

**Harlingen-San Benito
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee (TPC)
Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2017
Approved at the December 20, 2017 TPC Meeting**

Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Ben Gomez called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. The meeting took place at the San Benito Municipal Building, 401 N. Sam Houston Blvd., San Benito, Texas 78586.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Mr. Joel Garza stated there was quorum.

Members Present:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Mayor Chris Boswell, | City of Harlingen |
| ✓ Mayor Ben Gomez, | City of San Benito |
| ✓ Mayor Mark Sanchez, | Town of Combes |
| ✓ Mayor George Rivera, | City of Palm Valley |
| ✓ Mr. Ben Medina, | City of Rio Hondo Designee |
| ✓ Mayor Rick Cavazos, | City of Los Indios |
| ✓ Mr. Jaime Sandoval, | City of La Feria Designee |
| ✓ Ms. Rachel Flores, | City of Santa Rosa Designee |
| ✓ Mr. David Garza, | Cameron County PCT # "3" |
| ✓ Mr. Gus Ruiz, | Cameron County PCT # "4" |
| ✓ Mr. Pete Alvarez, | TxDOT |
| ✓ Mr. Dan Serna, | City of Harlingen City Manager |
| ✓ Mr. Manuel De La Rosa, | City of San Benito City Manager |

Others Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Mr. Fred Bell, | City of San Benito |
| ✓ Mr. Andres Espinoza, | TxDOT |
| ✓ Mr. Raymond Sanchez, | TxDOT |
| ✓ Mr. Sergio Sustaita, | TxDOT |
| ✓ Mr. Tom Logan, | LRGVDC-Valley Metro |
| ✓ Mr. Rick Kelly, | Valley Morning Star |
| ✓ Mr. Carlos Sanchez, | City of Harlingen |
| ✓ Ms. Paolina Vega, | Cameron County |
| ✓ Mr. Joel Garza, | HSBMPO |
| ✓ Mr. Victoria Burbach, | HSBMPO |
| ✓ Ms. Jennifer Prado, | HSBMPO |

Public Comment

No public comments were made.

Consideration and Action to Approve the October 12, 2017 Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) Meeting Minutes

Mayor Ben Gomez asked the committee if there were any additions or corrections to the October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

A motion to approve the October 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes was made by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Mr. Jaime Sandoval. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Consideration and Action to Approve the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1

Mr. Joel Garza presented this item and informed the members that we received a grant for the amount of \$12,000 for a bicycle and safety educational campaign, and has been included in the UPWP as required by the grant application. Other language added was "a short video as we produce to show bicycle and pedestrian safety tips. These videos will be aired local channels and movie theaters within the HSBMPO area, and any cost related will be obtain from the PL funds.

A motion to approve the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment #1 was made by Mayor Boswell and seconded by Commissioner Ruiz. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Consideration and Action to Approve the HSBMPO's Ten Year Plan

Mr. Joel Garza presented this item and informed the members that this item was brought up as a discussion item at the past meeting and no comments were made and now we are presenting for approval. Mr. Garza reminded the members that with house bill 20 the state legislation requires MPO's to do a 10-year plan that follows the state UTP.

A motion to approve the HSBMPO's Ten Year Plan was made by Commissioner Garza and seconded by Mayor Boswell. Upon a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Discussion of HSBMPO's FY 2018 MPO 101 Presentations

Mr. Joel Garza presented this item and informed the members that a few months ago we hosted an MPO 101 presentation in Harlingen and now we would like to offer this presentation to all the City Commissions on a smaller scale (short 5 to 10 min presentation) to each city. This is to let elected officials know and be aware of what the MPO is and its function. Scheduling for the presentations will be done soon and each city will be contacted to coordinate for the presentation.

Discussion of MPO Merger

Mr. Joel Garza presented this item and informed the TPC Members that Mr. Alvarez will be speaking for this item.

Mr. Alvarez, gave an update on the MPO merger discussions that have been taking place. During the last meeting Mr. Alvarez reminded the members that last month he gave a presentation regarding all the various numbers and also that he did not have an opportunity to present this the Brownsville MPO, but that just recently he finally had the opportunity to present to them. As part of a request from the MPO Director for the Brownsville MPO that as for the spreadsheet breakdown and the bylaws that are being proposed for the possible merger. Mr. Alvarez responded by submitting the spreadsheet that is before each member, but however Mr. Alvarez did not feel comfortable submitting the bylaws at that time without having the opportunity to visit with the three mayors, Mayor Martinez, Mayor Boswell and Mayor Hernandez. More work is being but in to make these bylaws presentable and suitable for everyone.

Status Reports

TxDOT Project Status Reports

Mr. Sergio Sustaita with TxDOT presented the Project Status Reports for the projects that are underway. Mr. Sustaita informed the members of each stage and status for the following three projects; FM 106, Rio Hondo Lift Bridge and the Combes project. Mr. Sustaita also informed that members that and/if anyone has questions in regards to the presentation of projects he will be available after the meeting to answer any questions or concerns.

For Informational Purposes Only

Valley Metro Status Report Updates

A representative, Tom Logan, from Valley Metro was present to provide the members with status reports. Mr. Logan informed the members that the total ridership for the month of September was 78k passengers and that Harlingen's Retail Route 41 now has a big bus in operation and there has been an increase in ridership.

For Informational Purposes Only

Meeting Adjournment

Mayor Gomez adjourned the meeting at 1:52 pm