

MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

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: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and quorum was attained.

Present: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Farias, City of Weslaco
Mayor George Guadiana, City of San Perlita
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos
Commissioner Ricardo Medina, City of Pharr
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Commissioner Tom Goodman, City of San Benito
Mr. Ron Garza, UTRGV Edinburg
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy Co. Navigation Dist.
Mr. Tony Chavez, Member at Large
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots

Absent :

Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor JR Garza, City of Alamo
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large
Mayor Alma Salinas, Sullivan City

Mr. Cruz stated Madam Chairman, we have a healthy quorum. Mayor Norma Sepulveda stated to the Board, thank you all for attending in person today. As we transition to in-person meetings, your presence is greatly appreciated. I believe this format will foster a more productive dialogue and encourage increased participation. We understand there are many other events happening now, so we sincerely thank everyone for making the effort to join us. It was a choice to be here, and Mayor Sepulveda stated, I appreciate everyone being here today.

Without no questions from the board, Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item #2

Item #2 Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2024. **Commissioner Edward Gonzalez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for June 26, 2024. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously upon vote.**

Item #3: Public Comment: No Public Comment, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to the next item.

Item #4: Administration

4A. Presentation took place for Heart Gallery of South Texas with Jennifer Oliva. Mayor Sepulveda recommended that a proclamation/resolution be provided to the LRGVDC so that it could be emailed to all local governments for their consideration to adopt.

4B. Presentation and Consider Action Regarding the 2023 Annual Audit with Melissa Gonzalez. Mrs. Gonzalez joined us virtually due to being ill, however, due to audio issues the board postponed the presentation until audio issues were fixed.

4C. Presentation and Action to Accept Quarterly Investment Report. **Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report. Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

4D. Consideration and Action to approve the Letter of Support for TXDOT's Passenger Rail Route Inclusion in the federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification & Development Program. **Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for TXDOT's Passenger Rail Route Inclusion in the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification & Development Program. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

No further discussion or comments. Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item 4E Executive Report.

4E. Executive Directors Report. Mr. Cruz began by introducing all new hires and promotions. First Item: Discussion on the potential action regarding the future LRGVDC board meeting schedule. As you know, we are transitioning to in-person meetings. The Mayor and I agreed to include this topic on the agenda to discuss any issues or concerns board members might have. I now open the floor for the mayor or board members to share any ideas, discuss relevant items, or decide whether to proceed with the current policy as it stands. Judge Aurelio Guerra asked what the policy was regarding the Meetings. Mr. Cruz stated that while we can still conduct virtual meetings for three counties or more, I believe it is important for the board to meet in person. Given the numerous ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives, such as the Regional Transit Authority, face-to-face meetings will be more beneficial for effective collaboration and planning. Additionally, I want to address a related matter: there may be occasions when members are unable to attend due to illness or other circumstances, as we see with some members and staff currently participating online. We need to establish clear guidelines for what constitutes an acceptable absence. It is crucial that everyone is informed about regional developments and efforts. It is important to consider whether there are any processes or opportunities that might arise in the future.

One other major benefit to note is broadband funding.

The State of Texas is set to receive approximately \$300 million. We need to be prepared to act on any applications if we decide to proceed and seek approval. In relation to virtual meetings, the previous bill introduced during the pandemic is still in effect. For three or more counties, we have the option to convene virtually. However, it is up to the local committees to decide how they wish to conduct business. Mayor Norma Sepulveda stated that there are many familiar faces in the room today, along with some new members and additions to the board. The Executive Board discussed the advantages of holding in-person meetings. It seems effective to hold in-person meetings, especially considering that most of us will remain for the MPO meeting that follows the COG Board meeting. So, it works, it's a great location but we also want to be flexible. As Manny mentioned, he sent me a message regarding someone who had COVID. I responded that it would be best to keep them at a distance, as we all have work to do. We should handle participation on a case-by-case basis with Manny. If someone is out of town or out of state but wants to participate in an agenda item, we should consider making exceptions for work-related travel and community representation. Valid reasons for exceptions might include conflicting schedules due to commission or city meetings. We should grant discretion to Manny to manage these situations appropriately. What are your thoughts?

