

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

November 7, 2024

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

Judge David 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. David Engel, Port of Corpus Christi

Mr. Mike Walsh, P.E. Texas Department of Transportation-Corpus Christi District

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 OCTOBER 3, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the October 3, 2024 minutes.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT Active Transportation, Complete Streets and Micro-mobility Plan

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

The TAC, Active Transportation Stakeholders Group, and MPO Staff recommend that the TPC release the DRAFT Active Transportation, Complete Streets and Micro-mobility Plan for a one-month public comment period. The proposed approval date is during the TPC's December 5th Regular Meeting. Draft documents were provided to the TAC and the Active Transportation Plan Stakeholders Group for their review and comments during their Workshop on September 19th. Comments from the TAC and Active Transportation Stakeholders Group meeting are being addressed. The TAC and Active Transportation Stakeholders Group made their recommendation on releasing the DRAFT Active Transportation Plan for public comment in October.

Discussion:

None

Motion:

Mr. Engel made the motion to approve the release of the DRAFT Active Transportation, Complete Streets, and Micro-mobility Plan for a one-month public comment period.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. Revised 2050 MTP Small Area Forecast Population and Employment Control Totals

Mr. Casper presented the item.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff, Technical Advisory Committee, and Small Area Forecast Task Force recommended updating the Control Totals for Aransas County population and employment in all three

counties in the Study Area. The adopted population forecasts were developed by the Texas Demographic Center (TDC) in accordance with Chapter 468 of the Texas Government Code. The 2050 employment forecasts are what were originally approved based on a derivative of the population forecast that was recommended by the TDC. These forecasts are necessary inputs into the Metropolitan Transportation Planning process. During the September 2023 regular TPC meeting, the highest 2050 forecasts for both population and employment that were provided by the TDC were adopted. The future level and location of population and jobs are vital components of transportation planning and a critical initial step in developing and analyzing the performance of projects desired for inclusion into the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP). The adjustment to the Aransas County 2050 population estimate is based on the estimated population as of 2023 but maintaining the spirit of the 2050 forecast. The 2050 employment forecast was based on the 2021 Data Axle employment data by NAICS and grown out to 2050 consistent with the methodology (a portion of population growth) provided by the Texas Demographic Center.

Discussion:

Mr. Granado pointed out that the numbers for Nueces on one of the graphs were flipped.

Mr. Casper acknowledged and noted that the labeling needs to be switched.

Motion:

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the Adjusted Control totals for population and employment as shown in Table 2 for use in developing the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Planning Area Boundary Status and Bylaws Update

Mr. Casper and Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

After discussion and approval at the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC), the Corpus Christi MPO staff has begun using Boundary Option 1 with a general philosophy to minimize the growth of the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary. To date, the MPO team had discussions with TAC suggesting expansion in 2 ways; to incorporate deep sea terminals, along the 361 Causeway, and in several areas to make the MPO boundary easily discernible in the field. The Updated Option 1 concept will continue to be adjusted based on the contiguous areas that the Small Area Forecast (SAF) shows will reach urban density by 2050. As discussed last month, Option 1 potentially adds up to 7 members to the MPO.

Discussion:

Mr. MacDonald introduced a letter from Mayor Guajardo delivered just before the start of the TPC meeting today noting that the letter would be included in the meeting minutes. The letter addressed the need to review and potentially adjust the MPO's boundary and voting structure.

Mr. MacDonald explained the ongoing discussions about boundary changes due to new census data and confirmed that today's presentation was for information only, with no action required at this time.

Mr. Engel asked whether Mayor Guajardo's letter suggested maintaining current voting weights, questioning how a population-based system might work. Mr. Engel agreed with Mayor Guajardo's recommendation to research other MPOs voting systems.

Mr. MacDonald said they would look at other Texas MPOs, particularly similar ones like Killeen and Beaumont, to compare voting structures, as there are various methods across the state. He noted that currently, each TPC member has one vote.

Mr. Walsh inquired if the boundary changes were urgent, suggesting they could wait until after the 2050 MTP was passed.

Mr. MacDonald confirmed that boundary adjustments could proceed in parallel and that, as long as TxDOT submits the package to the Governor, the 2050 MTP can advance. If necessary, changes could be made to the 2050 MTP through an amendment months later.

Mr. Casper presented an updated draft for adjusting the MPO boundary, explaining that Attachment 1 showed new single- and multi-family housing growth primarily within urban areas. He recommended adding key areas, such as the deep-sea terminals near Harbor Island and the Martin Energy Terminal, to the MPO boundary, similar to the JFK Causeway. Attachments 2-8 outlined specific boundary changes around major areas, including the McCampbell Airport, cities of Portland, Robstown, and Corpus Christi. He suggested adjusting boundaries along distinct roads for clarity but noted some areas, like London, weren't contiguous with current urban areas, affecting inclusion.

Mr. MacDonald stated that Attachment 10 listed TxDOT's checklist for MPO redesignation, including maps, resolutions, and letters of support, which would be submitted to TxDOT and the governor. He outlined proposed bylaw updates, including adding possible weighted voting for seven new members, revising meeting schedules, and updating the technical committee's name.

Mr. Engel asked if legal counsel would review the changes, and Mr. MacDonald confirmed the Nueces County attorney would be involved.

Mr. Walsh questioned the definition of "contiguous" for areas like the London area versus Port Aransas.

Mr. Casper clarified that official urbanized areas set by the Secretary of Transportation define 'contiguous.'

Mr. MacDonald added that he planned to discuss MPO membership with nearby communities at an upcoming meeting with the Coastal Bend Council of Governments.

B. Regional Focus Groups Update

Mr. Casper presented the item.

As part of the Public Outreach Process, the Corpus Christi MPO has contracted with a private consultant to conduct a total of 10 focus groups: 8 online and 2 in-person. These focus groups are designed to be statistically valid to match our MPO's regional demographics from the 2020 U.S. Census. The Focus Groups were conducted the week of September 9-13, 2024, and had approximately 79 participants. The questions posed by the consultants to the residents of the region were presented in the TPC packet. Corpus Christi MPO staff were deliberately excluded from these Focus Group meetings to avoid any biases from our knowledge of transportation in the region.

Discussion:

Mr. Granado inquired about the selection process for focus group participants.

Mr. Casper explained that the consultant applied 2020 Census demographics for the metropolitan area and utilized targeted social media ads to attract and obtain participants to match the demographic profile of our region.

C. 2050 MTP DRAFT Financial Plan Overview

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

Corpus Christi MPO staff provided excerpts from existing Corpus Christi MPO documents that contain the current estimates for funding for the 2050 MTP for highway and transit projects and programs, along with guidance provided by the Texas Division of FHWA on October 10, 2024.

Discussion:

None.

D. 2050 MTP DRAFT Fiscally Constrained Project Lists

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

Corpus Christi MPO staff provided the existing Corpus Christi MPO and TxDOT documents that contain the currently approved Fiscally Constrained Project Lists for highways and transit. Additionally, they presented the updated process for the TxDOT 2026 UTP leading to the approval of the 10-year list of projects selected by the Corpus Christi MPO and submitted into the TxDOT process.

Discussion:

Mr. Engel asked whether the port's funding competes with MPO funds for projects like highways.

Mr. MacDonald clarified that the port's funding, like the \$105 million it received, came from separate federal programs and did not take away from MPO funds. He explained that while MPO funds are allocated for different projects, the port could apply for projects like access roads, but not for port facilities themselves.

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

None

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Small Area Forecast Task Force:		November 13, 2024
B. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting/Workshop	November 21, 2024
C. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	December 5, 2024

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.