

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

AUGUST 7, 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

Mayor Paulette Guajardo, City of Corpus Christi

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

Mr. Art Granado, Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority

Emily Martinez, MPA Coastal Bend Council of Governments (non-voting)

MPO Staff Present:

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

MPO Attorney:

Ms. Mary Esther Guerra, Nueces County Assistant County Attorney

2. NON-AGENDA ITEMS PUBLIC COMMENTS

None were made or offered.

3. APPROVAL OF THE TPC JULY 10, 2025, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve July 10, 2025, Rescheduled Regular Meeting minutes.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

A. DRAFT FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) with Amendment 2

Ms. Christina Perez from the Corpus Christi RTA presented this item.

The Corpus Christi Regional Transportation Authority (CCRTA) proposed an amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include fourteen new projects. These projects, along with two existing projects, will use Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportionment years 2022 through 2024 for formula funds 5307, 5339, and 5310. The total federal amount across all fourteen projects is \$23,460,816. This amendment fully accounts for all previously unallocated FTA awarded apportionments.

The CCRTA has also added the following project, which was previously funded using CCRTA local sales tax revenue:

- A/E for the Rehab/Renovation of the Maintenance Building

The project recently was awarded federal funding in the amount of \$1.94 million. Additionally, CCRTA has made changes to the following two projects:

- MPO Project # CCRTA-116: The current federal FTA funds are decreasing from \$1,257,052 to \$896,326 because the project is estimated to come under budget.
- MPO Project # CCRTA-118: The current federal FTA amount is increasing from \$142,400 to \$266,965 to ensure all projects within this project are fully funded.

Therefore, the amendment to the FY 2025-2028 TIP includes fourteen federally funded new projects and one locally funded project, for a total of fifteen projects.

Discussion:

Mr. MacDonald explained that following discussions with FHWA, TxDOT, and transit authorities, a second component of the FY 2025-2028 TIP Amendment has been added. The additional cover memo in the TPC Agenda Packet revises the project descriptions for two Gregory Interchange–related projects to ensure consistency across all planning documents and stakeholders. Because TxDOT is already engaged in the design phase of this substantial project, adopting the updated language now will prevent the need for a separate TIP amendment, with a separate public comment period, and an estimated 60-day delay for this project.

A note of congratulations was offered to CCRTA for securing \$1.94 million in federal funding for the design of a new maintenance facility. If in the future construction funds are awarded from the FTA, the corresponding construction costs will be amended into the FY 2025-2028 TIP.

Mayor Skurow posed a question to Mr. Granado asking where the construction costs for the CCRTA maintenance facility will be allocated.

- Mr. Granado confirmed that the funding split for the future construction costs would follow a typical 80% federal / 20% local cost-share model.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2025-2028 TIP with Amendment 2, including the Transit projects as described previously, plus updating the two TxDOT project descriptions as shown in Part 2 of the TIP with Amendment 2 memo.

Mr. Walsh seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

B. DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with Amendment 1

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

During the last several months, the Texas MPOs and TxDOT-TPP have been working on new Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs). The Corpus Christi MPO has an approved 2-year UPWP, therefore does not need to develop a new UPWP for FY 2026. However, in discussions with FHWA/FTA staff in Texas, there is a clarification for all MPOs in Texas regarding the ***“2.5% Set-Aside for Increasing Safe and Accessible Transportation Options”***. The FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP with Amendment 1 was provided to the TAC for their review and discussion.

In prior amendments to older UPWPs, the Corpus Christi MPO modified Subtask 3.3 in our UPWP in response to a request by TxDOT as part of their April 8, 2024, Work Order Letter 2 for FY 2024. That letter highlighted the requirement for the Corpus Christi MPO to have specific language in the current Unified Planning Work Program related to the federal requirement to spend a minimum of 2.5% of the MPO’s Federal Planning funds (PL) on planning activities *“...to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities...”*. That change was accomplished and carried forward into the current FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP.