Mr. Paul Hernandez from South Texas College stated that most institutions have already transitioned back to face-to-face meetings. We should revert to pre-pandemic protocols, which include keeping individuals who are sick or contagious at home to recover. But I feel that we need to be moving toward a face-to-face format. Judge Aurelio Guerra stated I'm okay with attending the LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting in person. However, I want to confirm that it's also acceptable to send someone else to represent me if needed, correct? Mr. Cruz then answered Yes, the way the COG board works is only elected officials can sit on the board. How you handle appointments at the county or city level is up to your discretion. However, if your commission specifies that only a certain person can attend the board meeting, then that's a different situation. I doubt that, but any elected official like the judge, commissioners, or mayor can attend the board meeting. Mayor Ramiro Garza asked, are there any positions where you can't use a substitute? Mr. Cruz then answered. No, at-large members can choose to appoint a proxy if they want. We have 10 at-large members, and three of them are selected to sit on the board. It's their responsibility to provide an alternate or proxy if needed. For instance, UTRGV and TSTC have both sent alternates to attend on behalf of the primary appointed members. We should be flexible about this, but you can't assign someone from another city. Ms. Ann Cass stated wanted to thank for the flexibility on her doing virtual due to her conditions.

No further questions or discussion Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to 4EB.

4EB. Add COSTEP and The RGV Partnership to the General Board Membership. Mr. Cruz states that they both agencies expressed interest to be part of the COG. We're always looking for opportunities and welcome anyone who meets the COG's mission and bylaw requirement to join the board, general membership, or board of directors. As a reminder, elections are held in May, when some of these board positions are reviewed and chosen and appointed. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve to add COSTEP and RGV Partnership to the General Membership, Mayor John Cowen seconded the motion and upon a vote motion was carried unanimously.***

Mayor Sepulveda then moved back to item 4B Presentation regarding the 2023 Annual Audit with Mrs. Melissa Gonzalez. I'm Melissa Gonzalez, the auditor from Oscar Gonzalez CPA and Associates PLLC. I'm here to present the audit for the year ending December 31, 2023. Please turn to page one of the audit, specifically the first paragraph that discusses the opinions. We have audited the financial statements of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, including its governmental activities, component units, major funds, and other fund information for the year ending December 31, 2023. This also includes the related notes to the financial statements, which together make up the basic financial statements listed in the table of contents.

This also includes the notes that go along with the financial statements, which together make up the basic financial statements listed in the table of contents. 2023, and the changes in its financial position for that year, following accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that basically, what that means is that you got a clean opinion in us performing our audit procedures on your financial statements. We didn't find any significant issues. Everything was compliant. The same positive opinion applies to your major programs; our testing showed they were also compliant. Mrs. Crystal Balboa and her staff did an excellent job. They keep your financial records well-organized, maintain them properly, and ensure they meet compliance standards. I want to emphasize that, given the large amount of federal and state grant money the council handles, they do an excellent job. Please turn to page 16. This page shows the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year ending December 31, 2023. The total federal grants received were \$9,682,441. The total state grants amounted to \$17,719,246. Your local revenues were \$5,147,250. This resulted in total revenues of \$32,548,937. Your expenditures were also \$32,548,937, so there was no change in your fund balance. Therefore, your fund balance at the end of the year is \$33,917. Please turn to page 11 in your packet. This page shows your statement of net position as of December 31, 2023. Your total current assets were \$24,889,840, and your total non-current assets were \$21,764,157. This brings your total assets to \$46,653,997. For liabilities, current liabilities were \$25,185,657, and total non-current liabilities were \$1,077,540, making total liabilities \$26,263,197.

