

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

December 5, 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

Judge Connie Scott, Nueces County, Vice Chairperson

Mayor Cathy Skurow, City of Portland

Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi

Mr. Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

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

Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

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

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC NOVEMBER 7, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Walsh made a motion to approve the November 7, 2024 minutes.

Judge Scott seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

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

Mr. Casper presented some transportation challenges within the MPO region using statistics from the American Community Survey and feedback provided by the recently completed MPO focus groups.

Mr. Casper introduced Kevin St. Jaques from Freese and Nichols to present an overview of the final Active Transportation, Complete Streets, and Micro-mobility Plan.

The Active Transportation, Complete Streets, and Micro-mobility Plan has completed its development and public outreach efforts and is ready for approval by the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). These documents were presented to the TAC, and the Active Transportation Plan Stakeholders Group as well as made the documents available on our MPO's Social Pinpoint Project Page for the public to review. To date, there have been no additional public or agency comments received during the one-month public comment period regarding the Plan. The full listing of comments received during the development of the Active Transportation Plan is contained in Appendix D: Public and Stakeholder Engagement.

Discussion:

Mayor Skurow inquired about the number of fatalities statistic within the region that was mentioned at the beginning of the presentation and wanted to know more about it.

Mr. Casper explained that the data comes from the TxDOT Crash Records Information System (CRIS). The statistics came from analyzing the last 5 years of data (2019 through June 2024). Mr. Casper noted that there were 102 fatalities, 79 of which were pedestrians, and the remaining were bicyclists.

Mayor Skurow asked if the crash data captures whether the crashes are activity related or if they are transportation related.

Mr. Casper explained that TxDOT is continually updating their reporting efforts but that particular information is not captured currently. Based on the current data, the crashes appear to be more activity related, not occurring on sidewalks, and are often in places where drivers do not expect to encounter pedestrians/bicyclists.

Mayor Skurow commented on how there needs to be a balance between trying to reduce fatalities and serious injuries of bicycle and pedestrian users and the planning of these types of facilities such as shared use paths.

Mayor Skurow commended that it was a really good plan.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the DRAFT Active Transportation, Complete Streets, and Micro-mobility Plan.

Judge Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT TxDOT 2026 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Project List

Mr. MacDonald presented the item.

TxDOT and the Corpus Christi MPO update the 10-year Unified Transportation Program (UTP) every year on a similar schedule. Despite its importance to TxDOT as a planning and programming tool, the UTP is neither a budget nor a guarantee that projects will or can be built. However, it is a critical tool in guiding transportation project development within a 10-year planning context. The TxDOT 2026 UTP Schedule illustrates the current call-for-projects schedule for projects to be considered for funding.

Discussion:

Mr. Walsh asked if there was a possibility to remove a project from the DRAFT list or reduce priority.

Mr. MacDonald confirmed that it was possible to remove a project or reorder the list.

Mr. Walsh noted that the possible impacts of some of the projects on the list have not been fully quantified, so it may be an option for the TPC to delay some of these projects until more is known.

Mr. MacDonald confirmed that the option was a fair consideration but reiterated that if a project doesn't get put into the UTP list now, it will not be evaluated in this cycle for future funding.

Mayor Skurow asked why the US 181 Harbor Bridge Voluntary Relocation Program project (MPO-008) was on the list in Attachment 1 if the project was already completed.

Mr. MacDonald explained that Attachment 1 was the fiscally constrained project list from the prior 2045 MTP with Amendment 2. It is the full list of previously evaluated projects that TAC or TPC members could have requested as projects to be included into the DRAFT 2026 UTP project list. Completed projects like the Voluntary Relocation Program have not been removed from the old list, however these projects will be removed for the new long-range transportation plan project list.

Mr. Granado asked for clarification on the difference between Attachment 1 and Attachment 4 in the packet.

Mr. MacDonald explained that Attachment 1 is the current list of fiscally constrained projects within the 2045 MTP with Amendment 2. Attachment 4 is the DRAFT 2026 Unified Transportation Program list of fiscally constrained projects, and this list is the list to be used for the recommendation of this agenda item.

Mr. Granado asked about the timeframe to add projects to this 10-year list.

Mr. MacDonald confirmed that this 10-year list is updated every year and that the MPO updates the 25-year list, the 10-year list, and the 4-year list on a variety of planning cycles.

Mr. Walsh asked if the SH 361 project (from PR B22 to Port A) on the island could be put on the UTP list this year so that the evaluation process could be started.

Mr. MacDonald responded that adding the SH 361 project to this UTP list was not the recommendation of TAC during their November 21st meeting but noted that it could still be added by the TPC.

Mr. MacDonald pointed out that in Attachment 3, the SH 361 project was identified as a project for potential consideration, however TAC members did not recommend including it in this cycle.

Mayor Skurow asked why the TAC did not recommend adding SH 361 to the list.

Mr. Casper explained that the 2026 UTP list needs to be fiscally constrained per direction of TxDOT Program management, and that TAC members did not propose projects to remove to include the SH 361 project, therefore it was not added to the DRAFT 2026 UTP list.

Mayor Skurow then asked whether adding SH 361 to this list or removing another project would cause issues.

Mr. Walsh reiterated Mr. Casper's point about the UTP list needing to remain fiscally constrained. Mr. Walsh further added that the environmental study for the SH 361 project will not be impacted.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the modified list of projects for submission to the TxDOT DRAFT 2026 Unified Transportation Program process.

Judge Scott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. New Harbor Bridge Update Presentation

Mr. Walsh introduced Lynn Allison from the construction firm of Flatiron and Dragados to give an update on the New Harbor Bridge.

B. Corpus Christi MPO Planning Area Boundary Change Status and Draft Bylaws Amendments

Mr. Casper and Mr. MacDonald presented this 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 federal "3C Planning Process" within the approved MPO boundary to fund projects. TxDOT and FHWA approved the Adjusted Urban Areas shown in Attachment 1.

The Corpus Christi MPO continues developing several Small Area Forecast (SAF) scenarios that allocate the Texas State Demographic Office forecast growth to the Year 2050. This will also modify the MPO Planning Area Boundary. This SAF process leads to a consensus as to which should be used to identify areas that will be urban in density by the year 2050 which is the horizon year of the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Federal regulations, as summarized below, require MPO Planning Area boundaries to include Adjusted Urban Areas, as well as those areas projected to become urban during the next 20+ years.

The Corpus Christi MPO staff requests the TPC review and comment on possible changes to the MPO's Bylaws on the following topics:

- Ethics Policy (required)
- Composition of Voting Members of the TPC and possible Alternates/Designees
- Day/Time for TPC and TAC Meetings, to achieve consistent quorum
- Technical/Transportation Advisory Committee name change proposal

- Invite the City of Gregory to Participate as a voting member
- Consider changing the TPC and TAC voting structure as outlined by the City of Corpus Christi

Discussion:

Mayor Guajardo suggested changing the meeting time to 1 p.m. and allowing voting members to designate alternates.

Mayor Skurow was in agreement with having alternates, but they need to be the same designated alternate.

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

None were made or offered.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting/Workshop	December 19, 2024
B. Small Area Forecast Task Force:		December 19, 2024
C. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	January 2, 2025

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.