

**HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 23, 2006**

1 Roll Call

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios called the meeting to order at 5:45 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, Alton, Hidalgo, Hidalgo County, La Joya, McAllen, Mission, Peñitas, Pharr, San Juan and TxDOT. Ex-Offio members present: LRGVDC Transit.

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 February 23, 2006

(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. **TxDOT made a motion for approval of the minutes, Hidalgo County seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

4 Approval of Enhancement Project(s)

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon asked if all of the projects could be approved all at the same time. TxDOT and The Cities of: Edinburg, San Juan, Weslaco, Mission (3 projects), Pharr (3 projects), Hidalgo (2 projects) and McAllen submitted their Enhancement projects for approval. **The City of Alton made a motion to approve all of the Enhancement Projects, The City of La Joya seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

5 CAT 2 Funding Video

Mr. Canon stated that the video was provided by TxDOT regarding the CAT 2 selection process. Several questions were asked regarding how the formulas were used. **Reports only.**

Note**** Mr. Canon introduced Mr. Dennis Bursen, RMA Director. He has been invited to sit on the Policy Board as an Ex-Offio Member.

6 TMMP Innovative Financing Options

Mr. Canon stated that they have been working on several ideas regarding Innovative Financing. There are two (2) ideas: 1. Raising charge for bridge crossing. 2. Increase of Sales Tax (1/4 of a penny). Mr. Canon stated that this funding will be made available to us for Mobility funds instead of receiving the funds in 25 years. The Committee suggested to go review other ideas to acquire Mobility funds. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

7 Discussion on the MTP Update

Mr. Canon stated that on the current MTP we may have to remove some projects from the list due to some Cost Over-Run. The MPO is going to schedule a meeting with the MTP Sub-Committee to discuss what alternatives we may have. Results from the meeting will be brought back to the TAC & Policy Committee for discussion and approval. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

Policy Committee Minutes,
April 27, 2006

8 **Discussion on the SAFETEA-LU**

Mr. Canon stated that this was just an update. There were some new updates that just came out. We have to be in compliance by June 2007. MPO staff is already starting to start making changes. The 3-year TIP is now changed to a 4-year TIP. Mitch Batuzich, FHWA, will be making a brief presentation to the TAC committee in April. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

9 **Staff Update**

A. **Haz-Mat Update**

Mr. Canon stated that the HAZ-MAT project is fully funded. We have raised \$190,000. The MPO will be working with the LRGVDC on a contract and hopefully hire a consultant. **Report only, no action taken at this time.**

B. **Calendar: March & April**

Reports only.

Note*** Mr. Canon stated that at the NADO/ AMPO meeting he was asked to serve as a board member and represent the Hidalgo County Area.

Note*** Mr. Canon stated that the HCMPO website has been changed. The HCMPO has more information available in our website. Mr. Canon asked if the Committee would approve of an audio of the minutes to be posted on our website.

10 **Off System Report**

No reports at this time.

11 **Letting Report**

Reports only.

12 **Old Or New Business**

None at this time.

13 **Adjourn**

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