Your net position includes \$20,356,883 invested in capital assets and \$33,917 in unrestricted funds. This results in a total net position of \$20,390,800. In your packet, I've included the schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, comparing the budget versus actual figures. The main point to note is that the budgeted total revenues were \$38,766,329. On page 31, you'll see that the actual revenue received was \$32,548,937, which is less than the budgeted amount of \$38,766,329. This discrepancy is also reflected in the expenditures, which you can review on page 32. Finally, for the schedules of findings and questioned costs related to your federal and state programs, please see page 166. There were no findings; you'll find this noted at the bottom of sections B and C. There were no financial statement findings or issues with federal and state awards. That concludes my presentation, unless there are any questions. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve 2023 Annual Audit, Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #5 Department reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Ms. Melisa Gonzales started off with the first of 2 Action items she had on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) membership. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve updated Solid Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Request for Proposal (RFP) Award. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve the Updated Solid Rider 7 PM2.5 local Air Quality Planning Request for Proposal Award. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Mrs. Melisa Gonzalez started with a few announcements. First, I want to share that our first annual Regional Small Cities Coalition Conference on July 25th was a big success. We had 57 attendees and nine sponsors. We didn't start seeking sponsors until they reached out to us, so I'm very grateful for their support. Get ready for next year—I might reach out to you for sponsorship for our Regional Small Cities Conference. My second announcement is that our Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) need to be updated and submitted to the EDA by the end of this year. We've sent out a survey link to everyone. Once you receive it, please take a few minutes to answer the nine questions. It's a simple survey—just yes or no and your input. This will help us prepare for the public meetings scheduled for September.

We have three county meetings to discuss these findings: September 5th: Cameron County at 10 a.m. at the Annex Center in San Benito. September 5th: Willacy County at 1:30 p.m. at the Judge's Chambers in Raymondville, Willacy County Courthouse. September 11th: Hidalgo County at 10 a.m. Next, On October 1st, we will hold a kickoff meeting for our non-entitlement CDBG communities, focusing on our entitlement communities. They are invited to attend the 10 o'clock training session. At 11 o'clock, we will be awarding the CDBG funds for the upcoming year, and they can stay for the award ceremony if they wish. This year's awardees are Los Indios, the City of San Perlita, La Feria, Cameron County, Hidalgo County, and we also have a special guest, Rio Grande City. Rio Grande City is the sole awardee from the South Texas Council of Governments, and they requested to be included, which we gladly accepted. So, we'll have a special guest on that day. The event will take place on October 1st at 10 a.m. here at this office. And my final announcement is a friendly reminder to ensure everyone is following their water conservation plans. This message comes from Mayor Jim Darling, given our current water issues. Please remember to conserve water. Thank you!

No further questions or concerns Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Health and Human Services.

A. Health and Human Services Action Item:

Mrs. Margarita Lopez was recognized and started with her 2 Action Items. Ms. Margarita Lopez informed the Board that she had provided everyone with Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 for their review and mentioned that these would be part of the action items needing approval.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List. ***Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion, upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

These contractors will offer essential services such as medical transportation, homemaker assistance, respite care, residential modifications, medication assistance, medical supplies, and durable medical equipment.

2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the List of the Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act-Services under Title III. ***Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the List of the Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act-Services under Title III. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

The sub-recipients will provide services including congregate meals, home-delivered meals, transportation, senior center operations, and caregiver education and training to seniors in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. Please refer to the attached list, exhibit 2.1.

Program Status Reports

Ms. Margarita Lopez began with her status reports. I have a few quick announcements and highlights. First, I want to update you on the interns we've hosted this year. We had a total of nine interns who completed 1,140 hours, which will count toward our in-kind requirements. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that our new contract has been awarded; the LRGVDC ADRC received another three-year contract. Along with this, we have new CDBG allotments. For the first time, the Aging Disability Resource Center has received a grant from Donna, Elsa, and Harlingen through the Community Development Block Grant to provide services for individuals with disabilities and veterans. Normally, we receive CDBG funds, and we're grateful for those—please keep them coming for older adults.

However, this is the first time any ADRC in Texas has received funds specifically for the Resource Center to assist individuals with disabilities and the veteran community. Additionally, we've been quite active this year, welcoming two new employees to the Area Agency on Aging. Our agency is growing rapidly, and we've also had four internal promotions. You'll see more new faces at next month's meeting. That concludes my report.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Public Safety.

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Program Action Items.

