

MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, December 13, 2023

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

PRESIDING: President Norma Sepulveda

- DRAFT -

President Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and no quorum at this time. They moved on to Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission
Commissioner Ernesto "Ernie" Garcia, Willacy County
Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Omar Quintanilla, City of McAllen
Alt. Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes
Mayor Ricardo Rick Guerra City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UT Rio Grande Valley
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grass Roots ORG

Absent:

Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo Texas
Mayor J.R Garza, City of Alamo
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Commissioner Betty Rodriguez, City of La Villa
Mayor Mike Carter, City of Laguna Vista
Mayor Jaime Gonzalez, City of Los Indio's
Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez, City of Pharr
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Commissioner Marco "Markie" Villegas, City of San Juan
Ms. Cledia Hernandez, TSTC
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy Co. Nav Dist.
Mr. Eleazar Garcia Jr, Member at Large

Without questions from the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved to Department Reports.

Item #4: Department Reports

Item # 4C Administration Executive Report.

Mr. Cruz took the opportunity to introduce all New Hires for the past couple of months. Mr. Cruz then went on and mentioned to the Board that It's Time Texas will be taking place on Jan 8th, 2024, in Building B. He moved on to explain the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan.

President Norma Sepulveda then moved to Item # 3 Public Comment. Commissioner David Garza then had a Public Comment. Mr. David Garza talked about how the delegation from the Valley was up in Austin at the TXDOT Commission Meeting and Mr. Garza then explained how one of the items at the meeting that was passed by the Commission included the second access to the island.

President Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item #5 Health and Human Services

Item #5. Health and Human Services

Margarita started with Status Reports for Health and Human Services. Ms. Lopez then went on and explained to the board about the Annual Review they had had over the year. She spoke about Enhancing Lives and Embracing Challenges. Ms. Lopez then states that 2023 has brought a unique set of challenges head-on, overcoming staffing hurdles and fully restoring in-person services. She goes on to mention the post-COVID-19 recovery and in-person services and how they helped so many people throughout the community. Then she states how everyone in the Health and Human Services Department took part in making all that possible. Ms. Lopez explained to the Board of Clinics they had in 2023 one of them being the Veterans Festival, she mentioned that Last year in 2023 they had over 200 Veterans and 50 exhibitors. This year they hosted one in Brownsville and there they had over 300 Veterans Families and community Members and over 50 exhibitors. She goes on to mention that they had another one in Harlingen as well and there they had a huge success. They had 400 Veterans, Families, and Community members come out and 60 exhibitors. In conclusion, Ms. Lopez wants to express gratitude to the Citizens Advisory Council and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, partners, and the community for their support. Then closes by explaining their outlook for 2024-2026. She adds that AAA envisions a future marked by expanded horizons and increased impact. Their assistance to assist more individuals, enhance services, and foster growth remains unwavering. Mr. Cruz then ends by thanking Ms. Lopez and her staff for the 2nd Annual Vet Fest and Veterans Appreciation Day. He mentions that 2022 was the first Vet Fest and was a huge success as well considering it took place here in our parking lot and ran out of space. Mayor Norma Sepulveda then goes on to let the Board know that she highly recommends that everyone try and host one in their community, she was impressed by how the community came out and turned out to be a great event.

President Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item #5A Community and Economic Development.

Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

Melisa Gonzales started by talking briefly about their Solid Waste Projects, she stated that the Solid Waste Program will start and that the RFAs will be going out in January, they are asking for all and any applicants that want to apply for Solid Waste and just for everyone to be on the lookout for that announcement to go out in January 2024. She mentioned that the Staff completed the FY2024 EDA Partnership Grant explained a little about that, and then went on to state that they are working on updating the CEDS and will be conducting public meetings to review and input on the identified economic development strategies. Melisa stated that her very first small city meeting was in Sullivan City (Hybrid). The next Regional Small Cities Coalition will be on January 18th in the Small board room in LRGVDC Building B. LRGVDC received the CEDAF contract with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Staff shall carry out specified technical assistance activities in the Contractors State planning region. She moved on to say that on November 3, 2023, the staff hosted an award ceremony and grant kick-off meeting that included TDA representatives, and four entities were awarded. Port Isabel, Primera,

