

HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 24, 2005
1:30 PM

1 Roll Call

Mr. Andrew A. Canon called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. The Technical Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the TxDOT Offices, 600 West Expressway 83, Pharr, TX. Present were representatives from The Cities of Alamo, Hidalgo, McAllen, Mercedes, Mission, Pharr, San Juan and TxDOT. Also present was ex-officio member: US Fish & Wildlife and Hidalgo County Auditors Office.

2 Adoption of Minutes from October 11, 2005

Mr. Andrew A. Canon asked if there were any changes and or corrections that needed to be made. Mr. Steve Labuda, Fish & Wildlife commented on one correction that needed to be made on item #5. **The City of Alamo approved the minutes with the corrections, The City of Mercedes seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Note** Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that we will move on to item 4 and come back to item 3. Mr. Richard Hinojosa, LRGVDC Deputy Executive Director, he will give a brief statement on the results of the Oct. 17-19th Transit meeting that took place in Austin.

3 Discussion of the Transit Study (RFP & Memo Attached)

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that as per FHWA the MPO can be able to use our some of our budget for out of our MAB. Only if we can justify on how and why those activities outside out of our MAB impact our MAB. Mr. Canon has had several meetings where the majority of the COG's around the state and basically gave everyone an update and this is what we need to go foward. The total cost for our region is a total of \$200,000. The MPO's portion is \$60,000, LRGVDC is \$40,000 and the remaining amount (\$100,000); Mr. Richard Hinojosa, LRGVDC Transit has asked Commissioner Hope Andrade to provide to us. Mr. Richard Hinojosa gave a brief description of the meeting last week. Mr. Hinojosa also stated that other transit providers; whether local or private that travel to and from several counties. Financially this causes a burden on trying to acquire funds for this project. Mr. Andrew Canon that at this point we do not have a more concrete information to provide to everyone. This item will be brought back to the Nov. TAC meeting for further discussion and approval.

4 Update on Thoroughfare Plan

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that the City of McAllen and San Juan are the only entities that have turned in their information to the HCMPO. He stated that the HCMPO is going to be working off our 2030 LOS. He advised that members that this update will be brought back for approval. If at that time, there are questions or concerns the HCMPO will give guidance to each entity.

5 Discussion on the Public Involvement Policy (PIP) (Current PIP & Proposed New PIP with Memo)

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that their were several handouts from Mitch Batuzich, FHWA and the HCMPO final PIP Certification Report. Mr. Batuzich recommended to amend our PIP to take credit with all of the new things we are currently doing and put it in writing. Mr. Canon stated that he re-wrote the entire document but also gathered information from 3 other MPOs. He stated that this will only be a discussion item at the October Policy Meeting and that we won't be ready for adoption until around January or February 2006. We will go thru the 45-public involvement process that we need go thru. Due to the Holidays, this will not give us enough time to advertise. Mr. Ed Taylor, City of McAllen, commented regarding the actual places of where we advertise. He recommended to advertise on the smaller local City newspapers. Mr. Canon stated that we went thru the Monitor and the Frontera due to the circulation area it covers. Mr. Canon stated that the HCMPO could advertise on the smaller local city newspapers but due to the cost; the MPO will be to high. He also advised that the Citizen's Advisory Committee has been going very well and they are also

passing the word around and also helping us with our public involvement. Mr. Canon did state that if anyone had a better idea on how we can increase public involvement and awareness and we will implement that we can bare on our budget. We are always welcome with new ideas that anyone may have. Mr. Ed Taylor asked if there was any feedback regarding the monitor's editorial regarding the HCMPO Hazardous Waste Study. Mr. Canon that as of today the MPO has not received any calls. He did state that Daniel Perry has stopped by the MPO asking questions; which is good because this will help us receive feedback. Raymond Sanchez, TxDOT, stated that the HCMPO should also add some information regarding the Citizen's Advisory Committee on the new proposed PIP. Mr. Canon stated that he will make all of the necessary changes and bring it back to the Nov. TAC Meeting for approval and begin our 45-day public involvement and then take it to the Policy Board in January 2006 for Adoption.

6 Discussion on TMMP Update

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that he attended a meeting in Austin last week. We are currently working on our Mobility Update. He also stated that he will be meeting with Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, this week regarding a TMMP meeting. He did advise the members that we be asking assistance from each city within the next couple of months. We will be submitting a draft in June 2006 to TxDOT but the deadline is September 2006.

7 Discussion on Multi-Modal Study

Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that the HCMPO was working on this RFP until the day of the Oct. 11th TAC Meeting. He asked if there were any other questions or concerns regarding the RFP. He stated that this item is an Action Item and will need the TAC's approval to present it to the Policy for Adoption. Mr. Raymond Sanchez, TxDOT, (~~stated~~) asked that if we have a specific dollar amount? But that they would have more information in the future. Mr. Sanchez stated that there might be some conflict regarding the deadline date of submittals. Mr. Canon stated that we will bring this item back to the November 1st TAC Meeting. **The City of Pharr approved the RFP with the changes of the date and that it will be brought back to the Nov. TAC meeting for information purposes that the date for submittals was moved back due to the Holidays, The City of Alamo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Note Mr. Andrew A. Canon stated that we will be going back to Item #3 for further information.**

8 Staff Update

A. Calendar: November (Confirm Date) & December

Mr. Andrew Canon stated that next Tuesday, November 1, 2005 due to the Policy Board has agreed to combine November & December Policy Meeting as 1 and is scheduled to meet on November 17, 2005. He also advised the members that there won't be a TAC Meeting in December. He also stated that the packets will be mailed out asap, but if you don't receive a packet please call the MPO office and we will deliver one to your offices.

9 Old Or New Business

Mr. Don Medina, City of Pharr asked a questions regarding a TIP spreadsheet that was handed out. This was only an information basis due to questions that had risen at the last TAC Meeting.

Adjourn

The City of Pharr made a motion to adjourn, The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.