Mr. Cesar Merla started off with the 4 Action Items he had on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HAS) Bylaws as is for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. **Ron Mils made a motion to Approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Bylaws as is for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. Lupita Sanchez seconded the motion upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve to Update and Approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Policies and Procedures for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. **Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to Update and Approve the Homeland Security Advisory (HSAC) Policies and Procedures for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
3. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Bylaws for FY 2025-2026. **Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's Bylaws for FY 2025-2026. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
4. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Policies & Procedures as is for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. **Troy Allen made a motion to approve Policies & Procedures as is for the FY 2025-2026. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

Regarding the status report, the program has been very active since July. We've been engaging with the community and working to make it safer by distributing over 2,000 emergency response guidebooks in English and approximately 800 in Spanish. We still have some available, so if your jurisdiction needs more guidebooks, please contact me or Mr. Cruz, and we'll arrange that for you. I also wanted to highlight some pictures related to this work. As you can see, the staff is actively engaged in outreach and supporting other programs within the department. At the bottom of the page, you can see the K-9 competition held in Hidalgo County and the transformative care workshop that took place a couple of weeks ago at the LRGVDC facilities. I also want to highlight some upcoming training sessions. On September 5th, we will have a TCOLE -certified training session, which will provide two hours of training for law enforcement. I want to spend a bit of time on the next topic. We had a site visit yesterday from the instructor, Tab Troxler from Louisiana. The purpose of this course is to help all jurisdictions review their emergency management plans. It's not just about identifying what you're doing well, but also recognizing areas where you may be lacking. As leaders, we should always focus on improving our weaknesses. This training is a two-day event, taking place on Thursday and Friday, September 19th and 20th.

It will help with reviewing and updating emergency management plans, especially since many plans will be due for updates in 2025. There is still plenty of space available; we currently have 31 confirmed registrations and are planning to accommodate more. Moving on to the last update, from October 21st to 23rd, there will be a three-day course focusing on support related to mental health. This course is more geared toward law enforcement but is available for all officers to sign up and register. Also, regarding the management training, I forgot to mention that it includes a list of participants. However, anyone can attend, including nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, and others. Disasters require a community-wide and regional approach.

No further Questions or Comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda than moved on to item C Police Academy.

Mr. Javier Solis with the Police Academy had 1 Action item on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve an Interlocal Agreement as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with City of Combes Texas, by & through the Combes Police Department, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and with the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with City of Combes Texas, by & through the Combes Police Department, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and with the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. Ron Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Report

I'll keep it short: This month's standout highlight was hosting the 2024 Rio Grande Valley Police K9 competition. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Mayor Ramiro Garza and the City of Edinburg for their crucial support in making the event possible. We worked closely with the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department, and Mr. Javier Garza was exceptional in his role. His efforts, along with those of his team, were key to the event's success. Over 50 police canine teams participated in the training. The training covered narcotic detection, explosive detection, and criminal apprehension. We hosted 26 police canine units and law enforcement agencies, and we were also joined by teams from Mexico and the Kansas City Railroad Police, who participated in narcotic detection training. Planning for next year's event is already in progress. I want to extend my thanks to all the sponsors and everyone who contributed to making this

event a success. To underscore the significance of these trainings, since hosting the event, we've seen five success stories from the canine handlers and their dogs who participated. Within just a few weeks of the training here in the Rio Grande Valley, we've already had five drug seizures directly linked to this training. One notable success involved the seizure of 40 kilograms of methamphetamine hidden in cement bricks inside an 18-wheeler—an impossible find for the human eye or nose, but detectable thanks to the specialized training. Another significant seizure included 700 grams of fentanyl. These accomplishments highlight the direct impact of this training on our communities. We're already planning for next year's event and appreciate everyone's continued support. Mr. Javier Solis mentions one last thing, Mayor Sepulveda, I also want to mention that the Harlingen Basic Peace Officer course graduation is coming up next month. I'll be reaching out to your office to extend an invitation, as I believe it would be wonderful for you to attend and welcome the new officers to the city of Harlingen.

With no further comments or questions Mayor Nora Sepulveda moved on to Rio Grande Emergency Communication District.