In the past fiscal years of FY 2022-2025, tracking of the 24 MPOs 2.5% set-aside by TxDOT was not completed to the satisfaction of FHWA/FTA. Therefore, all of the 2.5% set-aside Planning (PL) funds need to be accounted for in all UPWPs of all 24 MPOs in Texas. For the Corpus Christi MPO, this requires amending our FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP. The amount of the 2.5% set-aside for each MPO was provided in the Table in Attachment 3. The specific amount to be rolled forward into our FY 2026 UPWP is \$77,920.89. We rounded up to \$78,000. To maintain fiscal constraint of the FY 2026 UPWP, we reallocated funds from other Subtasks in FY 2026. These were shown in the cover memo, as copies of the tables contained in the DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP with Amendment 1 document.

Additional guidance from TxDOT was that all MPOs remove references to the federal Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs) as well as removal of terms referenced by the current Administration’s Executive Orders (EOs). These changes are found primarily on pages 9-11 of the DRAFT FY 2025 and FY

2026 UPWP with Amendment 1 document. All remaining changes are shown through track-changes format in the document.

Discussion:

None.

Motion:

Mayor Skurow made a motion to approve the DRAFT FY 2025 and FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with Amendment 1.

Mr. Granado seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Casper presented this item.

This item is requesting the TPC release the Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP) for a minimum of 45-days of public comment. This means that the soonest the PPP is approved will be during the October TPC meeting. A PPP defines the processes that the Corpus Christi MPO will use to provide all interested or potentially impacted citizens with meaningful opportunities to participate in the metropolitan transportation planning and programming processes. The 2025 PPP, linked in Attachment 1, identifies the types and steps in outreach and involvement activities for both the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2050 MTP) process and updates to the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). Section 3 of the 2025 PPP outlines the adopted policies and principles for public outreach. These are on the top of page 2 of this memo and have not changed from the 2021 PPP. The major changes to the PPP are removing aspects related to equity. TxDOT recently completed the Statewide Strategic Public Engagement Guidance in January 2024 that was used to update the document. The public review period for this document is a minimum of 45 days. The primary outreach effort outlined in the PPP is going to places where people are already meeting, instead of inviting them to a meeting we are hosting.

Discussion:

Mr. Walsh raised concern regarding citizens who submitted a complaint approximately a year and a half ago. He asked whether any follow-up actions are being taken and if the original criteria that prompted the complaint remain unchanged.

- Mr. Casper announced a strategic shift in the MPO's public outreach: rather than hosting MPO-organized events, MPO staff will go to the community by attending existing gatherings such as city council, county commission, school district, and professional group meetings. Mr. MacDonald, for example, spoke at a Meeting of the Women in Construction group, while Mr. Casper attended a school district meeting. Ms. Tamez has created a list of these outreach efforts.
- Mr. Walsh mentioned that Ms. Martinez, the Executive Director of the CBCOG, may have some resources for outreach as well.

Motion:

Mr. Walsh made a motion to release the DRAFT 2025 Public Participation Plan for at least a 45-day public comment period.

Mayor Skurow seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. FY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Schedule

Mr. Casper presented this item.

The TIP/STIP are the federally required, fiscally constrained improvement program which contains multimodal transportation projects and investments that are funded and ready for implementation

within the next four years. The State develops the STIP in cooperation with the MPO and includes each metropolitan TIP without change after approval of the TIP by the MPO. The TIP/STIP includes capital and non-capital surface transportation projects (or phases of projects) within the boundaries of the State. The TIP/STIP includes all regionally significant projects including those funded with non-Federal (local) funds. The TIP/STIP must be approved by both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for projects to be eligible for federal funding under 23 USC and 49 USC, Chapter 53. The TIP/STIP lists multimodal projects, indicating in which year the project activity will proceed.

