

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12:00PM Wednesday August 26, 2026

HELD IN-PERSON AND BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE VIDEO CONFERENCE.
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS
301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS BUILDING B,
KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: Judge Aurelio Guerra

Judge Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:10 p.m. quorum was attained.

Present: Judge Aurelio Guerra

Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg
Councilwoman Marissa Ortega, City of Mission
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Pablo Morales, City of Lyford
Councilman Rene Pena, City of Sullivan City
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes
Councilwoman Aarin Hartwell City of South Padre Island
Commissioner Michael Fallik, City of McAllen
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Pete Galvan, City of San Benito
Mr. Ron Garza, UTRGV
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large

Recipients Unable to Attend:

René Garza – Valley Metro
Melissa Gonzalez – Valley Metro
Daniel Hernández – Valley Metro
Zulma Martinez – AAA
Roberto Salinas – Valley Metro

The **Ten-Year Service Awards** were presented to recognize employees for their continued dedication and service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. The following employees were recognized:

Rosemary Contreras – RGV 911
Yolanda De Leon – Finance
Rolando Flores – AAA
Selena Vallejo – RGV 911

The following employees were unable to attend due to operational commitments but were also recognized for reaching ten years of service:

James Benson – Valley Metro
Ceferino Garcia
Romero Garcia
Leticia Casca
Rodolfo Rosales
Jesus Segura

The **Fifteen-Year Service Awards** were presented to recognize employees for their continued dedication and service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. The following employees were recognized:

Joe Garcia – RGV 911
Celeste Nepomuceno – Finance
Monica Rocha – AAA
Dora Rodriguez – AAA

Unable to Attend:

Dora Cruz – Valley Metro

The **Twenty-Year Service Awards** were presented to recognize employees for their outstanding dedication and long-standing service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. The following employees were recognized:

Adalia Gonzalez – Finance
Viviana Moreno – AAA

The **Twenty-Five-Year Service Award** was presented to recognize exceptional dedication and long-standing service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.

Jaime Garza – AAA

Two staff members, Sydney and Crystal, completed training through the Texas Stream Team and will conduct water quality testing in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. The LRGVDC's Solid Waste Teachers Guide and Composting Curriculum is now available on the website. Region One will assist with producing printed copies for community use. Staff also recognized the Outreach Coordinator for completing 14 outreach events over the past two months and encouraged Board members and communities to contact them regarding future outreach opportunities.

B. Health & Human Services

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List for fiscal Year 2026-2027. The Citizen Advisory Council requested Board approval to utilize a list of vetted contractors to provide essential services, including medical transportation, homemaker assistance, respite care, residential modifications, medication assistance, medical supplies, and durable medical equipment to eligible seniors in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. The contractor list is intended to ensure continuity of services without gaps for the 2026–2027 service year. Contractor details and services are outlined in Exhibit 1.1, included with the report. ***Mayor Omar Ochoa made a motion to approve the Direct purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List for Fiscal year 2026-2027. Andres Chavez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the List of Subrecipients Providing Services under the Older Americans Act- Title III for fiscal year 2026-2027. The Citizen Advisory Council requested Board approval to utilize a list of vetted subrecipients to provide essential services, including congregate meals, home-delivered meals, transportation, senior center operations, and caregiver education and training to eligible seniors in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. The list will ensure continuity of services without gaps for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Subrecipient details and services are outlined in Exhibit 2.1 of the Board packet. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the List of Subrecipients providing Services under the Old Americans Act – Title III for fiscal year 2026-2027. Mr. Oscar Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Status Reports: Ms. Margarita Lopez stated that her department report was included in the packet and was available for any questions.

C. Public Safety – Emergency Services, Criminal Justice, & Homeland Security.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the CJAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY-2027-2028.

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the CJAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028.

3. Consideration and ACTION to approve the HSAC Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2027-2028.

4. Consideration and ACTION to approve the HSAC Policy, Procedures and Scoring Criteria for FY 2027-2028. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve all 4 action items for Homeland Security and Criminal Justice; Mr. Ernesto Cavazos seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Status Reports: Two announcements were provided. The RGV Public Safety and Emergency Communications (PSEC) Conference has expanded its continuing education offerings to include TCOLE, behavioral health, social work, and EMS credits through a collaboration with South Texas Health System. Registration remains open. An update was also provided on RGV 911. The Multi-Agency Communications Center was showcased at the APCO conference in San Antonio, where it received significant recognition and positive feedback. The mobile

Status Reports: Valley Metro reported a 30% increase in year-to-date ridership compared to the previous year, largely attributed to increase in-person attendance at UTRGV and South Texas College.

The Public Transportation Coordination Plan remains active, with KFH Group providing consulting services. Valley Metro planners have also continued participating in public involvement events throughout the region.

Rio Grande Valley MPO

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program Ranked Project. The projects were ranked by the RGVMPPO Technical Advisory Committee and designated project evaluation subcommittee.

Three projects were presented for consideration:

McAllen Metro – 35-foot Bus Acquisition Project – Ranked No. 1.

City of McAllen – ADA Sidewalk Program – Ranked No. 2.

Valley Metro – Management and ITS Implementation – Ranked No. 3.

Funding was available to fully award the first two projects and provide a partial award for the third project. Board consideration and action were requested to program the awarded funds into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for transit projects. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Program Ranked project. Commissioner Eduardo Gonzalez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business - Mr. Cruz thanked the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for adopting the resolution approving the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Tourism Plan. Moving forward, the LRGVDC will request that all cities within Hidalgo County adopt the plan as well.

The comprehensive plan identifies existing and proposed hike and bike trails throughout the county and serves as a resource to support tourism, active transportation, and recreational opportunities for residents. Hidalgo County provided funding to cover the cities' contributions toward development of the plan.

The plan will also assist cities in expanding their existing trail networks and provide a documented resource to support grant applications for federal, state, and MPO funding.

Item #7 Adjourn - President called meeting at 1:05 pm