Program Status Reports

Mr. Dennis Moreno started by letting the Board know that there were no Action Items and then proceeded to the GIS Division, 911 and Information Technology, and community Engagement reports that were all in the packet provided to everyone for review. Mr. Cruz added after Mr. Moreno's status report that Under the emergency communication district, I had the honor of being invited to testify before the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety regarding House Bill 3290. In relation to the Next Generation 9-1-1 service fee, system rollout, and implementation, I testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety on August 15th. Representatives Guillen and Canales are members of this committee. I provided an update on our Next Generation 9-1-1 system, which transitioned to a digital platform in 2021. For our region, encompassing Hidalgo and Willacy County, we received \$2.6 million in funding to cover implementation and recurring costs. Since the upgrade from analog to digital, costs have increased significantly, from \$300,000 per year to \$1.3--\$1.4 million annually. One of the key lessons learned was the substantial rise in recurring expenses. We are actively pursuing grant opportunities and additional funding sources to address these increased costs and are also working to advocate for an increase in the 9-1-1 fee. Currently, the fee is \$0.50, and we are considering a potential increase of \$0.25 due to the high costs of maintaining the system. We hope this issue will be reviewed and approved during the upcoming legislative session. If not, we will seek additional funding from the governor. We are actively pursuing these avenues to support future implementation and ongoing costs.

With No Further Comments or concerns, Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved to Item D Valley Metro

D. Transportation Valley Metro Action Item

Mr. Tom Logan was recognized and had 2 action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION on Review and Approval; Promotion of election Day and Get Out the Vote Initiative with Valley Metro Bus Service. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez made a motion to approve Promotion of election Day and Get Out the Vote Initiative with Valley Metro Bus Service. Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mayor Sepulveda mentioned the short turnaround time and wanted to ensure Valley Metro had a plan in place to collect contributions for this initiative. Mr. Logan confirmed, and the plan was ready to be implemented following the meeting. Mayor Norma Sepulveda stated I believe it's a fantastic idea, especially for communities like mine that heavily rely on this type of transportation. When a city doesn't

have its own communication system, like Brownsville does, it can be challenging. Brownsville excels at getting their message out, and I've mentioned to Manny that we should model our approach after theirs. I'm often in Brownsville, so I'm less familiar with what's happening in Hidalgo County, but I believe their method significantly enhances public participation in the democratic process. Overall, I think it's a great idea.

2.Consideration and ACTION to Approve Acquisition and Overhaul Vehicles under State and Federal approved Grants for LRGVDC Valley Metro. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve Acquisition and Overhaul Vehicles under State and Federal approved Grants for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Troy Allen seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

We have allocated over \$2 million for a major overhaul and replacement of some of our buses. These buses have reached their midlife, with nearly 400,000 miles on them, and require new engines, transmissions, and general maintenance. We will be investing in these necessary upgrades.

Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan then moved on to the Ridership Report. Quick update on our ridership report: we've surpassed 741,000 riders for the year, indicating that the system is in excellent shape. We continue to receive numerous requests for additional service and are currently exploring how we can address those needs.

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Reports

Luis Diaz started off with a quick report, I'd like to provide a quick update on our upcoming public involvement activities for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan. This includes our 25-year project plan and our four-year plan. Public involvement will commence on September 9th and will close on October 9th. We will then present the findings to our Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Board in October for approval. Promotional materials, including posters and flyers, will be available on our website under the News and Events section. Please keep an eye out for these updates.

Item #7 New & Unfinished Business

If there are no immediate questions, Mr. Cruz had two brief items to share.

First, I attended one of the initial census meetings on Thursday, August 22nd. For the upcoming census, we will be actively involved, particularly with our 911 district, to ensure accurate data collection and that everyone is counted. We will coordinate with Cameron County's 911 to provide the necessary information. If you receive an invitation to participate, please do so, as it is crucial for accurately representing the Valley.

Second, I want to invite everyone to our second Regional Mobility Advisory Committee (RMAC) meeting, which is part of the Regional Transport Authority initiative. The meeting is scheduled for September 5th. If you haven't received the invitation yet, please look out for it and participate if possible. Your feedback is valuable, and this initiative could potentially increase funding for the Valley Metro, possibly even tripling the current funding, which would allow us to expand services throughout the five-county area.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda made a motion to adjourn at 12:57 PM



Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST: ,


Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary