

**CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (TPC) REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 1, 2025**

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-Corpus Christi District

Mr. David Engel, Port of Corpus Christi

Mr. Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

MPO Staff Present:

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

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC MARCH 6, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Engel made a motion to approve the March 6, 2025 minutes.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Boundary Change

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

During the March TAC Workshop, there was a lengthy discussion about the process used to adjust the MPO Planning Area Boundary. The TAC has asked that the MPO Planning Area Boundary adopted in January 2025, be rescinded.

Mr. MacDonald outlined the actions that MPO Staff, TAC, and TPC previously took in regard to the MPO boundary change.

- TPC approved the new MPO boundary change in January 2025.
- MPO Staff put together a boundary submittal packet following the rules/guidance from TxDOT.
- MPO Staff received guidance from TxDOT-TPP regarding some issues with the boundary submittal packet.
- MPO Staff revised the boundary submittal packet, based on TxDOT-TPP guidance, and brought revisions to the boundary submittal packet to TPC in March.
- In March 2025, the TPC tabled the revised boundary submittal packet.
- In March 2025, MPO Staff held a TAC workshop, bringing the boundary change discussion back to TAC.
- In April 2025, the TAC recommended rescinding the January 2025 approved boundary change and requested a joint TAC/TPC workshop to discuss the MPO boundary change process

Motion:

Mr. Engel made a motion to rescind the previously approved TPC January 2nd action on the MPO Boundary change based on the Technical Advisory Committee recommendation.

Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Walsh raised concerns about the impact of the boundary change on road projects, particularly in the London area, and the potential funding implications.

Mr. Walsh stated the London area is an area that TxDOT thinks has a large population growth, but even if there isn't growth, there are major roads (FM 43, FM 2444 connecting out to SH 286) that lead to major metropolitan areas. He further added that TxDOT currently has a project for freeway extension in this area and that if the boundary change were to take place, that MPO funded project would be outside the new boundary. Mr. Walsh said that it doesn't look good when funded projects are outside the boundary. Mr. Walsh would like the board to look at the boundary again and make sure everyone is in agreement. Mr. Walsh would like the TPC to go through the process with Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Casper to further explain how the state demographer came to their conclusion of where they think population growth is occurring. Mr. Walsh wanted clarification on whether there is population growth or not or if it is migration. So the population may not be growing in Corpus Christi, but there does seem to be shifting to a new area towards the London area.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) Update 2025

Mr. Casper presented this item.

The scheduled update to the Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan is due in July 2025. Aspects of it related to Equity needs to be removed due to the new federal government direction. TxDOT completed Statewide Strategic Public Engagement Guidance in January 2025 that will be used to finalize the document. The public review period for this 2025 PPP document must be a minimum of 45 days. The requested action this month is reviewing the current Corpus Christi MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) and providing feedback on the outreach and communications efforts during development of the adopted 2045 MTP Update and the 2025-2028 TIP. This task will use the feedback received from the After-Action survey distributed to the TAC on March 13, 2025, for additional updates. The TPC was asked to take the survey as well on April 25, 2025.

A PPP defines the processes that the Corpus Christi MPO will use to provide any interested or potentially impacted citizens with meaningful opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. The updated 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.

Discussion:

Mayor Skurow mentioned to Mr. Casper about a guidance factor on this update and the DEI.

- Mr. Casper responds yes with both State and Federal Level guidance.
- Mayor Skurow requested guidance documents from Mr. Casper.

Mr. Walsh received letters of complaint about the process in the past and asked if we are changing anything to address the contents of the complaint.

- Mr. Casper responded that MPO Staff only received one letter and we are aware that TxDOT directly received a second letter.
- Mr. Casper stated that MPO has not received the second letter and would like to see it.
 - Mr. Walsh stated he would make sure the MPO receives the second letter.

Mayor Skurow inquired about the letter of complaint, questioning whether it was about the process or the current plan.

- Mr. Casper stated that the first letter was process oriented and was unaware of what was in the second letter.
- Mr. MacDonald noted that the complaint was about our process, for the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program and related to one or two projects. Mr. MacDonald stated once we receive the 2nd letter, the MPO will present it to TPC.

Mayor Skurow mentioned that any letters would be helpful towards the process and reviewing the timeframe of the comment.

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

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

The PAD document is due for an update in September 2025. As reported by FHWA, several executive actions have recently impacted environmental justice (EJ), Title VI, and equity considerations within metropolitan transportation planning regulations. On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14148, titled “Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions.” This order rescinded several prior executive orders, including:

- Executive Order 11246 (September 24, 1965): Addressed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- Executive Order 12898 (February 11, 1994): Focused on environmental justice in minority and low-income populations.
- Executive Order 13583 (August 18, 2011): Established a coordinated government-wide initiative to promote diversity and inclusion in the federal workforce.
- Executive Order 13672 (July 21, 2014): Amended previous orders to enhance equal employment opportunity in the federal government and among federal contractors.

The revocation of these orders signifies a shift away from mandated consideration of environmental justice and equity in federal actions, including transportation planning. On March 10, 2025, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy rescinded two memos from the previous administration that encouraged states to incorporate climate change and equity considerations into infrastructure projects. These memos had emphasized:

- Designing infrastructure to account for climate change.
- Adopting electric vehicle charging and renewable energy technologies.
- Involving disadvantaged and underrepresented groups in project planning.

These actions collectively reduce the emphasis on environmental justice and equity considerations in metropolitan transportation planning and related federal infrastructure initiatives.

Discussion:

Mayor Skurow commented that a lot of new changes are happening, and those changes are open to interpretation. Mayor Skurow also stated that before decisions are made, the TPC should consider talking about legal aspects of the federal changes so the TPC can have a full understanding of legal interpretations and requirements, such as a Federal Lobbyists or a Federal Lawyer.

Mr. Walsh recommended that we should ask the same group that is coming to next month’s meeting and include one more person to be added to the meeting.

Mayor Skurow stated that if we had done this at the beginning of the boundary process, we wouldn’t be in the same situation making these decisions.

Mr. MacDonald added that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has new federal rules and regulations and needs to include the CCRTA staff because they are our official planning partners. Mr. MacDonald

continued by saying we have an agreement with the CCRTA to do planning together and that any FTA new rules and regulations will intertwine with our planning process. Mr. MacDonald also stated that we check in with Texas legislative actions and local governments policies and determine how those involve our regional planning. He further added that TPC has the ultimate decision on how this MPO is going to do its planning.

Mayor Skurow questioned whether they know of any Law Firms that specialize in these types of requests.

- Mr. MacDonald stated that TxDOT is working with their connections to get the interpretation by talking with policy makers and attorneys for answers.
- Mr. MacDonald added they will bring forth the latest information as it becomes available.

C. After Action Report for the 2045 MTP Update and FY 2025-2028 TIP

Mr. Casper presented this item.

MPO Staff asked the TPC members to review and evaluate the processes used that resulted in the 2025-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update (2045 MTP Update) and the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Attachment 1 shows the results of the survey of TAC members and their alternates. The survey will be sent to TPC members in a separate email on April 25, 2025.

This evaluation will result in an After-Action Report (AAR). An AAR is a structured approach for assessing performance by reflecting on the work of a group and identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement from successes and failures. An AAR requires an open professional discussion from all participants to adjust the processes that will result in the 2050 MTP and the 2027-2030 TIP. This approach will contribute to the Corpus Christi MPO's culture of continuous organizational learning and improvement.

This AAR effort will use surveys of the TPC, TAC, and our various Task Forces and Stakeholder Groups to identify issues and strengths and use them to produce recommendations for process enhancements for both the 2050 MTP and the 2027-2030 TIP processes. The Public Participation Plan (PPP) itself is being reviewed and updated in a parallel process using the information garnered during this review process. The TPC can expect to receive both the Draft AAR document and the Draft PPP at the July meeting.

Discussion:

Mr. Engel asked what are the plans for the information after it is gathered.

- Mr. Casper responded the information will be used to refine MPO planning and programming processes.

Mr. Engel asked if there will be an action plan.

- Mr. Casper confirmed yes.

Mr. Granado asked who this survey was distributed to.

- Mr. Casper answered the survey was sent to the TAC mailing list, and that included non-voting TAC members as well.

Mr. Granado asked how many TAC Members do we have.

- Mr. Casper answered TAC has 7 members, and we got 8 responses. One of the responses was from someone not a primary voting member of TAC.

Mr. Granado wanted clarification on the comment on question number 7 of the survey.

- Mr. Casper classified that the comment was accurate.

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

Mr. Walsh announced that on May 10, 2025, Ribbon Cutting for the Harbor Bridge at the Port Administration Building parking lot.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

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| A. Technical Advisory Committee: | Regular Meeting | May 15, 2025 |
| B. Transportation Policy Committee: | Regular Meeting | June 5, 2025 |
| C. Joint TPC and TAC Workshop for MPO Boundary Change | | June 5, 2025 |
| D. Transportation Policy Committee | Regular Meeting | July 3, 2025 Confirm/Change |
- 8. ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.