.

Mr. MacDonald concurred, stating that the MPO’s software has proven countermeasures and that using this software would ensure a consistent methodology.

Motion:

Mr. Granado made the motion to approve these as working objectives for use in continuing the development of the 2050 MTP with the understanding that these are not final objectives. Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Planning Area Boundary Update

Mr. Casper presented the item.

As mentioned at the November 2023 TAC and December 2023 TPC meetings, after the Adjusted Urban Areas are approved, the Metropolitan Planning Area is adjusted based on adjacent urban density areas. It is within the Corpus Christi MPO Area (approved by the Texas Governor) that membership of the Corpus Christi Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) is comprised. The TPC has jurisdiction for the 3C Planning Process within the approved MPO boundary to fund projects.

Five options for potential boundary expansions were presented to begin discussions on the planning area boundary update.

Discussion:

Mr. Walsh stated that urban communities would lose eligibility to access rural funds from the state if they are part of the MPO.

Ms. Martinez elaborated on the significance of rural funds and their impact on rural communities, emphasizing their critical importance to the Coastal Bend region. She highlighted the lack of transportation in rural areas and noted that the CBCOG is examining potential transportation plans to expand or create services in those areas. Ms. Martinez pointed out that while Option 5 seems interesting due to the larger pool of funds, it could negatively impact projects in the metropolitan area since the overall allocation remains unchanged. She emphasized that transportation funding in rural communities is scarce.

Mr. Casper acknowledged the significance of this issue and mentioned that the MPO has not yet delved into these specific details. However, he assured that the MPO would address this matter in collaboration with the TxDOT district and headquarters.

Mr. Granado inquired about Option 5, specifically asking if it is possible to remove Brooks County from this option.

Mr. Casper explained that the legislation defines the combined statistical area, suggesting that Brooks County cannot be excluded. He stated that he would verify this information but believes that it needs to remain within the CSA.

Mr. MacDonald reminded the TPC that this discussion is purely informational and that the matter will be brought back to the policy board for a vote at a later date.

Mr. Granado asked when the issue would return for approval.

Mr. MacDonald responded that it needs to be approved by the end of the year and by the adoption of the 2050 MTP.

Mayor Skurow inquired whether these areas could opt to be excluded from the MPO.

Mr. MacDonald clarified that these areas could be part of the MPO but choose not to participate.

Mr. Walsh then asked Mr. MacDonald if they had begun reaching out to these areas to discuss the potential impacts.

Mr. MacDonald stated that further discussion and policy review are needed to make an informed decision and fully understand the funding implications before engaging with the potentially affected areas.

B. Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) Update

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The Regional Safety Action Plan (RSAP) is the implementing document for regional safety projects. The RSAP meets all requirements described in the Safe Streets For All (SS4A) grant requirements document and will allow entities in the region to pursue federal grant funding for highly beneficial safety projects. The Corpus Christi MPO RSAP uses Texas specific Safety Performance Functions (SPF) that were recently completed by TxDOT and TTI to examine crash trends, identify regional emphasis areas, and identify a Targeted Road (High Injury) Network (TRN) that has an elevated history of severe (fatal and injury) crashes. This network is useful for focusing activities such as: intersection upgrades, shoulder widening, improved roadsides, barrier installation, etc. The current process has identified 31 locations, (20 initial locations, plus an additional 11 locations identified paid for by TxDOT) that are highly susceptible to crash reduction and locations that are appropriate for implementing Proven Safety Countermeasures. Detailed analyses of the corridors in the region, using the TTI Safety Performance Functions (SPF) shows arterials that are highly susceptible to safety enhancing investments.

Discussion:

None.

C. 2050 MTP Timeline Review

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The 2050 MTP Timeline shows decision points made by the Transportation Policy Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee. The timeline also shows a General Public section where MPO planning documents (MTP, Active Transportation, Safety Action Plan, etc.) are discussed with the public during public engagement events.

The timeline will be updated monthly and be brought to TAC and TPC every month. It will also be available on the MPO website so people can follow along looking for opportunities to talk about any components of the long range transportation plan.

Discussion:

None.

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

None.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Regional Traffic Safety Task Force:		August 14, 2024
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting/Workshop	August 15, 2024
C. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	September 5, 2024
D. 2050 MTP Public Meetings:		September TBD, 2024
E. Small Area Task Force:		September 18, 2024

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.