Los Fresnos, and Rio Hondo, congratulations to them. They were awarded a combined grant award of \$1,949,740. Melisa then moved on to state that the Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the Texas Community Development Block Grant program. The funds will be available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Then she let the board know once more that the Solid Waste Funding cycle is just around the corner. The TCEQ Grant Application for the FY 2024-2025 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program will open Request for Applications in January 2024. Ms. Gonzales then moved on to let the Board know that the Staff continues to educate the public on water quality issues with “Americas Recycling Month” and “Be Thankful for Water” for November. Ms. Gonzalez then closes the status reports by mentioning that her Staff continues to regularly communicate with Representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as well as other entities involved in water quality to strengthen partnerships to generate further activities related to quality and to highlight the importance of it to the region. Mayor Sepulveda then let Melisa know that we had a quorum and could proceed with Action Items.

Action Item's - Community & Economic Development

- 1) Consideration and action to Approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) members. As per the SWAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members, as elected by the SWAC. Members shall begin term upon SWAC action item approval. Members may only be selected from the current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not a membership composition category representative). ***Jim Daling made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Members. Mr. David Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- 2) Consideration and action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Officer. As per the RWRAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following officers, as elected by the RWRAC. Officers shall begin term upon RWRAC action item approval. Officers may only be selected from current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not a membership composition category representative). Only individuals elected may carry out the functions of the officer. At their upcoming December 12, 2023, RWRAC meeting, the committee will consider nominations to fill the CHAIR position. Because the RWRAC will meet the day before the Board is scheduled to meet, staff will provide the names of the individuals being recommended during the meeting. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWAC) officer. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- 3) Consideration and **action** to Approve Nominee Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nominations for Special Purpose District – Drainage for Hidalgo County and Special Purpose District for Irrigation Category. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is soliciting nominations for a RWRAC committee member to serve. Each nominee will be selected based on their qualifications, experience, and interest. At their upcoming December 12, 2023, RWRAC meeting, the committee will consider nominations to fill positions for representatives in the Special Purpose District Drainage and Irrigation District categories. Because the RWRAC will meet the day before the Board is scheduled to meet, staff will provide the names of the individuals being recommended during the meeting. ***Ms. Norie Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Nominee Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee nominations for Special Purpose District- Drainage for Hidalgo County and Special Purpose District for Irrigation Category. Mr. Ernie Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- 4) Consideration and action to Approve Service Terms of Committee Members Appointed in Odd Years As per the bylaws, the advisory committee officers and representatives shall be appointed to four (4) year staggered terms with elections occurring in May on odd-numbered calendar years. During the inaugural term, lots will be drawn to determine which (8) positions conclude in calendar year 2021. ***Ms. Norie Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Service terms for Committee Members Appointed in Odd Years. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

- 5) With no questions asked, Mayor Sepulveda then decided to move on to the approval of the Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2023. *Mr. David Garza made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2023. Ernie Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.*

Item # 4 Administration Action Item-

- A. Consideration and Action on Date and Time for Annual Budget Committee Meeting. Mr. Cruz starts by letting the board know that this meeting technically takes place the second week of January so the dates in mind would be January 10th or 11th. He reminded the board that this meeting is to review the Annual Report and Budget for 2024. A unanimous decision was for January 10th and Mr. Cruz stated that everyone was invited and recommended attendance. A thorough review of the Budget and programs is conducted to showcase their objectives and goals for the upcoming year, 2024. *Mr. Garza made a motion to approve the Annual Report and Budget Committee Meeting. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.*
- B. Consideration and Action on Vacancy of the LRGVDC Executive Committee Members. Mr., Cruz explained that since Mayor David Suarez did not win re-election that would leave a vacancy slot for President. He mentions that back in May the General Membership approved the slate of officers and per conversation, everyone ascended to the next position. According to bylaws, the first 5 spots were required for all to move up and since there was no Immediate Past President at this time, one wasn't identified, however, once we have one the board member would be added in the future. *Commissioner David Garza made a motion to Approve the Vacancies of the LRGVDC Executive Committee as presented by Mr. Cruz. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.*