Discussion:

Mr. Walsh noted that although there has been a decline in available funding, projects were not cancelled, rather, they have been postponed by one year. The overall four-year window remains largely unchanged compared to last year, other than the projects scheduled for the first year. Essentially, the same projects are moving forward but they're just taking a bit more time.

- Mayor Skurow inquired whether the delays in certain projects were due to reduced funding, increased costs, personnel issues, or contractor pricing.
- Mr. Walsh confirmed that the delays are primarily driven by funding constraints coupled with rising project costs. He explained that while projects are not being cut, the increased construction costs and paired with a slight economic downturn mean that available funding does not stretch as far as before.

B. Transportation Planning Director Annual Review Process

Mr. MacDonald presented this item.

In accordance with the Transportation Planning Director's 2024 Employment Agreement, the TPC performs an annual evaluation. For the first five years, the evaluation occurred in April. Last year the review occurred in September. The TPC was asked to talk about the evaluation process. After the discussion, the TPC directed the MPO Attorney to conduct the process with TPC members leading to an evaluation in Executive Session and possible action at the September 4th Regular Meeting.

In a few of the past evaluations, the Transportation Planning Director provided a self-evaluation summary of the activities contained in the Employment Agreement. These activities are from the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program or UPWP.

The UPWP is the budget for the Corpus Christi MPO. This is the document used by TxDOT to reimburse the MPO for staff hours and expenses to deliver the required federal MPO planning program. The UPWP is delivered with 100% federal funds. Nueces County is the Fiscal Agent for the Corpus Christi MPO.

In prior evaluations, the following information was provided to the TPC members in the annual evaluation process:

- General list of accomplishments over the past year related to the UPWP tasks/activities
- As part of the MPO's normal reporting to TxDOT, the annual UPWP subtasks review and statement of accomplishments is contained in the separate documents known as the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) for all fiscal years, including FY 2024, the last submitted APER.
- List of available salaries for Texas MPO Directors.
- A list of the current staff members and their current salaries and the proposed increases in the approved two-year UPWP (FY 2025 and FY 2026). The UPWP, or Unified Planning Work Program is the annual budget for the Corpus Christi MPO. TPC approved this budget on July 17, 2024.
- Excerpts of Nueces Count-generated monthly billing statements to TxDOT for 1) the UPWP activities using 100% federal Planning (PL) funds and 2) 100% federal funds through the COVID-

relief program CRRSAA for separate MPO activities using consultant services and data acquisition.

Discussion:

Judge Krebs directed the County Attorney to collect information pertaining to last year's review and forward it to the committee for review. The committee will discuss this information at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Walsh reported that the northbound exit ramp for US 181 (New Harbor Bridge) with its pedestrian walkway is expected to open in about one month. This activation will trigger the demolition timeline for the old Harbor Bridge: once all traffic (vehicles and pedestrians) has been transitioned, the old bridge will be closed off and demolition begins with a one-year completion window. Decorative LED lighting remains in progress, with a revised target of completion by the end of next month. Plans are underway for a celebratory event to illuminate the bridge, and Mr. Walsh is open to event suggestions.

- Judge Krebs expressed his eagerness for the opening of the new exit ramp.
- Mayor Skurow noted that on a Saturday night, she observed more activity on the old Harbor Bridge than on the new one and inquired whether traffic counts support that impression.
- Mr. Walsh noted that with the old Harbor Bridge expected to close soon, traffic monitoring has become more challenging due to access restrictions. He also conveyed that North Beach residents have reported increased traffic congestion and difficulty navigating the area.
- Mayor Skurow added that several traffic signs appear damaged or confusing and should be reviewed and corrected.

Judge Krebs acknowledged the presence of Mayor Guajardo at the committee meeting.

Mr. Granado pointed out the CCRTA's announcement of the \$1.94 million allocated for the design of the new maintenance facility.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

A. Technical Advisory Committee:	Regular Meeting	August 21, 2025
B. Transportation Policy Committee:	Regular Meeting	September 4, 2025

8. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.