

**HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 26, 2006**

1 Roll Call

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. The Policy Committee Meeting was held at the TxDOT Offices, 600 West Expressway 83, Pharr, TX. Present were representatives from The Cities of Alamo, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, La Joya, Mission, Peñitas, Pharr, San Juan and TxDOT. Also present were Ex-Officio members: LRGVDC Transit, Economic Development of Reynosa and Weslaco Chamber of Commerce.

2 Citizen Input

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios asked if there was any citizen input. There being none, the chairman proceeded on to the next item.

3 Adoption of Minutes from December 14, 2005

(ACTION ITEM)

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios asked if there were any additions or corrections that needed to be made. There being none the chairman asked for a motion of approval. **The City of La Joya made a motion for approval of the minutes, The City of Edinburg seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

4 Adoption of the Public Involvement Policy

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Maria Champine briefly stated that the PIP went thru a 60-day public involvement period; which began November 2005. At this time, the MPO has not received any input from the public. The PIP was taken to the Citizen's Advisory Committee twice for comment and was approved by the Technical Advisory Committee. The HCMPO is asking for final approval. **The City of Edinburg made a motion for approval of the Public Involvement Policy, The City of Alamo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

5 Approval of Multi-Modal RFP Evaluations

(DISCUSSION ITEM)

Mrs. Maria Champine stated that there was only one Evaluation that was submitted. It was presented to the TAC members and they recommended to open the proposal. The RFP will be delayed by a month for further evaluation. It will be brought back to the Feb. TAC & Policy Committee for final approval of the evaluation. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

6 Approval of Regional MPO Earmark Projects

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Gen Long, City of Mission, stated that in the packet is a memo submitted from Mayor Noberto Salinas, City of Mission, asking for approval of the Anzalduas Bridge project. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that the MPO asked the TAC members to submit any projects for consideration. Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC, stated that these projects will be taken to state for final approval. Mr. Jones stated that there is no limit on the amount of projects submitted. Commissioner Palacios and Mario Jorge, TxDOT, recommended to go back to the TAC members and ask them to submit more projects; specifically to look into any TIP projects. Mr. Jones stated that the deadline for submittal of projects is due by: February 2006. **The City of Mission made a motion for approval of the Earmark Projects submitted by the City of Mission and Hidalgo but also to go back to the TAC and request for more projects to be submitted for approval, Hidalgo County seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

7 **Adoption of FY06 UPWP Amendment**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Linda De La Fuente stated that there are two proposed changes. #1. Movement of funding between several subtask; total amount will stay the same. The MPO currently has two contracts pending for signature: Multi-Modal Study and the Transit Study. Once the extra funding comes in the money will be replenished. #2. Sub-Task 5.6: Transit Study. Due to House Bill 3588, the state now requires that the Transit Study change from local to valley-wide. **The City of Edinburg made a motion to adopt the FY06 UPWP Amendment, The City of La Joya seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

8 **Approval of FY2006-08 TIP Amendment**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Mario Jorge stated that this is a continuance from last month. There are several projects listed for approval. Some listed are: #1 South Jackson, #2 3 Mile Line (107 to Shary Rd), #3 FM1015 (Mile 9 to Mile 12) and we are adding #4 1015 (floodway south). **The City of La Joya made a motion for approval of the FY2006-08 TIP Amendment, The City of Alamo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

9 **Approval of CAT 7 MM Cost Over-Run Projects**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that this item will be on the Policy Agenda every month. The resolution in the packet needs to be revised and corrected. The wording needs to be changed. The Policy board had approved a resolution back in February 2005. This resolution will be used for now on. The CAT 7 Cost Over--Run projects were approved but the resolution was not signed. The resolution will be signed when the wording is changed. **The City of San Juan made a motion for approval of the CAT 7 MM Cost Over-Run Projects, The City of Mission seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

10 **Adoption of CMS Tier II Study**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Howard, Kimley-Horn gave a brief presentation of the CMS Tier II Study. Mr. Srikanth Matta advised the board that the TAC members had approved the CMS Tier II Study at the January TAC meeting. **The City of Alamo made a motion for adopt the CMS Tier II Study, The City of La Joya seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously**

11 **Discussion of the 2005 Call for Statewide Transportation Enhancement Projects**

Mrs. Maria Champine advised the members that TxDOT is currently accepting nominations for the 2005 Call for Statewide Transportation Enhancement Projects. The call opened on November 1st, 2005 and will close April 28th, 2006. The projects that are submitted will be needing a letter of support. This discussion will be brought back to the March Policy Board meeting for approval and asking for a letter of support. The projects that are selected will also be added to the TIP. At the moment, no projects have been submitted but there are several cities working together to come up with projects. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

12 **Discussion of HCMPO Year End Budget Report**

Mrs. Linda De La Fuente advised the committee that last year our budget was \$1,830,814. Our balance left over was \$19,923. Mayor Leopoldo Palacios was pleased to hear that the MPO was spending the budget very well. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

13 **Approval of Time Warner Cable Proposal for Public**

(ACTION ITEM)

Mrs. Maria Champine stated that the MPO is exploring other alternatives for Public Involvement. A spreadsheet was given to everyone to show how the advertisements will be broken down. There will be a list of channels that will be showing a small 30 second to 1 minute commercial. Every channel was priced differently due to time and channels. Mrs. Maria Champine stated that the advertisements will not be shown on Channel 4 & 5 because they are local channels and will be advertised on the Time Warner Cable magazine. Mayor Leopoldo Palacios and Mayor Pro-Tem Gen Long were pleased to know that the MPO was trying to reach more outreach in different ways. Mrs. Maria Champine stated that this advertisement is in addition to it's current public involvement of creating flyers, brochures, newspaper ads and other regular mailings. The HCMPO is currently asking for approval. Mrs. Champine also stated that the MPO is currently also advertising in: El Mañana newspaper. **The City of Edinburg made a motion to approve the Time Warner Cable Proposal for Public Involvement, The City of Alamo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

14 **Staff Update**

A. **Haz-Mat Update**

Mrs. Maria Champine stated that the LRGVDC finance department has already sent out an invoice to each city and county. Currently we have collected \$82,250 from the cities of Alamo, Donna, Hidalgo, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes, Peñitas, Pharr and Weslaco. The MPO is currently asking everyone else's assistance in submitting in their portion. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

B. **Thoroughfare Plan Update**

Ms. Srilatha Raavi stated that we have received updates from the cities of: Alamo, Alton, Donna, Mission, McAllen, Edinburg, Hidalgo, Hidalgo County, San Juan and Mercedes. We are still pending information from the cities of: Pharr, Weslaco, La Villa, La Joya, Palmhurst, Progreso, Progreso Lakes, Sullivan City, Edcouch, Elsa and Peñitas. If a city does not have any updates, please submit a letter to the MPO stating that their are no updates. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

C. **Calendar: February & March**

Report only.

D. **MPO Staff Update**

Mr. Srikanth Matta stated that the MPO currently has a new employee on board: Mr. Sandip Sen. He is currently getting his masters in city planning from UT.

15 **Off System Report**

No reports at this time.

16 **Letting Report**

Reports only.

17 **Old Or New Business**

Mr. Manuel Flores, LRGVDC Transit, gave a brief update on the Regional Plan currently in process. Mr. Flores asked for support from each city. The transit committee would like to have a representatives from each city to participate with the meetings. This regional plan includes the counties of Willacy, Hidalgo and Cameron. The meetings are held once a month at TxDOT.

18 **Adjourn**

The City of Edinburg made a motion to adjourn, The City of San Juan seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