Without any further discussion or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to the next item, Item C

Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security. Program Status Report

Criminal Justice Program

Mr. Merla explained to the board that Criminal Justice Staff attended the webinar for the 2023 National Summit on K-12 School Safety on November 1-2, 2023. Staff hosted the Active Shooter/Stop the Bleed training in collaboration with the Weslaco Police Department for LRGVDC Staff. The training took place on November 3, 2023, at the LRGVDC Valley Metro Training Room, Weslaco TX. Staff participated in a webinar for Crime Stoppers School Safety on November 6-7, 2023. Staff hosted the 2nd Ready RGV Planning meeting hybrid on November 16, 2023.

Homeland Security Program

Mr. Merla then moved on to Homeland Security Status Reports. He explained to the board that the Staff attended the LEPC Emergency Planning Committee meeting on November 2, 2023, at the South Texas College-Pharr Campus. Staff attended the HAZMAT Regional Response Group meeting on November 2, 2023, at the Edinburg Fire Department. Staff attended the LRGVDC/RGVMPO Emergency Operation Planning meeting on November 7, 2023, at the LRGVDC, Ken Jones Executive Boardroom. Staff also attended the South Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (STAPT) meeting on November 8, 2023, at Donna ISD, in Donna, TX. Staff attended the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Disaster District 21 meeting on November 8, 2023, at the Weslaco DPS headquarters. Staff also attended virtual the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) meeting "Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop Guide" on November 8, 2023. Mr. Merla also mentions that Staff attended virtual the Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD) Regional Conference call on November 9, 2023. Staff participated in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) site visit on November 9, 2023, at LRGVDC Valley Metro Training Room, in Weslaco, TX. Staff attended virtual the 4th Quarter Texas Critical Infrastructure Protection (TCIP) Task Force Meeting on November 15, 2023. Staff also attended the

LRGVDC 2nd Annual Veterans Festival on November 16, 2023, at the Brownsville Event Center. Staff then went to host the 2nd Ready RGV Planning meeting hybrid on November 16, 2023. Staff attended the virtual Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) FY2024 Winter Webinar on November 28, 2023.

With no further updates or questions for Homeland Security, Mr. Cruz then moved on to the Regional Police Academy.

Regional Police Academy

Program Status Reports

Mr. Cruz Explained to the board that on Sunday, November 5, 2023, 17 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy showcased exceptional performance, successfully passing their practical exam for the Chapter 34 Professional Driving Course. He then goes on to mention that as of Wednesday, November 29, 2023, the 21 cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy had completed the mandated 72 hours for Chapter 22 Traffic Code, Crash Investigation, and TIMS, and as of Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 21 cadets from the 223rd Mission Day Academy completed the 24 hours required for Chapter 23 Standardized Field Sobriety training. Mr. Cruz last mentions that as of Wednesday, December 7, 2023, 17 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy attained comprehensive training for Chapter 40 Emergency Medical Assistance. Currently, the LRGV Academy is in the process of conducting entrance exams for the upcoming spring 2024 academy sessions. Lastly, Mr. Cruz closed by showing the board 2 pictures from the LRGV Academy 222nd Weslaco Night Academy and the 223rd Mission Day Academy and thanked Mayor Sepulveda and Harlingen PD for the creation of an LRGV Academy site in Harlingen, which will be hosting an academy sometime in 2024.

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District

Program Status Report

GIS Division

Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at www.rgv911.org. The GIS team has uploaded several informational maps that other public entities and the public can readily download. This data has streamlined our general information request process. We have created an Emergency Response map that will aid our local 9-1-1 call responding EMS agencies to respond using 9-1-1 address data. We will do the same for local Police departments that do not host a PSAP in the RGV9-1-1 region. Following our GeoSpatial Strategic plan. We have completed creating our new Address Ticketing system called Rubicon. We have begun Beta testing Rubicon to work out any potential kinks in the system. The ticketing system is expected to go Live in mid to late December. On November 16th and 17th, the GIS team members attended and assisted the annual Rio Grande Valley Arc Users Group GIS Day Event. Where team members attended workshops and met with other GIS users within the community.

Community Engagement Division

During October and November, the 9-1-1 community engagement initiatives were exceptionally bustling and dynamic. Our team was deeply involved in various community activities, fostering a strong connection with the residents. The level of citizen participation during this period was truly remarkable, with individuals enthusiastically engaging in events and programs. The collaborative efforts between the 9-1-1 community and the citizens strengthened relationships and enhanced the overall sense of community well-being. The vibrant participation demonstrated the effectiveness of our outreach efforts and highlighted the importance of proactive engagement in promoting public safety and awareness.

Donna Police Department National Out / October 5th, 2023, we take great pride in supporting our local school districts. Whether providing resources, offering expertise, or assisting in any way we can, we are always delighted to lend a helping hand to ensure the success and growth of our educational institutions. Our dedication to improving our school districts remains unwavering, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for the benefit of our community's future leaders. Donna National Night Out with Donna Independent School District

Teach Me 9-1-1 Program / October 13, 2023, in McAllen at Zavala Elementary School. RGV9-1-1, in collaboration with the McAllen Fire Department, debuted the "Teach Me 9-1-1" program at Zavala Elementary School in McAllen. This educational program aims to teach students about "When To Call," "How To Call," and "What to Say" in emergencies. The event was a resounding success, with children showing great enthusiasm and engagement. Our primary focus is to impart crucial 9-1-1 knowledge to young learners, and it was heartwarming to witness their enjoyment as they interacted with characters like Cell Phone Sally and Kid Friendly Keith during the event.

Willacy County Sheriff's Office National Night Out / October 17, 2023, RGV9-1-1 had the privilege of participating in the Willacy Co. National Night Out, thanks to an invitation from the Willacy County Sheriff's Office. This exciting event occurred in the city of Sebastian, and the turnout and community engagement were outstanding. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a fantastic gathering, fostering stronger bonds between our organization and the local community.

Elsa Police Department National Night Out / October 20, 2023, we had a wonderful time engaging with the community at the National Night Out event. Yesterday, we attended the Elsa Police Department's NNO, and it was truly an enjoyable experience. We want to express our sincere gratitude to Elsa PD for organizing such a fantastic event that brings the community together. Events like these demonstrate how 9-1-1 public education empowers citizens and strengthens the bond between the police department and the community they serve.

The City of Palmhurst National Night Out / October 24, 2023, RGV91-1 was thrilled to be a part of this incredible event, and we had the pleasure of engaging with approximately 800 people who stopped by our booth. It felt wonderful to connect with the local community and discuss the importance of getting their addresses registered with the 9-1-1 department, ensuring their safety in times of emergency. Moreover, we had the opportunity to educate children about the vital service of texting 911 in emergencies. We extend a big thank you to the City of Palmhurst for extending the invitation and for fostering a strong sense of community and safety. It was a night to remember.

Teach Me 9-1-1 Program / October 26, 2023, in the city of McAllen at Hendricks Elementary School. We are proud to announce our successful collaboration with the McAllen Fire Department in our ongoing commitment to educating children about fire safety and the use of 9-1-1. This partnership allowed us to bring vital information and skills to the younger generation. Through this initiative, RGV9-1-1 introduced the Tech Me 911 program to students, aiming to impart essential knowledge on when, how to call, and what to say in an emergency. By working with local authorities and educators, we ensure that our community's children are well-prepared and informed in potentially life-saving situations. This collaborative effort reflects our dedication to creating a safer environment for all residents of our region.

NENA 911 Course October 27, 2023, Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communications District organized a crucial NENA 911 Association course centered on disaster planning for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). This course served as an essential primer, equipping 9-1-1 professionals with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively prepare for and navigate through catastrophic events that have the potential to disrupt a PSAP system and impede its overall operation. The training was of paramount importance in ensuring the resilience of the emergency response infrastructure, offering vital insights and strategies for managing the challenges posed by

calamities. The training was provided to the PSAPs in Hidalgo and Willacy counties, demonstrating a commitment to the safety and efficiency of these specific regions' PSAP operations and emphasizing the importance of preparedness in the face of potential disruptions. This initiative further underscored the critical role that PSAPs play in safeguarding the well-being of communities during times of crisis.

Spooktacular Festival / October 30, 2023, hosted by the City of Mission, was a mega event that brought the community together for a night of spooky fun and valuable information. RGV9-1-1 was honored to be invited and participate in this fantastic celebration. The atmosphere was electrifying, with the crowd decked out in creative Halloween costumes, adding to the festive spirit. We were there, handing out candy and taking the opportunity to inform and educate the community about the critical importance of the 9-1-1 emergency service. It was a night of Halloween magic and community outreach that we won't soon forget.

Teach me 9-1-1 Program / October 31st, 2023, in McAllen at Victor Fields Elementary School. October concluded on an exhilarating note as the RGV9-1-1 Public Education Team visited Fields Elementary, leaving a lasting impact. Teaming up with the McAllen Fire Department, we executed our dynamic Teach Me 9-1-1 program, passionately educating students on the vital aspects of when, how, and what to communicate when dialing 9-1-1 during emergencies. The enthusiasm and engagement displayed by the children at Fields Elementary were remarkable, reflecting their genuine eagerness to grasp these essential life-saving skills. The event was a triumphant endeavor, ensuring that our young participants departed with newfound knowledge and a profound sense of empowerment and responsibility in handling 9-1-1 calls effectively. This event marked a memorable and impactful conclusion to the month.

Raymondville Chamber of Commerce Dia De Los Muertos Festival / November 2, 2023, In the vibrant city of Raymondville, we joyously celebrated Dia De Los Muertos, also known as the Day of the Dead. The event, thoughtfully organized by the Raymondville Chamber of Commerce, brought the community together in a colorful and lively display of traditions. Amidst the vibrant hues and cheerful atmosphere, RGV9-1-1 was invited to share the invaluable services it offers to the community. It was a heartwarming occasion where families and friends joined hands, uniting in remembrance of their departed loved ones, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared heritage. The event honored the past and strengthened the bonds that tie this close-knit community together.

Hidalgo County Success in Transition Fair 2023 / November 4, 2023, RGV 9-1-1 was a part of the Hidalgo County Success in Transition Fair 2023. This event was specifically designed to cater to the needs of students with disabilities and their families. It served as a platform for them to connect with state and local agencies that play a pivotal role in shaping successful lives after high school. RGV 9-1-1's presence at the fair underlines their commitment to supporting and assisting this vital demographic in their transition to adulthood. The fair provided a valuable opportunity for all participants to explore resources and opportunities that can pave the way for a brighter future.

Safe School Institute Trainings online webinars on November 6 & 7, 2023. Maribel Alonzo has completed three comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing community engagement, community branding, and promoting mental health awareness. Additionally, I have acquired expertise in fostering cyber safety for teenagers. These diverse skills enable me to actively contribute to improving communities by promoting positive engagement, bolstering community identity, and addressing critical issues such as mental health and online safety among adolescents.

DIA-BEAT-IT Community Health Fair / November 8th, 2023, we joined the DIA-BEAT-IT community health fair, a highly educational event that offered valuable resources to our community. Notably, RGV9-1-1 and Cell Phone Sally actively engaged with the community through activities like Zumba, imparting crucial knowledge about the significance of texting 9-1-1 during emergencies and improving safety and communication for everyone.

present. This event significantly enriched the community by increasing awareness and preparedness among its members.

College and Career Day / November 16, 2023, Mercedes ISD. We had an exceptional career day event at Travis Elementary, and we sincerely thank Mercedes ISD for the invitation. It was a fulfilling experience witnessing the children engage in various career paths, cultivating a sense of excitement and curiosity about their future endeavors. We take pride in contributing to the student's learning journey and are grateful for the opportunity to inspire and shape their career aspirations.

2nd Annual Vet Fest / November 16, 2023, in Brownsville. We participated in a special event to honor our veterans, recognizing their selfless service and sacrifice. The occasion featured engaging activities such as raffles and entertainment, creating an atmosphere of appreciation and gratitude. Amidst the festivities, we remained committed to education, emphasizing the importance of 9-1-1 awareness to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. This event was hosted by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), marking this as the 2nd Annual Vet Fest.

Texas Law Enforcement Peer Network (TLEPN) Peer-to-Peer Training / November 29 & 30, 2023, in Pharr. This initiative aims to establish a comprehensive program across Texas, ensuring that our Public Safety personnel can avail themselves of support from specially trained peers addressing stressors, trauma, fatigue, and other challenges. The program involves the training and mentoring of police officer volunteers to effectively assist their colleagues in managing stressors, both within and outside the scope of their duties.

With No further updates on the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District, they then moved on to Valley Metro, with Mr. Tom Logan.

Transportation Valley Metro

Action Items Valley Metro

- 1) Consideration and action to Approve the update of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro. Staff requests Board approval for the update of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro. Section updates will comply with FTA's PTASP program stipulations. **Commissioner Ernie Garcia made a motion to approve the update of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro, Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
- 2) Consideration and action to Approve the purchase of Bus Shelters and associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Staff requests Board approval to purchase Bus Shelters and associated equipment under TXDOT Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant # 5310-2023-LRGVDC-00086 and FTA Grant # TX-2022-057. Bus Shelters will update current bus shelters and Valley Metro will also partner with interested cities throughout the Rio Grande Valley. **Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Purchase of Bud Shelters and associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Richard Saldana seconded the motion and upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
- 3) Consideration and action to Approve the purchase of Hardware and Bus bus-associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Staff requests Board approval to purchase Bus associated hardware and equipment such as bus monitors, brackets, wiring, etc. under FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant # TX-2019-114 and FTA CARES Act Grant #'s TX-2020-125 and TX-2020-126. Hardware and Equipment will provide the necessary upgrades and program public notice of events for LRGVDC Valley Metro. **Mr. David Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of Hardware and Bus bus-associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Richard Saldana seconded the motion and upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Valley Metro provides regional transportation service of both **Rural** and **Urban** transit systems in the five-county region of the Rio Grande Valley. The **Urban System** is provided in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties and includes UTRGV Ridership. Services run Monday – Saturday from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. The **Rural System** operates in the rural areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties. Services run Monday – Sunday from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

RTAP Sub-committee held a workshop on November 28, 2023. Assessment of the needs and gaps of the 5-Year Transit Plan was discussed in detail. Committee members provided input and suggestions on how to accomplish those needs. LRGVDC Valley Metro was awarded a TXDOT grant for \$40,000 to continue assessing and meeting the needs and gaps of the 5-year Transit Plan. The sub-committee meets bi-monthly.

Valley Metro’s Planning Department staff continues to hold public involvement events. The events highlight the modes of travel available to the public within their perspective city and region. We are currently working on realigning routes to incorporate the new San Juan Terminal.

With no further updates to Transportation Valley Metro. They then moved on to RGVMPPO with Luis Diaz.

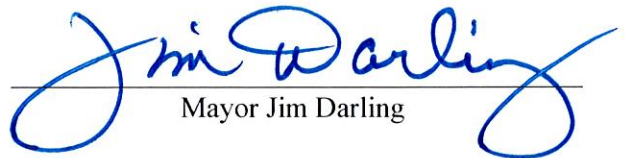
Rio Grande Valley MPO

Program Status Report

Luis Diaz started by giving an update on their current open 5310 program call, this program aims to improve mobility for the elderly community as well as disabilities. This program closes on Dec 20th. Which is mostly geared towards the transit providers. Luis also shared with board members that they went under public involvement for MTP, which is our 25-year plan for all roadway and mobility projects, and our four-year plan which is our TIP. So, we will be in Public Involvement through January 11th, he mentioned that they do have a couple of spots already reserved for doing our public involvement, and that would be on December 20th. He stated that they will be at McAllen Transit also doing Public Involvement. They will be sharing all the information about the plan and all that is coming. He also mentions that they will be in Brownsville for an event that they’re holding called Pancakes with Santa on the 22nd. Then on January 9th, they will be back in the Ken Jones lobby.

Item #6 New and Unfinished Business

There being no further business to come before the Board, *Jim Darling made a motion to adjourn at 1:01 pm.*



Mayor Jim Darling

ATTEST:



Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary