

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Notice is hereby provided that the LRGVDC Board of Directors will hold a Regular

IN-PERSON & Via GoTo Meeting at 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas

**Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 12:00 P.M.**

Provide the public with the ability to view the meeting via the

**LRGVDC Board of Directors Meeting**  
Dec 18, 2025, 12:00 – 1:30 PM (America/Chicago)

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Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

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#### **Item #1: Call to Order**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance

**Item #2:** Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve September 24, 2025, Minutes.....President

#### **Item #3: Public Comment**

**Item #4: Administration.....**.....Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

1. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** on approving a Participation Agreement between the Texas County & District Retirement System (TCDRS) and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) as detailed in the Plan Agreement, pursuant to section 391.005(b) (4)(B) of the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391 Regional Planning Commissions, with an effective date January 1, 2026.
2. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** on approval and adoption of the revised LRGVDC Procurement and Procedures Manual, Version 3, revised as of October 2025.
3. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** to approve the Recommendation to obtain the GUIDE Contract, which will generate a new, sustainable revenue stream and support caregivers of Medicare participants living with Alzheimer's and Dementia through comprehensive respite services, education and care navigation.
4. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Policies, Procedures, and Scoring Criteria for FY2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
5. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
6. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Policies, and Procedures and scoring Criteria for FY 2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
7. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Bylaws and Membership Roster for FY 2026-2027 Grant Cycle.
8. Ratification of Executive Committee **ACTION** to approve entering into a Building lease agreement between the Edinburg Economic Development Corporation (EEDC) and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) – Valley Metro for the Edinburg Transit Terminal 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.
9. Consideration and **ACTION** to Adopt Annual Investment Policy and Accept Quarterly Investment Report
10. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Revisions to the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual, including updates related to the New Retirement System and additional Administrative Policy amendments.
11. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve award and enter into agreement with Total Lawn Care (TLC) for Lawn and Landscapes Services.
12. Consideration and **ACTION** on Date & Time for Annual Report, Budget Committee and State of the COG.
13. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule.
14. Consideration and **ACTION** to Appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC).

## **B. Executive Director Report**

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

## **Item #5: Department Reports**

A. Community & Economic Development ..... Melisa Gonzalez-Rosas  
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amending the Economic Development Advisory committee (EDAC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** for approval for LRGVDC to accept Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Rider PM 2.5 Local Air Quality 2026-2027 grant funds.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amending the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership, Sections D, E & F.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Regional Small Cities (RSCC) Elections of Officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary.
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to submit a funding application for the Texas regional Broadband Program (TRBP).

### Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration
- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund
- Solid Waste Management Program
- Water Quality Program
- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee
- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group(Region M)
- Reservoir Levels

B. Health & Human Services ..... Margarita Lopez  
Director

### Program Status Reports

- Direct Consumer Services
- Care Coordination Services
- Senior Subrecipient & Senior Center Operations
- Home Delivered and Congregate Meal Program
- Special Services
- Care Transition Program
- Ombudsman Program
- Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
- Housing Navigator
- Special Initiatives Report & Information Referral and Assistance

## C. Public Safety

C.1.A. Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security ..... Cesar Merla  
Director

#### Program Status Reports

- Committee Meetings: Criminal Justice, Homeland Security and Regional Response Group
- Local Emergency Safety & Planning Meeting within Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.
- Communication with Regional Preparedness with State Counterparts.

C.1.B. Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.....Cesar Merla  
Director

#### Program Status Reports

- GIS Division
- 9-1-1 Information Technology
- Community Engagement Division

C.2. Police Academy Program.....Javier Solis  
Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an interlocal agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the Willacy County Sheriff's office for reporting the TCOLE training for the Willacy County Sheriff's Office, and with approval to have LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, sign and finalize the agreement.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to ratify the appointment of Police Chief Mark Perez, Police Chief Josue Trevino, and Cameron County Emergency Management Director Tom Huchen to the LRGV Academy Advisory Board.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to have the LRGVDC Executive Board appoint Willacy County Precinct 4 Commissioner Ernesto Garcia, to serve on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board as LRGVDC Executive Board Representative.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amendments to the LRGV Academy Cadet Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual to include a section on United States Veteran Benefits.

#### Program Status Reports

- Inservice Courses
- Officers Trained
- Contact Hours

### D. Transportation

Valley Metro.....Rene Garza  
Supervisor

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the updated Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve contract award for Bulk Diesel, DEF and Fluids for LRGVDC Valley Metro Transit Operations.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve award and enter contract with the highest-ranked proposer resulting from the evaluation of responses to RFP No.2025-07, LRGVDC Valley Metro 5-year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan.

4. Discussion and **ACTION** to approve on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Inactive Grant and Scope Revision.

#### Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO..... Michael Medina  
Executive Director

#### RGVMPO Status Reports

### **Item #6 New & Unfinished Business**

### **Item #7 Adjourn**

**Next Meeting  
January 28, 2025**

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated, and/or acted upon in a different order than those numbered above. The Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to adjourn into an Executive (Closed) session at any time during this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapters 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.075, Texas Government Code. No final action will be taken in the Executive Session.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:**

At the beginning of each LRGVDC meeting, the LRGVDC will allow for an open public forum/comment period. This comment period shall not exceed one-half (1/2) hour, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the LRGVDC must sign up to do so, before the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to address issues or topics under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC. For issues or topics that are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, LRGVDC members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action or discussion shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on the posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chair as these items are considered, and the same 3mins.

**ITEM #2**

**MEETING**

**MINUTES**

## MINUTES

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

12:00PM Wednesday September 24, 2025

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: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:05 p.m. a quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County  
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville  
Commissioner Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco  
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  
Alderwoman Cris Munoz, City of La Villa  
Mayor Sylvia Castillo, Sullivan City  
Commissioner Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes  
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville  
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College  
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake  
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large  
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

**Absent:**

Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg  
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen  
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County  
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna  
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos  
Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen  
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan  
Ms. Veronica Gonzalez, UTRGV  
Mr. Ron Mills, Willacy Co. Nav. Dist.  
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

**Item #2:** Consideration and ACTION for approval of August 24, 2025, meeting minutes. ***Mayor Sylvia Castillo made a motion to approve the minutes for August 27, 2025, meeting, Luke Lucio seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

**Item #3:** Public Comment – No public Comment

**Item #4:** Administration - Mr. Cruz then took a moment to introduce the attorneys who were present for the first time. Ms. Rebecca Hayward from Denton & Navarro introduced herself and Ms. Paloma Flores to the board, assuring everyone that they are available to assist and answer any questions as needed.

**B. Executive Directors Report.** Mr. Cruz announced all new hires and promotions for the month of September. Mr. Cruz then moved on to updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, training and Legislation. First, he stated that as some of you may know, we attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) quarterly training and meetings at the beginning of September. During that event, we received an important update regarding a request that all Councils of Governments (COGs) had submitted to the Texas Broadband Development Office.

TARC has been awarded \$8.7 million, which will be distributed among all the COGs in Texas. Each COG is expected to receive approximately \$107,000 annually for the next three years. These funds are specifically designated for the planning and implementation of broadband-related projects identified in each region's broadband plan. We anticipate beginning this initiative in January. At present, TARC staff are working with the Broadband Development Office to finalize the agreements. The funding will be released through an application process, but it will be limited to the COGs. Once we submit our application, we expect to receive the annual allocation of \$107,000. Our regional broadband plan has already been finalized, so our next step will be to review it and identify projects that align with Community and Economic Development goals—whether they are in the planning phase or ready for implementation.

The second item mentioned was regarding the Texas Municipal League (TML). On Thursday, September 11, representatives from TML visited and provided an overview of legislation passed during the most recent session. In your packet, you'll find a handout with a link to the TML website, which includes a comprehensive list of the bills addressed this session. To put it in perspective, there were over 9,000 bills introduced this session, with only one fraction ultimately being adopted and signed into law. One key point that TML emphasized was the new requirement for audits. Any agency receiving \$700,000 or more in funding will be required to conduct an annual audit. Additionally, all cities—regardless of size—will now be required to undergo an annual audit under one of the new bills. This is especially important for smaller cities that may not have conducted audits in the past. TML is offering support to small cities that lack the budget or experience to perform these audits. Contact details are included in the report, and you're also welcome to reach out to me directly—Mr. Cruz stated that he can connect everyone with the appropriate representative at TML. Audits are becoming increasingly important, particularly as they may become a prerequisite for future grant funding, including funding related to flood infrastructure. An audit may also be required when proposing a tax increase, so it's critical that all cities, especially smaller ones, prepare accordingly.

Lastly, I've also included a list of current grant opportunities for cities and counties in the handout. I encourage you to review them and apply for any that are a good fit.

No further question or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #5.

## Item #5 Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

1. Consideration and ACTION to authorize entry into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) for the provision of translation services. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to authorize entry into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) for the provision of Translation services. Troy Allen seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Resolution for the FY 2026-2027 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program application. The LRGVDC shall submit the signed resolution with the LRGVDC COG Application. ***Mayor Sylvia Castillo made a motion to approve Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Resolution for the FY 2026-2027 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program application. LRGVDC shall submit the signed resolution with LRGVDC COG Application. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
3. Consideration and ACTION to approve a Tire Resolution to accept the Regional Tire Ordinance as suggested in the Tire Study 2022 Scrap Tire Management and Available Alternatives in Texas LRGVDC Region. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve the Tire Resolution to accept the Regional Tire Ordinance as suggested in the Tire Study 2022 Scrap Tire Management and Available Alternatives in Texas LRGVDC Region. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

**Program Status Reports:** Ms. Melisa Gonzalez just wanted to give a quick update on the results of one of our most exciting initiatives this year, our tire recycling event!

For the first time, our Council of Governments partnered with a company to recycle tires instead of sending them to the landfill. I'm proud to report that 99% of the tires collected were successfully recycled, with only a fraction being shredded and sent to landfill.

Here are the numbers:

- **28 entities** participated in the event
- **49,730 tires** were collected
- **49,611 tires** were recycled
- Only **119 tires** ended up shredded and sent to landfill

The only reason those 119 tires went to landfill is that we didn't have enough to fill the final truckload to Laredo for shredding transport. This is something we're already planning to improve for next year.

TCEQ was extremely excited about these results. Their only question was: *"Did solid waste funds cover this?"* and the answer is a proud yes, 100% funded through our solid waste program. TCEQ also confirmed that we may be the only Council of Governments in Texas to achieve such a high recycling rate for tires. This success wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration between Valerie and Candice at UTW, the team at Republic, and Penny at UTW. Thanks to their efforts, we achieved an impressive recycling milestone. In fact, our SWAC (Solid Waste Advisory Committee) has already approved of \$75,000 for next year's tire disposal, and they've also given me the flexibility to reallocate additional funds if needed—just as we did this year. For context, we spent about \$100,000 this year on tire disposal, but for a 99% recycling rate, I believe it was well worth it. Looking ahead, I'm hoping to work with UTW to produce a video that

showcases how the recycled tires are being used—a great way to educate and inspire others to follow our lead.

No further questions Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to next item.

## **B. Health and Human Services**

Ms. Margarita Lopez had no action items on the agenda for this meeting.

### **Program Status Reports: Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**

Ms. Margarita Lopez mentioned that she was pleased to report that for fiscal year 2024–2025, they closed the year with less than \$20 unspent. That's a major achievement considering the funding delays and restrictions we faced. Thanks to our finance department and the strategic planning we put in place, we managed our budget exceptionally well despite the challenges.

Looking ahead to FY 2025–2026, we've already been awarded nearly \$250,000, and I'm happy to report that our ADRC services have continued without interruption.

We're also starting early planning for our annual Veterans Fest, and I'll be bringing more updates on that in October. Additionally, we're continuing to expand services and resources for caregivers in our community, with more updates to come soon.

### **Area Agency on Aging:**

Our Ombudsman Program underwent an in-person audit in August—the first of its kind for our agency. Despite the uncertainty at the time about whether services would continue, our leadership team stayed focused and strong. During the exit interview, we received multiple exceeds expectations comments and overall positive feedback. We're now waiting for the final written report, but the preliminary outcome looks very favorable. As many of you know, there have been significant changes to Medicare and Medicaid, and we are already seeing an increase in demand for support. In preparation for this year's Open Enrollment season in October, we increased our Benefit Counselors from two to six. All are now fully trained and recertified to handle the upcoming surge in service needs.

### **State & System-Wide Updates:**

At the state level, FY 2026 funding appears stable, with figures like FY 2025. We plan to implement the same successful strategies used last year to ensure we make the most of every dollar and remain fully prepared for any challenges.

From our recent Texas TARC meeting, we learned that a major system transition is already underway. Currently, AAAs across the state use WellSky as our case management system. However, effective immediately, we are beginning training on the new platform, PeerPlace. The full transition is expected to be complete by February 2026, which clearly indicates that the state's transition plan is well in motion.

Additionally, HHS has submitted the State Plan on Aging for 2026–2029 for federal review, another strong signal that long-term planning is progressing as expected. We're closely monitoring these developments to ensure we're fully informed and nothing catches us off guard.

### **Advocacy & Gratitude:**

Finally, I want to express my sincere gratitude on behalf of our aging community and all Area Agencies on Aging. Your continued advocacy has made a real impact. The support, especially from Mr. Cruz and others who've taken the time to write letters and engage with leadership, has not gone unnoticed. We've seen clear signs—through media coverage, official plans, and documents—that our aging community is finally being recognized as a priority.

## C. Public Safety Criminal Justice and Homeland Security

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation of Appointment of newly elected committee member for the next two (2) years. Mr. Merla added the following: The positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian—highlighted in red—require board action and approval. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation of Appointment of newly elected member for the next two (2) years. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation on Appointment of newly elected Committee Members for the next two (2) years. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory committee (CJAC) recommendation on Appointment of newly elected committee Members for the next two (2) years. Mr. Andres Chavez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

**Program Status Reports:** Mr. Cesar Merla provided a brief update on the 2nd Annual Listo RGV Conference, noting that it was arrival day at the island and that he was looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**C.2 LRGV Academy Program** Mr. Javier Solis had no action items on the agenda for the month of September.

**Program Status Reports:** We are currently attending the TCOLE Conference in McAllen as part of our contractual obligations to maintain compliance with our program requirements. While here, we are actively networking with several law enforcement agencies and academies from across the state.

For this month's departmental report, I'd like to start by sharing some exciting news. We have successfully renewed our contract with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), securing our status as a licensed training provider through the year 2031. This means the LRGV Police Academy will continue serving our region for many years to come.

Over the past month, the LRGV Academy staff has been finalizing background investigations for the upcoming 231st Weslaco Police Department Police Academy, which is scheduled to begin next Friday, October 3, 2025. We have received over 70 applications for this class. As you know, we've raised the standards for admission to the Academy in our continued effort to develop higher-caliber officers who are better prepared to serve our communities.

In addition to the upcoming academy, we are proud to announce that LRGV Academy will serve as the lead reporting agency for TCOLE credit hours at both the Listo RGV Conference and the 911 District Wellness Seminar. We've been working closely with our partners at the LRGVDC to ensure that all law enforcement personnel attending these events receive proper credit for their training hours.

We are also in the process of finalizing our fall in-service training calendar. We're expanding our offerings to include more advanced and intermediate-level courses, giving locally certified officers greater opportunities to advance in their careers. The full calendar will be posted as soon as it's finalized.

Meanwhile, Mr. Javier Solis mentioned that the current 229th and 230th academies, which are Weslaco's part-time academy and the Rio Grande Police Academy, are both in their final week of training. These cadets will be attempting their TCOLE licensing exams in the coming weeks.

Mr. Javier Solis also stated that he would like to make an important announcement: The LRGV Academy currently has two vacancies on our Advisory Board. Currently seeking law enforcement chief administrators

to represent Willacy and Cameron Counties. Applications are now being accepted, and we plan to present all candidates to the Advisory Board in November for nomination and election. Interested individuals should contact us at the Academy to submit their applications.

Finally, for the month, we successfully conducted seven in-service training courses with a total of 69 students, accounting for 356 contact hours.

### **C.3 Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Program Updates**

No action items today—just a brief report.

**Program Status Reports:** Our GIS division is currently conducting its annual planning meeting. This meeting focuses on aligning with the district's strategic goals and reviewing key statistics, including the total number of address points created and overall production within the district. I'll go into more detail on those statistics shortly. Additionally, we've completed several address tickets, contributing to improved service and data accuracy for our communities.

#### **IT Division:**

Our IT team has been busy with system audits and recently completed the installation of two new recorders. These systems are essential for capturing 911 calls and text communications. We replace this equipment every five years, and this cycle has now been completed successfully. This upgrade is a significant benefit to our public safety departments, and we're pleased to have it fully operational.

#### **Community Engagement:**

We want to remind everyone that we are here to support your communities across our district, which includes Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. If you have any community events coming up, please reach out to us. We are happy to participate and provide support.

A special thanks to Mayor Gonzales of Raymondville and Mr. Chavez, who invited us to a community event held on Saturday, August 23rd, focused on addressing needs in the rural areas outside the city limits. Our team worked with residents to assign 64 new addresses, ensuring they are now correctly registered in the 911 system. Reflective address plates were also provided to enhance visibility at night.

We want to commend our team for a great effort, including our Executive Director, Mr. Cruz, who was hands-on helping to make address plates. The event was a big success and well received by the community. We've already received interest in hosting similar events again.

If you're interested in bringing this kind of outreach to your community — especially rural areas — please contact me after the meeting, by phone, or via email. We'd be happy to coordinate and provide support.

**Alderwoman Cris Muñoz** asked whether this address update initiative could help towns where 911 services struggle to locate addresses.

**Mr. Moreno** responded: Yes, for areas within Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, we can work directly with your planning departments to assess and assist with these issues.

**Commissioner Pete Garcia (Weslaco)** inquired if the setup is only for rural areas or if local events are included.

**Mr. Moreno** clarified: While the addressing services are specific to rural areas (outside city limits), we do participate in various local events to reach the broader public.

**Mr. Cruz** also noted that our team would be present at Weslaco's National Night Out this coming weekend.

**Upcoming Event:** Mr. Cruz reminded the board about the Public Safety Wellness Seminar, scheduled for September 30th from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Mission Convention Center. This event will feature two

dynamic speakers, and we will recognize our telecommunicators for their years of service (5, 10, and 15-year milestones), including special honors such as the Sandra Coronado Award and Supervisor of the Year.

While registration is officially closed, board members or interested parties may still attend in person and passes will be available at the door.

## **D. Valley Metro Transportation**

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the updated Seatbelt Policy for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Tom Logan added that this policy is over 10 years old and needs to be updated to ensure compliance with current state and federal laws. A revision is required to bring it up to date. **Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the updated Seatbelt Policy for The LRGVDC Valley Metro. Commissioner Pete Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and the PossAble Dream Foundation. Tom Logan added that The PossAble Dream Foundation is dedicated to improving educational attainment and expanding economic opportunities in South Texas. The foundation operates a public adult charter high school serving learners aged 18 to 50 who have not yet completed their high school education. One of the key challenges identified by their students is access to reliable transportation. To help bridge this gap, the foundation plans to provide monthly transit passes, enabling students to use Valley Metro services, including Metro Express routes. Currently, the foundation operates campuses in Brownsville, Pharr, and Laredo, with plans to expand to additional locations throughout the Rio Grande Valley. **Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and the PossAble Dream Foundation. Luke Lucio seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

### **Program Status Reports: Service Report Update**

Year-to-date, we have transported approximately 794,000 passengers across our system. We've also participated in eight outreach events, one of the most notable being the Laguna Madre Vet Fest. As a result of that event, we received a request to add additional bus stops along the Harlingen medical route. In response, we're currently working with the City of Harlingen to incorporate two new stops near medical clinics, providing direct access for riders to those facilities.

Additionally, I'd like to provide an update on our rural service expansion. We've extended our demand-response service hours to 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and successfully launched both the Willacy Express and Zapata Express routes. I'm pleased to report that ridership is steadily increasing across all these services.

We continue to collaborate with local officials to promote awareness and ensure that communities know this transportation options are available and accessible to them.

#### **D.1 RGVMPO Program Status Reports:**

##### **Federal Review & MPO Update**

Mr. Micheal Medina started off his program status reports by stating that one key item I want to highlight is our recent federal review conducted last year. This review, which takes place every four years, was carried out by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and TxDOT. Following the evaluation, we received several recommendations for improvement.

As we shared with the Policy Board, our intent is to address all federal requirements within an accelerated timeframe—well ahead of the typical three-year window.

**Completed Action Items:** So far, we've already made significant progress in three major areas.

**Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):** We've developed a two-year UPWP that outlines the MPO's planning activities across the region. This program includes major initiatives and ensures we meet all federal planning documentation requirements. As part of this effort, the Policy Board approved two special studies in collaboration with the Council of Governments (COG).

**A Transit-Oriented Development / Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Study**, which we are working on closely with Mr. Cruz and his team.

**A Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study**, which aims to explore how to better align and integrate transit services throughout the Valley.

Additionally, we're developing a region-wide transit modeling tool called T-BEST. This will be available to all transit providers, including those offering demand-response services, and will significantly enhance regional transit planning.

**Public Participation Program (PPP):**

The Policy Board also approved the updated Public Participation Program. This is a vital document that outlines how the MPO engages with the public and ensures transparency in our processes. It's unique that any revisions to this document require a 45-day public comment period, compared to the 30-day period required for other plans.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):**

This is our long-range transportation plan, covering a minimum 20-year horizon. The MTP is supported by:

**A 10-Year Plan**, which must be financially constrained

**A 4-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, which outlines the first four years of funding and projects within the 10-year plan

These documents together form the foundation of our regional transportation investment strategy.

**New Project Submission Requirements**

To streamline federal project requests through the MPO, the Policy Board adopted a new set of requirements:

- **A Project Request Form** must be submitted
- **A Project Schedule** detailing timelines and milestones
- **A Financial Summary**, including local match commitments
- **A Resolution of Support** from the sponsoring agency's governing body

These components ensure that all project requests are comprehensive and ready for integration into the planning process. The information feeds into a Project Readiness Report, a key tool used by both the Technical Committee and the Policy Board to assess the status and feasibility of proposed projects.

For example, Mr. Medina Mentioned recently they carried over \$102 million from FY23 through FY25. Thanks to the Project Readiness Report, we were able to program all that funding within a single fiscal year, a significant achievement that would have been difficult without a structured process in place.

Moving forward, Mr. Medina stated that all projects presented to the Policy Board for federal assistance will be required to follow this new process and utilize the readiness report template. This approach ensures greater transparency, accountability, and alignment with federal expectations, ultimately helping us better serve the region.

Item #7: Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adjourn at 12:51 pm

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President, Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

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Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #3**

**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT**

**ITEM #4. A**

**ADMINISTRATION**



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mission ..... President  
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mayor John Cowen, Brownsville ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mayor Ramiro Garza, Edinburg ..... Secretary  
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen ..... Treasurer

## BOARD MEMBERS

Adrian Gonzalez  
Mayor, Weslaco

Joey Lopez  
Commissioner, Cameron County

Ellie Torres  
Commissioner, Hidalgo County

Rosa Perez  
Mayor, La Villa

David Moreno  
Mayor, Donna

Alma Salinas  
Mayor, Sullivan City

Oscar Montoya  
Mayor, Mercedes

Javier Villalobos  
Mayor, McAllen

Alejandro Flores  
Mayor, Los Fresnos

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernández  
Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales  
Commissioner, Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra  
Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas  
Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales  
UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez  
South Texas College

Luke Lucio  
Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen  
Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills  
Willacy County Navigation Dist.

Jim Darling  
Member-at-Large

Oscar Garcia  
Member-at-Large

Andres Chavez  
Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez  
Grassroots Organizations

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Manuel "Manny" Cruz

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** LRGVDC Board Members  
**FROM:** Crystal Balboa, Director of Finance  
**DATE:** December 18, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** **Investment Policy Annual Review and Re-Adoption of LRGVDC**

In accordance with statutory requirements and organizational best practices, it is time for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council's annual review and consideration of its Investment Policy.

Staff has completed its annual assessment and is recommending re-adoption of the current Investment Policy as presented, with no revisions proposed at this time. A full copy of the LRGVDC Investment Policy is available for your review on the LRGVDC meetings webpage at:

<http://www.lrgvdc.org/meetings.html>

We respectfully request the Board's approval of the policy as part of the upcoming meeting agenda.

Should you have any questions or require additional information prior to the meeting, please feel free to contact me or Manuel Cruz.

Thank you for your attention and continued support.

**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT**  
**JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

This quarterly report of pooled fund investments fully complies with the written investment policy and investment strategy approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors. It fully complies with the relevant portions of the Public Funds Investment Act.

<b>Investments in TexPool Prime:</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Withdrawals</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
Water Plan	83,430.14	-	-	928.49	84,358.63
RGV 911 District	9,124,671.99	-	-	101,546.18	9,226,218.17
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	231,190.61	-	(18,610.43)	2,417.97	214,998.15
Transit	1,051,425.84	-	-	11,701.07	1,063,126.91
Texas Water Development Board	102,283.29	-	(57,818.74)	607.71	45,072.26
GLO - Closing Costs	152,954.12	-	-	1,702.25	154,656.37
Kari's Law	72,317.41	-	-	804.81	73,122.22
Tire Project	26,167.88	-	-	291.21	26,459.09
Hidalgo County Active Mobility Plan - Local	267,388.99	-	-	2,975.72	270,364.71
AAA - Local	-	18,610.43	-	154.90	18,765.33
RGV Explorer	46,125.27	-	-	513.31	46,638.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,157,955.54</b>	<b>18,610.43</b>	<b>(76,429.17)</b>	<b>123,643.62</b>	<b>11,223,780.42</b>

TexPool Prime Rate as of September 30, 2024 - 4.2891%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT  
 JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

<b>Investments in TexPool:</b>	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>Deposits</b>	<b>Withdrawals</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>
FIF - TWDB - Escrow Account	4,834,887.70	-	(204,009.76)	52,003.80	4,682,881.74
FIF - TWDB	248,558.37	204,009.76	(40,049.82)	2,872.78	415,391.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,083,446.07</b>	<b>204,009.76</b>	<b>(244,059.58)</b>	<b>54,876.58</b>	<b>5,098,272.83</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b><u>16,241,401.61</u></b>	<b><u>222,620.19</u></b>	<b><u>(320,488.75)</u></b>	<b><u>178,520.20</u></b>	<b><u>16,322,053.25</u></b>

TexPool Rate as of September 30, 2024 - 4.1779%

Crystal Balboa  
 Director of Finance

## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

### INVESTMENT POLICY

#### I. Scope

This investment policy applies to any advance funds received by the LRGVDC for future expenditures. These funds are accounted for in the LRGVDC's Annual Financial Report.

#### II. Objectives

The LRGVDC shall manage and invest its cash with four objectives listed in order of priority: Safety, Liquidity, Yield, and Public Trust. The safety of the principal invested always remains the primary objective. All investments shall be designed and managed in a manner responsive to the public trust and consistent with State and Local law.

**Safety** - The primary objective of the LRGVDC's investment activity is the preservation of capital. Each investment transaction shall be conducted in a manner to avoid capital losses.

**Liquidity** - The LRGVDC's investment portfolio shall be structured such that the LRGVDC is able to meet all obligations in a timely manner. This shall be achieved by matching investment maturities with forecasted cash flow requirements.

**Yield** - The yield will be the current yield available on certificates of deposit.

**Public Trust** - All participants in the LRGVDC's investment process shall seek to act responsible as custodians of the public trust. Investment officials shall avoid any transaction which might impair public confidence in the LRGVDC.

#### III. Responsibility and Control

**Investment Committee** - An Investment Committee, consisting of the Executive Director and Director of Finance shall meet quarterly to determine operational strategies and to monitor results.

**Delegation of Authority and Training** - Authority to manage the LRGVDC's investment program is derived from a resolution of the Board of Directors. The Director of Finance is designated as investment officer of the LRGVDC and is responsible for investment decisions and activities. The Director of Finance shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program, consistent with this investment policy. The

investment officer shall attend at least one training session relating to the officer's responsibility under the Act every two years and receive 10 hours of training.

Internal Controls - The Director of Finance is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the entity are protected from loss, theft or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

Accordingly, the Director of Finance shall establish a process for annual independent review by an independent auditor to assure compliance with policies and procedures. The internal controls shall address the following points:

- a. Control of collusion.
- b. Separation of transaction authority from accounting and record keeping.
- c. Custodial safekeeping.
- d. Clear delegation of authority to subordinate staff members.

Prudence - The standard of prudence to be applied by the investment officer shall be the "prudent investor" rule, which states: "Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived." In determining whether an investment officer has exercised prudence with respect to an investment decision, the determination shall be made taking into consideration:

- a. The investment of all funds, or funds under the LRGVDC's control, over which the officer had responsibility rather than a consideration as to the prudence of a single investment.
- b. Whether the investment decision was consistent with the written investment policy of the LRGVDC.

The investment officer, acting in accordance with written procedures and exercising due diligence, shall not be held personally responsible.

**Ethics and Conflicts of Interest** - The LRGVDC staff involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to make impartial investment decisions.

#### **IV. Reporting**

The Director of Finance shall submit a signed quarterly investment report to the LRGVDC Board of Directors. Additionally, within 30 days of the end of the year, the Director of Finance shall submit an annual report showing certificate of deposits purchased by banks and total interest earned to date.

#### **V. Investment Portfolio**

The only investments available to the LRGVDC will be :

- A. Investments through TexPool and TexPool Prime
- B. Certificates of deposit purchased from the local banks in the three county area - Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties

#### **VI. Safekeeping and Custody**

- A. Investments in TexPool and TexPool Prime: The LRGVDC has executed a Participation Agreement adopting TexPool's Investment Policy. (Attachments A&B)
- B. Certificate of Deposits purchased from the local banks in the three county area:

**Insurance or Collateral** - All deposits and investment of the LRGVDC funds shall be secured by pledged collateral. In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be 102% of market value of principal and accrued interest on the deposits or investments less an amount insured by the FDIC or FSLIC. Evidence of the pledged collateral shall be maintained by the Director of Finance. Collateral shall be reviewed monthly to assure that the market value of the pledged securities is adequate.

**Safekeeping Agreement** - Collateral pledged to secure deposits of the LRGVDC shall be held by a safekeeping institution in accordance with a Safekeeping Agreement which clearly defines the procedural steps for gaining access to the collateral should the LRGVDC determine that the LRGVDC's funds are in jeopardy. The safekeeping institution, or Trustee, shall be an institution not affiliated with the firm pledging the collateral. The safekeeping agreement shall include

the signatures of authorized representatives of the LRGVDC, the firm pledging the collateral, and the Trustee, if applicable.

**Collateral Defined** - The LRGVDC shall accept only the following securities as collateral:

- a. FDIC and FSLIC insurance coverage.
- b. A bond, certificate of indebtedness, or Treasury Note of the United States, or other evidence of indebtedness of the United States that is guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

## **VII. Investment Policy Adoption**

The LRGVDC investment policy shall be adopted by resolution of the Board of Directors. The policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the Investment Committee and any modifications will be recommended for approval to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall review these investment policies not less than annually.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the LRGVDC this 10th day of December, 2025.

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LRGVDC Board President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #4 Administration

10. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Revisions to the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual, including updates related to the New Retirement System and Additional Administrative Policy amendments.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #4 Administration

11. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve award and enter into agreement with Total Lawn Care (TLC) for Lawn and Landscape Services.

The LRGVDC Procurement Department issued a Request for Proposals (No. 2025-06) on September 17, 2025, seeking qualified vendors to provide Lawn and Landscape Maintenance Services for all LRGVDC and Valley Metro properties. Proposals were evaluated by the review committee and following the evaluation process, Total Lawn Care (TLC) was determined to be the most responsive and responsible proposer, offering the best overall value and demonstrating the qualifications and capacity necessary to perform the required services. Total Lawn Care's proposed total annual amount is **\$59,642.84**. The breakdown on the per site per service can be found in the packets.

Staff is seeking approval to award the recommended vendor, Total Lawn Care (TLC) as the successful vendor and enter into an agreement. The proposed agreement will establish an initial one-year term for lawn care and landscaping maintenance services, with the option to renew annually for up to four (4) additional one-year periods, contingent upon satisfactory performance.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Bid Tabulation Sheet

*It is hereby certified that the tabulation presented below accurately and completely reflects the information provided in the proposal forms submitted by each bidder. All data included has been transcribed directly from the original bid documents without alteration.*

**Project Name:** LRGVDC Lawn & Landscape Maintenance Services

**Project Ref:** 2025-06

**Project #:** na

**Project Close Date:** 10/03/2025

**Project Bid Opening:** 10/06/2025

No.	Bidder	Proposed Amount
1	Brightview Landscaping	\$62,698.20
2	J&R Landscaping & Lawn Services	\$71,130.00
3	Total Lawn Care (TLC)	\$59,642.84
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

*The tabulation of bids provided herein is for informational and evaluation purposes only and does not constitute a notice of intent to award, a determination of responsiveness or responsibility, or a guarantee of contract award to any bidder. The inclusion of a vendor's bid in this tabulation does not imply acceptance or approval by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). All bids remain subject to further review, analysis, and formal approval in accordance with applicable Federal and Texas State procurement regulations, and the LRGVDC's internal procurement policies and procedures.*

*The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities or minor irregularities, and make an award in the best interest of the agency.*

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Sign:

Date:

Asst. Director of Business Operations





LRGVDC Proposal Talley Sheet  
RFP 2025-06: LRGVDC Lawn and Landscape Maintenance Service



Evaluation Members

Evaluator Name

#	Proposer	Felipe Lopez	Carolina Rios	Manuel Meraz	Javier Dominguez	Liza Alfaro	Tom Logan	James Campbell	-	-	Totals
1	<b>Brightview</b>	86	88	92	93	93	96	95			<b>643</b>
2	<b>Total Lawn Care (TLC)</b>	94	91	94	88	91	92	94			<b>644</b>
3	<b>*J&amp;R Landscaping</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4											
5											
6											

\* Bidder Deemed Disqualified

Recommended vendor derived from highest score from the tally above.

**Total Lawn Care (TLC)**

Recommended Proposer

*The scoring values presented in this tally are accurate and transcribed directly from the individual evaluations submitted by the members of the Project Evaluation Committee. The vendor recommendation reflects not only the highest cumulative score based on the established evaluation criteria, but also the extent to which the proposal aligns with the goals, priorities, and operational needs of the LRGVDC.*

*It is important to note that this recommendation does not constitute a final award decision. It represents the conclusion of the evaluation phase. The final scoring results and vendor recommendation will be formally submitted to the Board of Directors for review and final approval.*

*\*One proposal were deemed non-compliant with the submission requirements of RFP 2025-06 and have been disqualified from scoring and further consideration. Disqualified proposals are noted accordingly in the tabulation for transparency. Determination is available on the bidders proposal review.*

Procurement Signature

10/09/2025

Date

Felipe Lopez  
Asst. Director of Business Operations



## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

## Offer Sheet

Solicitation Number: 2025-06Solicitation Title: LRGVDC Lawn + Landscape Maintenance Services

The undersigned, having examined the Scope of Work, Specifications, and all requirements of this Request for Proposals (RFP), hereby proposes to furnish all services, labor, materials, equipment, tools, supervision, and other necessary items in accordance with the RFP.

Offeror must provide an itemized rate per location listed below. Rates shall include all items outlined in the Scope of Work, except for palm trees taller than 20 feet. Palm tree maintenance over 20 feet must be separately itemized.

Location	Scope of Work Rate Per Service	Palm Trees >20 ft. Per Service	Notes
301 W Railroad St. Weslaco, TX 78596	\$ <u>829.52</u>	\$ <u>4005.22</u>	
510 S Pleasantview Dr. Weslaco, TX 78596	\$ <u>574.93</u>	\$ <u>757.74</u>	
4406 Glasscock Ave. Harlingen, TX 78550	\$ <u>229.39</u>	\$ <u>541.26</u>	
102 N T St. Harlingen, TX 78550	\$ <u>514.02</u>	\$ <u>216.50</u>	
617 W University Dr. Edinburg, TX 78539	\$ <u>282.21</u>	N/A	

## Offer Summary

Total Annual Base Offer (all locations 20 cuts, excluding palm trees >20 ft.): \$ 48601.40Total Estimated Palm Tree Services (locations with palm trees >20 ft. 2 cuts): \$ 11041.44Total Proposed Annual Contract Value (total of above): \$ 59642.84

## Note to Offerors:

- All rates must be firm for the initial contract year as specified in the RFP.
- Additional services not included in the Scope of Work must be identified separately.
- LRGVDC reserves the right to request clarification of pricing, including unit cost breakdowns.

## Offeror Information

Legal Business Name: TLC Total Lawn Care, LLCAddress: 18820 FM 2252 San Antonio, TX 78266Authorized Representative (Print Name): Gerry BowerTitle: PresidentSignature: [Signature] Date: 9/23/2025

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board Of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #4 Administration

12. Consideration and **ACTION** on Date & Time for Annual Report, Budget Committee and State of the COG  
on Date & Time for Annual Report, Budget Committee and State of the COG

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

**Item #4 Administration**

13. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule.

# 2026 LRGVDC

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULE

\* All meetings scheduled on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon

January 28, 2026	Semi-Annual Membership Meeting
February 25, 2026	
March 25, 2026	
April 29, 2026	
May 28, 2026	Annual Elections Meeting
June 24, 2026	
July	No Meeting Scheduled
August 26, 2026	
September 24, 2026	
October 28, 2026	
November	No Meeting Scheduled
December 9, 2026	

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #4: Administration

14. Consideration and **ACTION** to Appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas Association of Regional Councils TARC.

The current designated Board member, or his or her designate, of each member of council shall represent that council in all membership business. Each member of the council shall have one vote on all matters which may come before the membership. The designated Board member of a council may designate any representative of the council he or she represents, including staff persons, to vote on behalf of such council on all matters which may come before the membership provided that such designation is received in writing by the Association prior to the call to order of the business session at which such designation is to be in effect. Such designation may be changed from time to time.



# TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

1210 San Antonio Street, Suite 201 • Austin, TX 78701 • 512-478-4715 • FAX 512-275-9910 • [www.txregionalcouncil.org](http://www.txregionalcouncil.org)

## 2026 Board Member Designation Form

### EXCERPTS FROM TARC BYLAWS

#### Article IV – Membership

Section 3. The current designated Board member, or his or her designate, of each member council shall represent that council in all membership business. Each member council shall have one vote on all matters which may come before the membership. The designated Board member of a council may designate any representative of the council he or she represents, including staff persons, to vote on behalf of such council on all matters which may come before the membership provided that such designation is received in writing by the Association prior to the call to order of the business session at which such designation is to be in effect. Such designation may be changed from time to time.

#### Article IX - Voting

Section 2. Voting by alternate shall be permitted when health, business or personal necessity makes it impossible for a member of the Board of Directors to attend a meeting. The alternate must be designated by the absent Director in written form delivered to the Association prior to the beginning of the meeting. The alternate may be any official or employee of the organization represented by the Director. A member of the Board of Directors may not serve as alternate for another member and an alternate may represent only one absent Director at any meeting. An alternate may exercise the privilege of making or seconding motions and voting on any matter to come before the Board of Directors. The alternate shall be counted in determining a quorum for the Board of Directors.

### TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

1210 San Antonio Street, Suite 201

Austin, Texas 78701



# TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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## 2026 Board Member Designation Form

Regional Council

Date

---

### TARC Board Designee:

Name:

Title:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

is the designated representative from our regional

(Full name)

council to the Texas Association of Regional Councils Board of Directors meetings. In their absence, alternates are designated as follows:

First Alternate:

then to

Second Alternate:

and then to

Third Alternate:

---

### Signature of Regional Council President or Chair

(Please sign or type name and check the box below if submitting electronically on page 2)

By checking this box, I indicate that I am authorized to sign this form and that this indication will serve as an electronic signature for the document.

**ITEM #4. B**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE**

**REPORT**

**ADMINISTRATION**

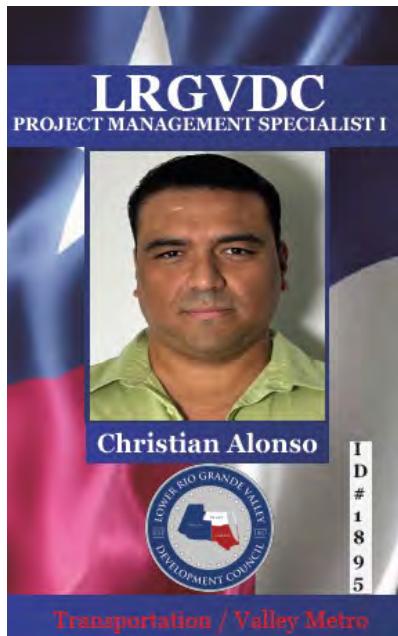
**NOVEMBER**

**NEW HIRES &  
PROMOTIONS**

# New Hires / Promotions

Hire Date: November 10, 2025,

Christian Alonso  
Project Manager Specialist I  
Transportation Valley Metro



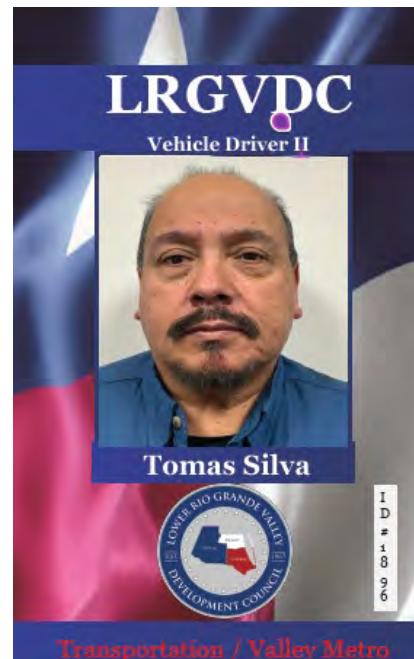
Promotion Date: November 10, 2025

Cesar Merla  
Director of Public Safety  
Public Safety



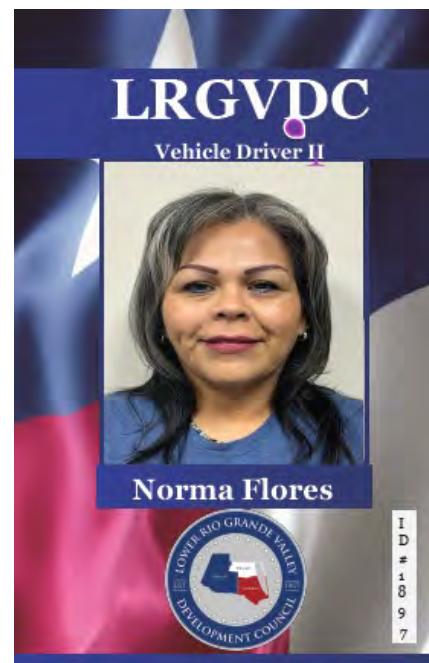
Hire Date: November 24, 2025

Tomas Silva  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation Valley Metro



Hire Date: November 24, 2025

Norma Flores  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation Valley Metro



**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY**  
**&**  
**ECONOMIC**  
**DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amending the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership.

An EDAC meeting was held on September 2025, and they approved to amend the bylaws to include additional membership language for the Special EDO category. In cases where a Special EDO (county seat) position remains vacant and no nominations have been received after the designated timeframe (1<sup>st</sup> quarter/3 months), an active EDC within that county may be nominated to represent the Special EDO County seat.

This recommendation aims to ensure that all membership seats are filled and that committee participation is maximized.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

**Item #5: Community & Economic Development**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

**2. Consideration and **ACTION** for approval for LRGVDC to accept Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Rider PM 2.5 Local Air Quality 2026-2027 grant funds.**

In accordance with Article 1.2 Amendments of the General Terms and Conditions, the TCEQ and the LRGVDC (Performing Party) agree to amend Contract Number 582-24-01395 as follows:

**1. RENEWAL**

The TCEQ and the Performing Party agree to renew this grant for a period of two years, unless terminated by the parties under the terms of the Contract.

The Expiration Date on the Contract Signature Page now reads: December 31, 2027.

**2. MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED REIMBURSEMENT**

The TCEQ and the Performing Party agree to increase the total amount of the Contract by \$341,620.23.

LRGVDC will continue to receive FY26 funds for this project to determine the most effective use of these funds, ensuring the continued progress of this initiative in our region. Expenditure of these funds is limited to: inventorying emissions, monitoring of pollution levels, air pollution and data analysis; modeling pollution levels; regional air quality planning; and administration of the program. The grant recipients shall channel the funds to those projects most useful for the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

**Item #5: Community & Economic Development**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

**3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amending the Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Bylaws, under Article IV: Membership, Sections d., e., and f.**

At the November 18, 2025, RSCC meeting, the committee recommended that the bylaws include the following changes:

**D. Election Cycle and Succession**

- Elections shall be held annually on a revolving basis.
- At the conclusion of each term:
- The Vice Chair shall automatically succeed to the position of Chair.
- The Secretary shall automatically succeed to the position of Vice-Chair.
- A new Secretary shall be elected.

**E. Nominations**

Secretary position nomination forms will be emailed to committee at least 60 days prior to the scheduled election. Nomination forms must be reviewed to ensure compliance with the county representation requirement and are due 30 days prior to scheduled elections.

**F. Term Length**

Each officer shall serve a term of one year, beginning immediately upon election or succession.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Elections of Officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary.

At the November 18, 2025, RSCC meeting, the committee recommended the following members for the following positions:

- Chair: Mayor Pablo Morales, City of Lyford
- Vice Chair: Mayor Syliva Castillo, Sullivan City
- Secretary: Ben Medina, City of Rio Hondo

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to submit a funding application for the Texas regional Broadband Program (TRBP).

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

#### A. Community & Economic Development

- **Economic Development Administration**

The C.E.D. Director delivered a presentation titled "*Funding Unlocked: The Grant Game Plan*" to Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates, focusing on practical strategies for identifying, applying for, and securing grant funding. The presentation emphasized the importance of aligning project goals with funding priorities, understanding eligibility requirements, and preparing competitive applications. Attendees gained valuable insights into both state and federal funding opportunities, as well as tips for long-term planning and sustainability. The session aimed to empower organizations with the tools and knowledge needed to successfully navigate the grant landscape and enhance their community impact.

Disaster Supplemental Funding. This funding is available exclusively to communities affected by natural disasters that received a FEMA Disaster Declaration in 2023 or 2024. For more information about this opportunity, please visit the website linked below.

<https://www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/disaster-recovery/supplemental/2025>

Know these key facts:

1. Total funding of \$1.5billion for disasters nationwide.
2. The funding does not include regional allocations and will be made available until funding is fully committed.
3. There are three specific "Funding Pathways": Readiness Path, Implementation Path, and Industry Transformation Path.
4. The anticipated funding per project in each Pathway is: Readiness - \$250k-\$500k; Implementation - \$100k-\$5million; Industry Transformation - \$20million-\$50million (though in the Grants.gov webpage the grant ceiling is listed as \$30million).

Staff continue to engage with city officials, EDC's, EDO's, and other economic development industries to identify and develop potential Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects. These discussions provide valuable insights that will increase the preparation of applications for submission, as well as generate letters of support that align with our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) goals and objectives for prospective projects. Our team is equipped to offer technical assistance, project development, and grant administration related to EDA proposals and initiatives. Should you have any inquiries or require further information regarding EDA, please do not hesitate to contact the Community & Economic Development Department. We also serve as the designated regional point of contact for the EDA and will continue to disseminate information as necessary. Furthermore, our team collaborates with other governmental entities on economic development activities to optimize the benefits of all projects and objectives within the region, while also ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts and resources. For additional information and resources concerning EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

The C&ED Department prepared and submitted an EDA Disaster grant application for The RGV Regional Readiness Project (Regional Ready) in the amount of **\$117,752.00**.

This project would hire a full-time regional planning specialist who will:

- Implement and update the CEDS and ERR plans.
- Identify gaps and align priorities between the ERR, CEDS, TWDB, and Region M Plan, Arroyo

Colorado WPP, and other relevant state plans.

- Coordinate with stakeholders to identify and prepare regional projects for future disaster recovery and economic development funding.
- Provide ongoing progress reports and data updates to the LRGV Economic Development Advisory Committee.
- Assist with organizing and facilitating the annual LISTO RGV Conference, which aligns with ERR strategies on preparedness and resilience.

The LRGVDC continues to solicit nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following category: (2) Special EDO. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development. If you have any questions about the

nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to [vramos@lrgvdc.org](mailto:vramos@lrgvdc.org).

- **Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)**

A RSCC meeting was held on November 18, 2025, at 2:00 PM. This meeting was hybrid and had excellent support from the small communities. We had two presenters at this meeting.

Ms. Enriqueta Caballero from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) gave an overview of financial assistance programs, including both federal and state funding opportunities.

**Federal Financial Assistance Programs:**

1. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) - Supports infrastructure to meet drinking water standards.
2. Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) - Funds wastewater, stormwater, reuse, and pollution control projects.

**Technical Assistance Programs:**

3. AMPSS: Helps small systems develop asset management plans.
4. WUTAP: Provides technical support to utilities applying for TWDB funding.
5. FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) - Competitive grants for flood risk reduction projects.
6. FEMA Swift Current Program (FMASC) - Targets individual property mitigation post-disaster.

**Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) Programs:**

7. Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR)
8. Emerging Contaminants (EC) in both DWSRF and CWSRF

**State Financial Assistance Programs:**

9. SWIFT – Funds water supply projects in the state water plan.
10. EDAP – Supports projects in economically distressed areas.
11. D Fund – Bundles multiple water/wastewater projects.
12. RWAF – Assists small and rural water systems.
13. State Participation – Funds excess capacity for future needs.
14. Flood Infrastructure Fund – Supports flood mitigation projects.
15. Agriculture Conservation Loans/Grants – Promotes water conservation in agriculture

Mr. Santiago Salinas from The Rio Grande Valley Long-Term Disaster Recovery (RGV LTDR) gave an overview of this nonprofit organization. It has operated for about 30 years under various 501(c)(3) entities. Its mission remains consistent: to assist individuals and families in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) as they recover from natural and human-made disasters. This non-profit works closely with faith-based, nonprofit, government, and business organizations. It Partners with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and World Renew

and shares resources and expertise with other Disaster Recovery Groups (DRGs) in the region. When the Historic flooding occurred from March 26–28, 2025, with over 20 inches of rain in some areas. Cameron County was among the hardest hit. FEMA provided over \$63.5 million in aid to more than 10,000 households across the four counties. What the non-profit did was focus on assisting those affected by the 2025 floods, seeking funding and material donations for rebuilding efforts. All aid recipients went through a case management process. Volunteers from DRGs who participated in the World Renew training will be the “boots on the ground” for future disasters in conducting unmet needs assessments. Certified Volunteers will be mobilized to areas of disaster impact and make contact with families. These actions are an integral part of long-term recovery planning and coordination. Training participants received a World Renew Certificate of Completion to conduct Unmet Needs assessments

All RSCC meeting information and GotoMeeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, or reach out to Brenda Salinas, [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org).

### **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

The LRGVDC has received and executed our Community and Economic Development Assistance Funds (CEDAF) contract for Administrative and Technical Assistance Services. The funds allocated under this contract are designated for technical assistance activities that are not tied to any specific Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) project.

Instead, they support a range of regional efforts, including distributing information from TDA, conducting outreach to advance fair housing objectives, and organizing regional meetings.

On October 23, 2025, TDA and LRGVDC facilitated a Grant Outreach Meeting to provide program information and solicit stakeholder input. The meeting was specifically designed to actively engage eligible communities in the TxCDBG grant process. During the session, participants received information on program guidelines, eligibility criteria, and application procedures. The meeting also offered non-entitlement communities an opportunity to share feedback and input, ensuring that the program is responsive to the unique needs of the region's non-entitlement communities.

Texas Department of Agriculture Funding Opportunities:

### **Community Development Fund (2027-2028)**

The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the TxCDBG Program. This fund is available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used.

- Application Deadline: December 2026
- Max Award: \$750,000

## **Downtown Revitalization Program (2026)**

Provides grant funds for public infrastructure to eliminate deteriorate conditions and foster economic development in historic main street areas and rural downtown areas.

- Application Deadline: Spring 2026
- Max Award: \$1,000,000

## **Colonia Fund Construction (2026)**

Funds available to eligible county applicants for projects in severely distressed unincorporated areas. The term “colonia” generally means an identifiable unincorporated community that is within 150 miles of the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Assistance to funds water and wastewater improvements, housing rehabilitation, and other improvements in colonia areas.

- Application Deadline: December 2025
- Max Award: \$1,000,000

## **Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program (2025)**

Assistance to colonia areas to connect to a water and sewer system project funded by other state or federal funds.

- Application Deadline: December 2025
- Max Award: \$1,000,000

## **State Urgent Need (SUN) Fund (2025)**

Assistance to communities impacted by state-declared disaster events that are not eligible for federal disaster assistance. Infrastructure repair, replacement, and improvement are eligible projects, with priority for drinking water systems and debris removal.

- Application Deadline: As Needed
- Max Award: \$500,000 (\$2,000,000 for certain multi-jurisdiction awards)

For more information and resources on the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) funding opportunities, visit our Community Development webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html>, under the CDBG Rural for Texas tab.

## **Air Quality Program**

The Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality project continues to advance as planned, with several tasks completed and no expected delays. The project timeline remains intact, with a final report summarizing the findings from the study scheduled for completion by December 31, 2025.

Current Project Status:

- Prepare Scope of Work – Completed
- Prepare Quality Assurance Project Plan – Completed
- Emission Inventory – Completed

- Data Research and Analysis - Completed
- Air Quality Modeling – Completed
- Draft Report – Due by December 12, 2025
- Final Report – Due by December 31, 2025

Staff remain actively engaged in overseeing the progress of this project, working in close coordination with the consulting firm ALL4 LLC. This collaborative partnership is instrumental in ensuring that all project deliverables are consistently aligned with the regulatory standards and expectations set forth by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). In addition to maintaining compliance, staff will continue to participate in regular monthly communications with TCEQ representatives to provide updates, address any emerging issues, and ensure transparency throughout the duration of the project.

### **South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)**

The LRGVDC Board of Directors approved the acceptance of a \$10,000 contribution from the National Rural Assembly Leadership (NRAL) to support the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) Department in its efforts to achieve full coalition status. Following the board's approval, all required procurement documentation from NRAL was successfully received. Staff subsequently initiated the process of finalizing all necessary internal documents to ensure compliance with funding requirements and to facilitate the effective implementation of coalition-building activities.

With this financial support now secured, the LRGVDC is positioned to move forward with the next phase of the project, which is recruiting an intern to assist with the coalition application process. The LRGVDC Human Resources Department is preparing the necessary job description and onboarding materials to begin recruitment promptly. The intern will play a key role in supporting the application, which is scheduled for submission by June 2026.

On September 22, 2025, the STC4 committee convened to review project updates and discuss key next steps. During the meeting, members provided input on the status of the initiative and engaged in planning for upcoming activities. At the upcoming meeting in January 2026, we anticipate the formal introduction of the selected intern who will be supporting the project, as well as the nomination of candidates for officer positions.

### **Solid Waste Management Program**

New Solid Waste funding cycle is just around the corner. The TCEQ Grant Application for the FY 2026/2027 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program will open Request for Applications in January 2026. Keep watch for the release of application and workshop date. You may find this information under the Community & Economic Development Department> Solid Waste Tab > Grants Program. The next SWAC meeting will be announced when scheduled.



As part of our ongoing efforts under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, the CED Department remains actively engaged in managing and supporting the project. Currently, we are awaiting the completion of composting equipment setup at participating schools. Once installation is finalized, we will proceed with the remaining phases of the project.

In the meantime, educators have begun implementing the newly developed curriculum in their classrooms. Designed to enhance student understanding of environmental stewardship and sustainability, the curriculum aims to make these critical topics more accessible, engaging, and impactful for students.

In addition, the C.E.D. Director delivered a virtual presentation on the LRGVDC SWIFR Project during TCEQ's monthly meeting. During the presentation, the Director provided a comprehensive overview of the project's objectives, progress, and anticipated outcomes. Furthermore, the presentation highlighted the educational curriculum developed in collaboration with Texas State University, emphasizing its role in supporting the project's goals and enhancing community engagement and environmental awareness.

Staff continue to provide technical assistance, outreach, and monitoring for all Solid Waste Projects. Information about the Solid Waste program is available at [www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html](http://www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html).

### **Water Quality Program**

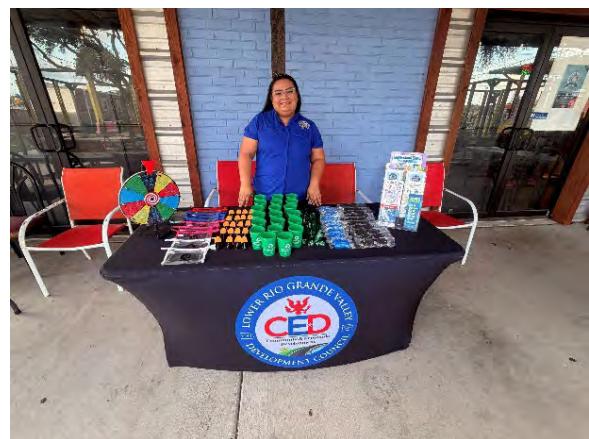
Staff remain committed to educating the public on water quality issues through a comprehensive range of outreach initiatives. In October, our Outreach Program Coordinator represented the organization at thirteen (13) regional events, distributing educational materials and engaging community members on the topic of non-point source water pollution. These efforts underscore our ongoing dedication to raising awareness and promoting responsible water stewardship throughout the community.

Outreach Events attended for the month of October:

- National Night Out – Cameron County Sheriff's Office
- Fire Prevention Fest – City of Alamo Fire Department
- National Night Out – Town of Combes Police Department
- Fire Fest – City of Pharr Fire Department
- Fall Festival – City of Granjeno
- National Night Out – City of Donna Police Department
- National Night Out – City of Alton Police Department
- National Night Out – Willacy County Sheriff's Department
- Trunk or Treat – City of Pharr Police Department
- Arbor Day – City of McAllen Keep McAllen Beautiful
- The Future of Recycling – City of McAllen Recycling Center
- 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Festival – LRGVDC AAA
- National Night Out – City of Primera

OCTOBER  
COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH



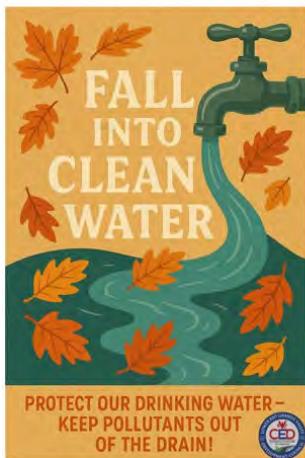


Additionally, monthly themed Facebook posts are created to engage our online community, encouraging users to give a thumbs up or leave a comment. These posts are designed to raise awareness about water quality topics and provide valuable information to the public. CED Facebook: [Community & Economic Development | Facebook](#), LRGVDC Facebook: [Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council | Weslaco TX | Facebook](#)

#### Fall into Clean Water 🍂

This October, let's protect our drinking water by keeping pollutants, oil, and trash out of storm drains.

💧 Every drop counts for a cleaner, healthier Rio Grande Valley!  
#WaterQuality #CleanWater #StormwaterAwareness #LRGVDC



🎃 🎃 You know what's scarier than ghosts and ghouls?... it's trash polluting our waterways! 🎃 🎃

🎃 Every piece of litter can harm fish, wildlife, and our drinking water.

Let's work together to keep our water clean — because clean water is no trick, it's a treat for everyone! 💧 🎃  
#WaterQualityMatters #StormwaterAwareness #SpookySeason



Community & Economic Development

November 15 at 8:11 AM ·

♻️ November is America Recycles Month!  
Every small action helps protect our environment and keeps the Rio Grande Valley clean. 🌎💚

Join us in taking the Recycling Pledge:

- ✓ Recycle paper, cardboard, glass, and metals
- ✗ Keep food & liquids out of the recycling bin
- ✓ Choose reusable options to reduce waste

Together, we can make recycling a daily habit — our community depends on it! 🌎💚

#AmericaRecyclesMonth #RecycleRight  
#KeepRGVClean #LRGVDC #SolidWaste  
#CommunityFirst See less



#### ✿ November Water Quality Theme: Thankful for Water 💧

This month, we're celebrating the season of gratitude — and what better time to give thanks for one of life's most precious resources: WATER! 🌎

Let's protect what we're thankful for by:

- 💧 Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth
- 🔧 Fixing leaks at home or work
- ⓧ Keeping trash and oil out of storm drains

Together, we can keep our water clean, strong, and flowing for generations to come. 🌎

#ThankfulForWater #FallForWater #WaterQuality #CleanWaterStartsWithYou #LRGVDC



Staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from TCEQ as well as other entities involved in water quality initiatives to strengthen partnerships and generate further activities related to water quality and to highlight its importance to the region.

Visit our Water Resource webpage at: <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

Staff attended the Texas Water Foundation 2025 Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Binational River Symposium held on November 5-7, 2025, in McAllen, Texas. This Binational River Symposium reconvenes with stakeholders from across the basin. Building on the objective of advancing trust and collaboration through science, this year's dialogue invites more stakeholders' participation and an opportunity to reflect on what the river could be in 2050. For more information, visit: [Binational River Symposium 2025 — Texas Water Foundation](#)

### **Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)**

Staff remain committed to delivering comprehensive technical assistance, administrative services, and support for the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) project. The team manages the project budget to verify the accuracy of invoiced allocations and collaborates with TWDB to resolve discrepancies identified by the project manager. As the fiscal lead, LRGVDC coordinates with other LRGV FIF Project Coordinators across the region to avoid duplicative efforts and promote efficient data sharing. Bi-weekly meetings with RATES, Cameron County, and Hidalgo County continue to be held to provide project updates and address any emerging issues or concerns.

In addition, staff continue to engage with Hidalgo County to finalize a fully executed subcontractor agreement for TWDB approval. This contract would enable consultants to carry out the activities outlined in Task 2.2 & Task. 2.3 Simultaneously, efforts with Cameron County remain focused on ensuring RATES fulfills its responsibilities and meets its deliverables. The team closely monitors progress and maintains consistent communication to keep Task 2.2 & 2.3 on track.

A RWRAC meeting was held on December 3, 2025, at 2:00 PM in a hybrid format. During the meeting, Ms. Enriqueta Caballero from TWDB delivered a presentation providing an overview of available financial assistance programs, highlighting both federal and state funding opportunities.

**You're Invited!** TWDB, in collaboration with LRGVDC, cordially invites you to attend an important in-person workshop. This workshop will provide valuable insights into available state funding programs. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session and engage in one-on-one discussions with TWDB Outreach Specialist and Program Administrator, Enriqueta Caballero.

**Date:** Tuesday, January 21, 2026

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room (Building B)

## **PROGRAMS TO BE COVERED AT THE WORKSHOP:**

TWDB staff will provide in-depth information on the application process, eligibility requirements, and program guidelines for key financial assistance resources, including:

- State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT)
- Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)
- Texas Water Development Fund (D Fund)
- Texas Water Fund (TWF)

Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

### **Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)**

**On October 7, 2025, a Region M meeting was held during which the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (RGRWPG) approved several key actions related to the 7th cycle of Regional Water Planning.** At this meeting, the RGRWPG formally designated the LRGVDC as the Political Subdivision/RWPG Sponsor responsible for administering the Rio Grande RWPG. This designation authorizes Region M Political Subdivision to submit a grant application to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and to execute a contract on behalf of Region M.

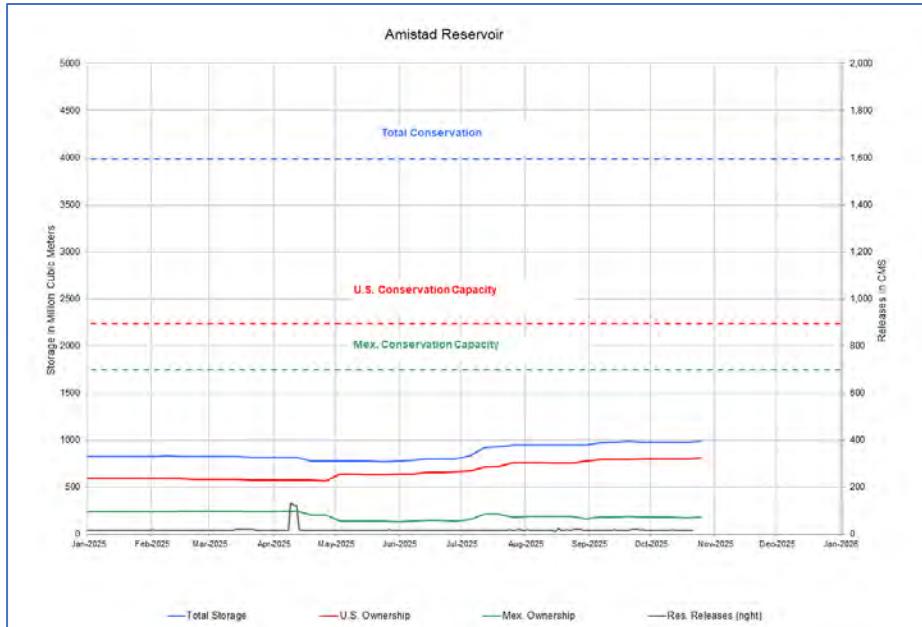
In addition to administrative actions, the primary focus of the meeting was the discussion and approval of any additional edits to the final plan and considering proposed responses and updates. The group also adopted a motion authorizing Black & Veatch to make non-substantive revisions to the plan and to submit the finalized version to TWDB by the October 20, 2025, deadline. The plan was submitted to TWDB by the due date and is currently waiting for the TWDB Board to approve on January 22, 2026.

For questions or additional information, you may contact Mrs. Melisa-Gonzales Rosas at (956)682-3481 ext.163 or [melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org](mailto:melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org)

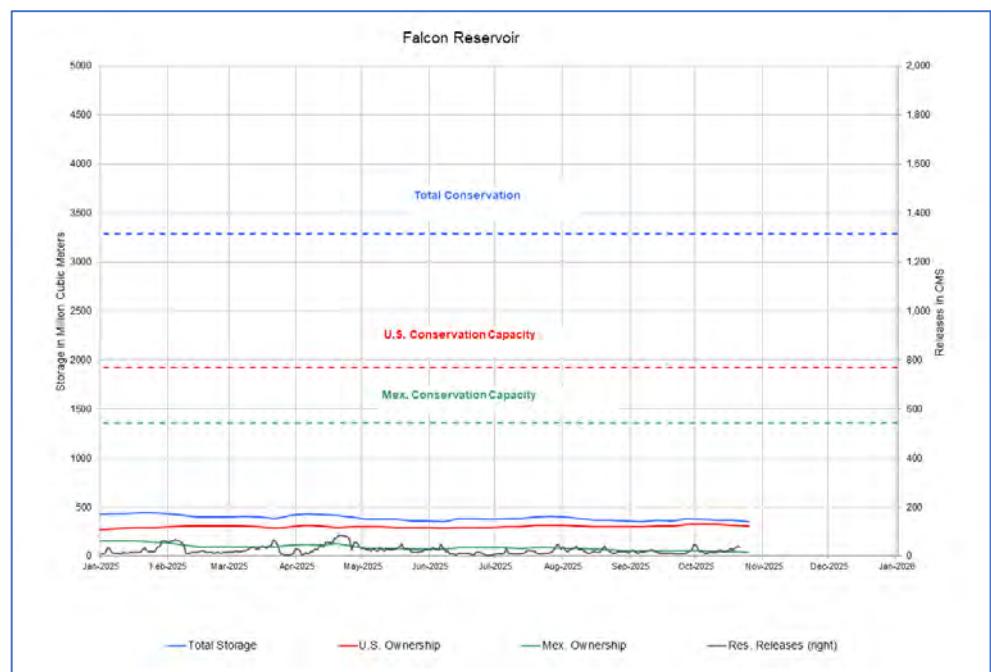
For any Region M meeting information, please visit website:

<http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

- Reservoir Levels as of November 24, 2025 ([www.IBWC.gov](http://www.IBWC.gov))



**AMISTAD  
RESERVOIR**



**FALCON  
RESERVOIR**

**ITEM # 5. B.**

**HEALTH  
&  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**B. Health & Human Services**

**Area Agency on Aging Status Report**

**Annual Review 2025: Strength Through Advocacy and Service Continuity**

In 2025, the Health & Human Services Division continued its mission to support older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities across Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. Despite staffing shortages, funding constraints, and temporary service pauses, the division maintained uninterrupted operations through coordinated scheduling, cross-training, and strong communication with consumers and community partners.

The AAA and ADRC served an estimated 3,300–3,400 consumers, responded to 4,100–4,300 ADRC inquiries, and completed more than 40,000 service units across all programs. Staff ensured continuity of services following the Harlingen office flood and throughout a year of high regional demand.

A major highlight of 2025 was a coordinated advocacy effort to address federal policy risks impacting aging and disability services. In partnership with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Advisory Council, and USAging, the division mobilized community action by gathering more than 500 letters from seniors, caregivers, and partner agencies. This unified effort strengthened regional and national awareness of the importance of aging services in the Rio Grande Valley.

The Nutrition Program delivered an estimated 665,000–700,000 meals, including 400,000–410,000 Home Delivered Meals and 260,000–270,000 Congregate Meals through senior centers and vendors across the region. The

Billing Department provided monitoring, compliance oversight, menu validation, and support for more than 80 active vendors.

The ADRC served as a primary entry point for families navigating long-term services, benefits, housing, and transportation. Staff played a critical role during program pauses by assisting families with updates and connecting them to alternative resources. The Benefits Counseling Program supported hundreds of consumers through Medicare education, legal assistance, advance planning, and successfully certified new BC-II counselors.

The division also strengthened hospital and community partnerships through CTI and BRI, expanded outreach across all three counties, and hosted major annual events including the LIIFE Conference, Power in Community, and the 4th Annual Veterans Festival.

Across programs, staff participated in dozens of outreach events, reaching more than 1,400–1,600 community members, while the Ombudsman Program achieved a zero-finding State Monitoring review, surpassing performance expectations.

## **Conclusion**

The Health & Human Services Division demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and strong regional leadership in 2025. Staff upheld service continuity despite funding reductions, staffing challenges, and environmental disruptions. Through collaboration, advocacy, and commitment, the division ensured that critical services remained accessible to the region's most vulnerable populations.

## **Looking Ahead to 2026**

Priorities for the upcoming year include:

- Strengthening compliance and documentation
- Enhancing emergency preparedness
- Expanding vendor networks and regional capacity

- Improving staffing levels and training
- Supporting facility improvements in Harlingen
- Continuing state and national advocacy

The agency remains committed to protecting and expanding essential services for older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities. With the continued support of the Board of Directors and sustained funding, including CDBG resources that help secure critical services, we are positioned to further strengthen long-term sustainability, reinforce program stability, explore new opportunities to generate revenue, and delivering high-quality services across the region.

**ITEM # 5. C.**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, December 18, 2025**

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**C. Public Safety**

**Criminal Justice Program**

- Staff attended the workshop on November 4, 2025, at the Pharr One 1121 E Nolana Loop, Pharr, TX.
- Staff attended the LRGV Police Academy Committee Meeting on November 5, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on December 10, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX

**Homeland Security Program**

- Staff attended the L-956: NIMS ICS All-Hazards Liaison Officer Course November 4- 5, 2025 at the Pharr One 1121 E Nolana Loop, Pharr, TX.
- Staff members participated in the webinar for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Texas Critical Infrastructure Protection (TCIP) Task Force Meeting on November 4, 2025.
- Staff members participated in the webinar on November 6, 2025, Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable

- Staff member participated in the webinar on November 13, 2025, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff member participated in the webinar on November 13, 2025, Violence against women and girls in disaster: How funders can fill funding gaps
- Staff member participated in the webinar on November 13, 2025, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) eLearning Building Regional Capacity: A Planner's Guide to NIMS Resource Typing.
- Staff member participated in the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Festival on November 20, 2025, at the Iwo Jima Memorial & Museum in Harlingen, TX.
- Staff member participated in the webinar Gov1“Securing funds made simple: Grant writing help for healthcare security leaders” on November 21, 2025.
- Staff hosted the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) Public Information Officer training on December 2-4, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on December 4, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff members participated in the webinar on December 4, 2025, Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable
- Staff member participated in the webinar on December 11, 2025, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff members participated in the Weslaco Annual Christmas Parade “A Country Parade” on December 13, 2025, in Weslaco, TX
- Staff hosted on December 17, 2025, the Regional Response Group (RRG) Meeting at LRGVDC Boardroom in a hybrid setting.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

## Item #5: Department Reports

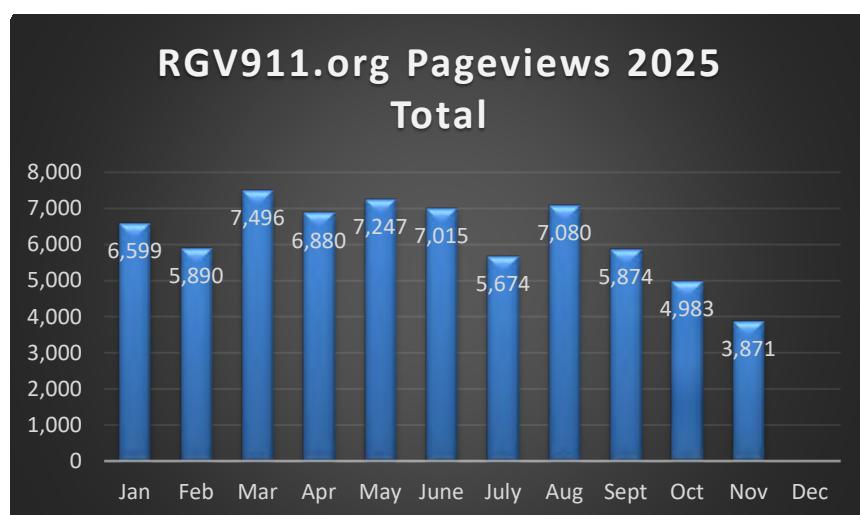
### C. Public Safety

#### Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

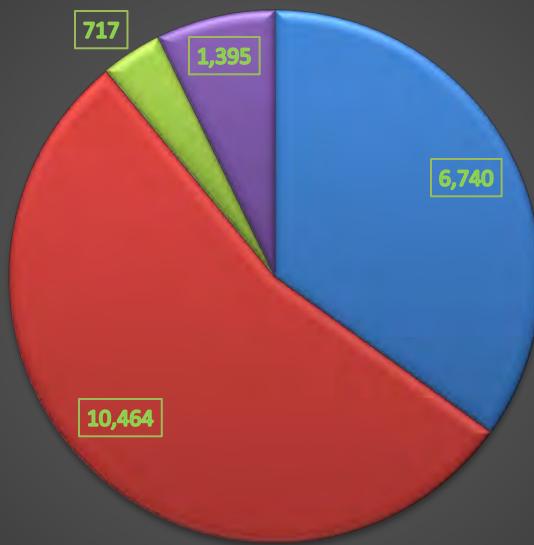
- **GIS Division**

GIS team members Rosemary Contreras, Planner and Joe Garcia, Asst. Director attended this year's Rio Grande Valley Arc Users Group GIS day event. Mr. Garcia presented RGV9-1-1's transition to NextGen 9-1-1 GIS.

GIS team member Jacob Salinas, GIS Specialist, has begun working with ESRI to create an Aerial hosting server. Team members are also working on the next phase of 9-1-1 GIS that now includes sub addressing. (multiple points for apartments, multi-unit buildings, etc....)

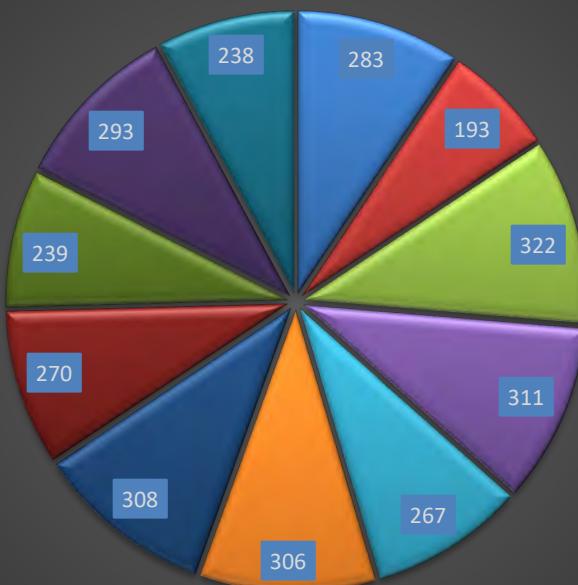


## 2025 Total Production : GIS



■ Created Address Points ■ Updated Address Points ■ Created Roads ■ Updated Roads

## 2025 Address Tickets Totals



■ Jan ■ Feb ■ Mar ■ Apr ■ May ■ June ■ July ■ Aug ■ Sept ■ Oct ■ Nov ■ Dec

- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

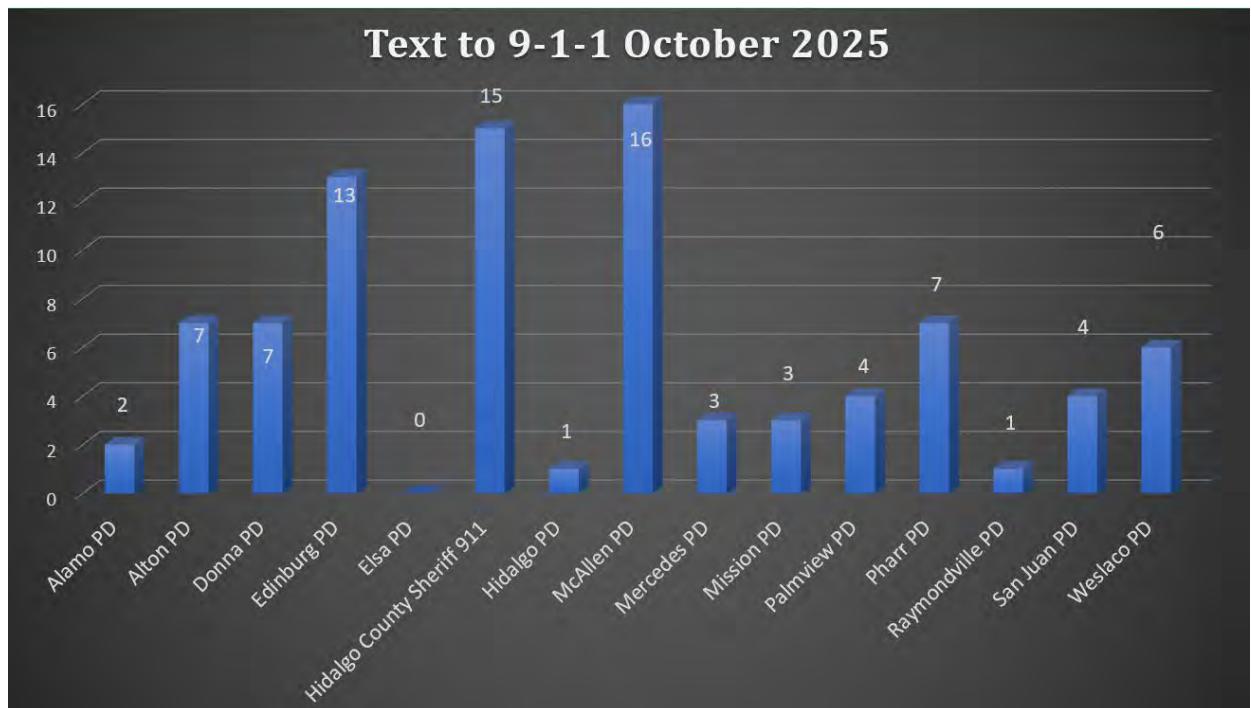
The Information Technology Division completed Visio Network diagrams, giving us topology diagrams of our internal network and 9-1-1 network along with details of network devices, IP addresses, and configuration of devices. Helping our team visualize what equipment and their functions are present, giving them a better understanding of the environment.

We are still working with our GIS team, offering a CAD Spill via DB9 to a server, then getting current ALI/ANI data in then placing it on a map, giving live call information to places that don't have a PSAP or 9-1-1 call-taking answering equipment.

Texas Department of Public Safety call takers and dispatchers will be coming in for P911 and Map Flex training in the month of December. This will give them a full overview of every function the 9-1-1 system is capable of.

The two mobile generators that were procured are ready to be shipped to us; we are just waiting on the equipment to unload them. This is the first phase of the project; the team will be working with electrician vendor to get transfer switches procured and installed at all PSAPs as the second phase.

We remain committed to maintaining 99.999% operational efficiency, ensuring seamless integration between our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping. By doing so, we continue to support our public safety partners and the community with reliable emergency communication services.





- Community Engagement Division

During October and November, our Public Education team has been actively engaging with the community through a variety of events and initiatives. We had the opportunity to attend and present at professional conferences, sharing our expertise on 911 education and public safety awareness. Additionally, our team participated in National Night Out events, connecting with residents and promoting safety resources in a fun and interactive environment. We also engaged with students during career days, inspiring the next generation to consider roles in public safety and emergency services. To further support community well-being, we attended several health fairs, providing educational materials and resources on topics such as emergency preparedness, holiday safety, and the importance of knowing how and when to contact 911. These months have been a busy and rewarding time, allowing us to strengthen community relationships and empower residents with vital safety knowledge.

**Texas Public Safety Fall Symposium, October 6 through October 8, 2025.** The Public Education Team had the opportunity to present at the 2025 Public Safety Fall Symposium held at The Woodlands Emergency Training Center. Our presentation, “Innovative Approach to 911 Public Education: Engaging Communities Through Outreach, Creative Design, and Strategic Communication,” showcased the creative and impactful ways we are strengthening our connection with the communities we serve.

**RGV911 Gives Back, October 10, 2025.** We stopped by the Edinburg Police Department to drop off blankets for their blanket drive! These donations were distributed to residents throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

**Hidalgo Housing Authority National Night Out in the city of McAllen, October 15, 2025.** The RGV911 team engaged with the community and shared

important 9-1-1 resources—continuing our mission to connect, educate, and support residents across the Rio Grande Valley.

**Elsa Police Department's National Night Out, October 16, 2025.** The RGV911 team enjoyed connecting with the community and emphasizing the importance of knowing when to call or text 911.

**AVANCE Early Head Start Program in the City of Alamo, October 15, 2025.** Ms. Jackie shared valuable information about what the RGV911 District offers our communities — including the ins and outs of calling and texting 911. She also highlighted important services like emergency response for fires, medical emergencies, law enforcement, and disaster situations, as well as tips for staying calm and providing accurate information during an emergency.

**City of Granjeno Halloween Festival, October 18, 2025.** The RGV911 team attended the festival, connecting with the community and highlighting the vital role of 911 in keeping our neighborhoods safe.

**City of Palmhurst for their National Night Out, October 21, 2025.** Cell Phone Sally, along with the RGV911 team, attended the event to engage with the community and emphasize the importance of knowing your location when calling 911.

**City of Donna Police Department National Night Out, October 22, 2025.** RGV911, we are proud to educate our communities on how calling or texting 911 can save lives. Every chance we have to connect, teach, and share safety information truly makes an impact.

**City of Alton's National Night Out, October 23, 2025.** We joined other amazing organizations for a night filled with fun, community, and learning — and we were proud to share important 911 education with everyone who stopped by.

**Willacy County Sheriff's Office National Night Out, October 24, 2025.** Our team connected with the community and shared important information about 911 addressing — reminding everyone that having your address properly posted and registered can save precious time during an emergency.

**Brides March 2025, October 25, 2025.** We joined Hidalgo County District Attorney Toribio "Terry" Palacios and community partners for the Brides March, honoring the victims of domestic violence and raising awareness about this important cause.

**Career Day at Valley View Middle School, October 28, 2025.** The RGV911 team, alongside Pharr Communications 911 dispatchers, spoke with students about the vital roles involved in the administrative side of 9-1-1. From ensuring daily operations run smoothly to supporting our dispatchers, we highlighted how strong teamwork behind the scenes plays a crucial part in saving lives every day.

**Palmview Police Department's National Night Out, October 30, 2025.** The RGV911 team had a meaningful opportunity to speak with the children about

what to do if they become lost, knowing their location, and important phone numbers. They also provided important Halloween safety information to the parents.

**DIA-BEAT-IT Community Health Fair 2025, November 5, 2025.** Together with other organizations, we had the opportunity to connect with our community and continue educating everyone on the importance of knowing when and how to use 9-1-1.

**Breakfast with Raymondville Mayor and Blanket Drive Event, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** We had the pleasure of joining City of Raymondville Mayor Gilbert Gonzalez and the city commissioners for breakfast and coffee. They hosted this wonderful event, which included a blanket drive for our senior residents. During our time together, we also discussed addressing the rural areas of Willacy County to help improve emergency response.

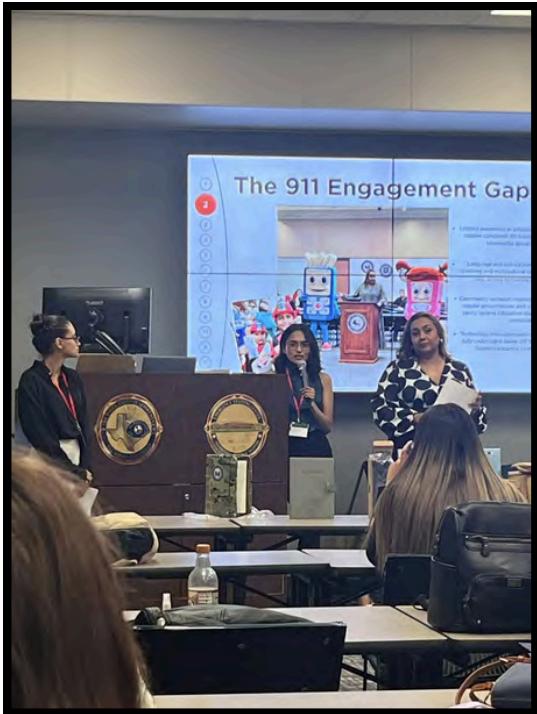
**PSAP Halloween Door Decorating Contest Pizza Party, November 10, 2025. Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office—the winners of our Halloween Door Decorating Contest.** Stefano's Pizza Express generously sponsored the pizza party. We love hosting these friendly competitions with our PSAP partners and celebrating some creativity and fun.

**City of Granjeno Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, November 15, 2025.** The RGV911 team shared holiday travel tips, reminding everyone that if you ever need help during your road trips, you can call or text 911 in an emergency.

**Grand opening ceremony of the new Community Care Closet at the Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Community Center, November 18, 2025.** RGV911 Community Outreach Representative Jackie Duenez had the opportunity to attend and present on the services and programs the district provides to both Hidalgo and Willacy counties.

**LRGVDC 2025 Vet Fest, November 20, 2025.** The RGV911 team participated in the 2025 Vet Fest, hosted by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. It was a fantastic day honoring our veterans, with plenty of food, games, and fun activities for the whole community. We enjoyed connecting with attendees, celebrating with our local heroes, and sharing important 911 resources with everyone who stopped by.

# Texas Public Safety Fall Symposium



Pictured above:  
The Public Education Team –  
Lizbeth Salazar, Jackie Duenez, and  
Maribel Alonzo – presenting to  
attendees.

## RGV911 Gives Back



Above, RGV911 staff Maribel Alonzo and Juan Chapa are pictured with the Edinburg Police Department participating in the Faith & Blue Blanket Drive

## Hidalgo Housing Authority National Night Out in McAllen



Pictured above: Public Education staff member Jackie Duenez engaging with the community at the Hidalgo Housing Authority National Night Out in McAllen.

## Elsa Police Department's National Night Out



Pictured above: RGV911 Public Education staff member Jackie Duenez and Hidalgo County District Attorney Toribio 'Terry' Palacios with his staff.

# AVANCE Early Head Start Program in the City of Alamo



Pictured above: RGV911 Public Education staff member Jackie Duenez delivering a 911 presentation in Spanish to Head Start program parents.

## City of Granjeno's Halloween Festival



Pictured above: RGV911 staff members Maribel Alonzo and Diana Castillo.

## City of Palmhurst for their National Night Out



Pictured above: RGV911 staff members Jackie Duenez and Diana Castillo.



Pictured above: City officials with Cell Phone Sally, ready to kick off the event.

## City of Donna Police Department National Night Out



Pictured above: RGV911 - 911 Coordinator Maribel Alonzo.



Pictured above: Donna High School football team.

## Alton Police Department National Night Out



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Ralph Gonzalez, Dennis Moreno, Jackie Duenez, and Monica Estrada.



Pictured above: RGV911 staff engaging with the community.

## Willacy County Sheriff's Office National Night Out



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Selenne Vallejo, Maribel Alonso, and Diana Castillo.



Pictured above: RGV911 staff engaging with the community.

## Brides March 2025



Pictured above: Hidalgo County District Attorney Toribio "Terry" Palacios and RGV911 - 911 Coordinator Maribel Alonzo.

Pictured above: RGV911 Hidalgo County District Attorney Toribio "Terry" Palacios with attendees at the march.

## Career Day at Valley View Middle School



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Jackie Duenez and Lizbeth Salazar, alongside Pharr Communications 911 dispatchers Wendy Avila and Carlos Avendaño.

# Palmview Police Department's National Night Out



RGV911 staff Lizbeth Salazar, Jackie Duenez, and Sellene Vallejo engaging with the community.

## DIA-BEAT-IT Community Health Fair 2025



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Jackie Duenez and Ruben Vela from La Ley 102.5 Radio Station being interviewed about the services the district provides to Hidalgo County.

## Breakfast with Raymondville Mayor and Blanket Drive Event



Pictured above: RGV911 staff Dennis Moreno, City of Raymondville Mayor Gilbert Gonzalez, and RGV911 staff Maribel Alonzo.



Pictured above: RGV911 staff member Jackie Duenez speaking with community members and sharing educational literature.

## PSAP Halloween Door Decorating Contest Pizza Party



RGV911 Annual Halloween Door Decorating Contest  
This year's winners: Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office.  
Pictured above are RGV911 staff members Dennis Moreno and Maribel Alonzo, along with HCSO 911 PSAP supervisors and dispatchers.

## Social Fest 2025



Pictured above: RGV911 Public Education team members Jackie Duenez, Lizbeth Salazar, and Maribel Alonzo at Social Fest 2025.



Pictured above: Commissioner Ellie Torres, 911 Coordinator Maribel Alonzo, and an event attendee.

## City of Granjeno Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon



Pictured above: Mayor Yvette Cabrera of the City of Granjeno with members of the community who attended the Thanksgiving luncheon.



Pictured: family members serving the community.

# Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Community Center



Pictured above: Former Mayor Ramiro Garza of the City of Edinburg, representatives from Congresswoman Monica de la Cruz's office, Commissioner Ellie Torres' office, and Judge Cortez's office, along with local leaders and the Edinburg Chamber, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the new Community Care Closet at the Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Endowment Community Center.

# LRGVDC 2025 VetFest



Pictured above: Executive Director of LRGVDC, Manuel Cruz, at the opening of the 2025 Veterans Fest.



Pictured above: RGV911 staff  
Angela Alvarado, Maribel Alonzo,  
and Jackie Duenez.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an Interlocal agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the Willacy County Sheriff's Office for the reporting of TCOLE training for the Willacy County Sheriff's Office, and with approval to have LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, sign and finalize the agreement.

The Willacy County Sheriff's Office identified a need to report training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. The Willacy County Sheriff's Office has qualified instructors, facilities, and resources to dedicate for the implementation of law enforcement training programs for Willacy County Sheriff's Office Deputies, and other law enforcement agencies within the County of Willacy.

Currently the Willacy County Sheriff's Office does not have a contractual TCOLE training provider license to report training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Willacy County police agencies currently rely on having to send their officers to Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties to obtain mandated in-service training and professional development courses.

Establishing an interlocal agreement between the Willacy County Sheriff's Office and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy will provide Willacy County Sheriff's Office with the capability to provide much needed law enforcement training, not only to Willacy County Deputies, but to all law enforcement agencies within the county.

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

**&**

**WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**FOR TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT (TCOLE) TRAINING REPORTING**

This Interlocal Agreement (the “Agreement”) is entered into by and between the LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (“LRGVDC”), a regional council of government and political subdivision of the State and the COUNTY OF **WILLACY, TEXAS**, (“COUNTY”), By and Through **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** (the “AGENCY”) regarding the purposes of reporting training through TCOLE under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, as the same may be amended from time to time, to be effective as of the date on which the last Party signs this Agreement (the “Effective Date”). The City and the LRGVDC are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties” and are each a “Party”.

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, as amended, titled Interlocal Cooperation Contracts, authorizes contracts between political subdivisions for the performance of governmental functions and services; and

**WHEREAS** the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy (the “LRGV Academy”) as a division of the LRGVDC is tasked with representing the Rio Grande Valley and supporting law enforcement agencies with almost 50 years of experience administering training resources and programs for the development of qualified law enforcement officers throughout the region; and

**WHEREAS** the LRGV Academy utilizes a wide variety of law enforcement instructors to provide a comprehensive, diverse academy, incorporating the expertise of some of the finest training officials in the region; and

**WHEREAS** LRGVDC and **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** have agreed to cooperate with each other for the performance of governmental functions and provide in-service police training for the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** law enforcement officers, other area law enforcement officers, and prospective peace officer candidates; and

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC, for the purposes of performing functions of law enforcement through its REGIONAL ACADEMY has a Law Enforcement Academy with a TCOLE Agency Number (TCOLE REPORTING); and

**WHEREAS** the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** has a need for training and TCOLE REPORTING, when the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** provides

other entities training, which will be utilized in the service of crime prevention and for law enforcement purposes, such as training; and

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC and **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** are in close proximity and have a common law enforcement and crime prevention initiative and close working relations; and

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC and **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** have entered into this Agreement providing for TCOLE REPORTING of **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** for law enforcement purposes; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, to enhance cooperation amongst local law enforcement agencies, express their mutual commitment to the service of law enforcement purposes and provision of the training programs, the LRGVDC and **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** hereby agree as follows:

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy is a contractual training provider for the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to serve as the Regional Law Enforcement Training and Education provider throughout the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy manages operational requirements and training curriculum standards as per a TCOLE contractual agreement. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy maintains the right to review or modify, as needed, training calendars, curriculums, lesson plans and/or adjunct instructors in accordance with TCOLE requirements.

1. **REPORTING:** the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy will report training to TCOLE for the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** related to law enforcement purposes under the following terms and conditions outlined below.
2. **IN CONSIDERATION OF TCOLE REPORTING:** To the extent permitted by state and federal law and regulations, and applicable policies, directives, guidelines and/ or rules, the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** farther agrees to the following:
  - A. to provide at least a two-week notice of any classes to be held by the AGENCY unless otherwise approved by the LRGV Academy Coordinator.
  - B. to provide all training at NO COST to the students attending the trainings.
  - C. to abide by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Rules and Regulations attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "A"**.
  - D. to provide for all classes facilitated by the Agency both a legibly written sign-in roster with PID numbers as well as a typed Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy TCOLE Report of Training Form attached hereto and incorporated by reference as **Exhibit "B"** and will submit a copy of said

forms to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.

- E. to provide a list of clearly defined and spelled out learning objectives to the students prior to the commencement of the class and will submit a copy of said objectives to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes for any class facilitated by the Agency.
- F. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY, a concise, up to date, easy to follow lesson plan to include any tests along with test answer key or a skills assessment evaluation and final score sheet and will submit a copy of said documents to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- G. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY, an updated instructor bio-sketch and will submit a copy of said bio-sketch to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- H. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY, a typed Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Score Sheet attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit "C" and will submit a copy of said Score Sheet to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- I. to provide, for any class facilitated by the AGENCY every student in every class, a completed Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Course/Instructor Evaluation form attached hereto and incorporated by reference as Exhibit "D" and will submit copies of said evaluations to the LRGV Academy Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class for TCOLE filing purposes.
- J. to provide a mishap and medical emergency plan to the LRGV Academy Coordinator, prior to the commencement of any class or training involving the usage of firearms or having the risk of potential bodily or serious bodily injury and or death to any participant including but not limited to instructors, spectators, auditors, and students. The Agency further agrees to have a medical kit on site which shall include bleed control medical adjuncts whenever such classes or training is facilitated by the Agency.
- K. to promptly notify as soon as practicable to the LRGV Academy Coordinator of any incidents involving any damage to LRGVDC property,

complaints, disputes, injury, or death which may result from any training or class facilitated by the Agency.

- L. to allow the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Coordinator or his/her designee unfettered access to classes and/or record related to classes facilitated by the AGENCY for compliance and auditing purposes.
- M. that the TCOLE Agency Number is assigned, and proprietary to LRGVDC and Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and TCOLE REPORTING is subject to the policies, rules and procedures established by the LRGVDC.
- N. that TCOLE REPORTING shall be solely used for the law enforcement purpose of reporting training.
- O. **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** hereby acknowledges and agrees that failure to comply with any of the terms of this agreement, and or any rule or policy incorporated herein by reference, shall result in the termination of this agreement, including further TRAINING and TCOLE REPORTING.
- P. To the extent permitted under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas, **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** shall be solely responsible for any injuries or damages to persons arising out of the acts or omissions of its employees and shall maintain liability insurance coverage for any such loss. Proof of the same shall be provided to Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy prior to any TCOLE REPORTING.

## **II. Findings**

**2.1** The recitals set forth above are incorporated herein for all purposes and are found by the Parties to be true and correct. It is further found and determined that the Parties have authorized and approved this Agreement by their respective entities, and that this Agreement will be in full force and effect when executed by all Parties.

## **III. RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES**

**3.1** LRGVDC will:

- A. Schedule and coordinate when **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**, facilities or equipment are utilized in the training activity.

- B. Utilize Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy instructional staff, facilities, equipment and support staff, as appropriate and only when available upon advanced notice, when **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** instructors, facilities or equipment are unavailable for the teaching of certain courses.
- C. Provide reporting of applicable training activities to Texas Commission on Law Enforcement upon submission of competent documentation including sign-in rosters, learning objectives, lesson plans, instructor bio-sketch, instructor evaluations, course evaluations, testing instrument, test key, all applicable handouts provided, and or any documents related to the course at the request of Training Coordinator.
- D. Provide vetting of all instructors who conduct training functions under the umbrella of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.
- E. Advertise upcoming classes facilitated by **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** on the live online LRGV Academy Police Training Calendar via the LRGV Academy website.
- F. The LRGV Academy Training Coordinator will:
  - (1) ensure compliance with commission rules and guidelines for any class facilitated by **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** under the terms of this agreement.
  - (2) prepare, maintain, and submit the following reports to TCOLE within the time frame specified:
    - (A) reports of training
      - within 30 days of completion for any class facilitated **by WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** under the terms of this agreement.
    - (B) self-assessment reports as required by the commission.
    - (C) any other reports or records as requested by the commission.
  - (3) maintain course training files for a period of 5 years. At a minimum, training files shall contain:
    - (3.1) complete lesson plan to include tests and answer keys or a skills assessment score sheet documenting proficiency in skills taught throughout the class.
    - (3.2) clear learning objectives.
    - (3.3) instructor biography indicating subject matter expertise and teaching experience.
    - (3.4) approved class roster and original sign-in sheet; and a multi-day sign in sheet for any classes extending beyond a one-day class. Multi-day

sign-in sheets shall include the days when the class was taught and will at very minimum show individual student initials for each day of class attended.

(3.5) course and instructor evaluation for each student in the class.

(3.6) student scoresheet or skills assessment sheet which shall at the very minimum document a pass or fail score.

(3.7) Final TCOLE roster upon submission of training hours.

(4) receive all commission notices on behalf of the training provider and forward each notice to the appointing authority.

(5) provide the opportunity to transfer lesson plans, learning objectives, media visual training material and all handouts to **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** for any class facilitated under the terms of this agreement.

### **3.2 WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** will:

- A. Provide the LRGV Academy, at no cost, two seats for any class facilitated by the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** if so, requested by LRGV Academy.
- B. Provide whenever possible and with advanced notice on-hand instructional equipment and facilities as may be requested by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy for use in any LRGV Academy Basic Peace Officer Course or in service training at no cost to the LRGV Academy.
- C. Provide whenever possible with advanced notice certified **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** firearms instructors approved by both **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy to provide instruction at a firing range designated by Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy whenever the need arises.
- D. Ensure the instructors teaching any class facilitated by the Agency are qualified under TCOLE regulations to include subject matter expertise and will abide by the following:
  - (1) hold a valid instructor license.
  - (2) certificate; or
  - (3) be designated, in writing, as a subject matter expert in the course by the training coordinator.
    - The instructor is responsible for:
      - (1) ensuring compliance with commission rules and guidelines.

- (2) preparing, maintaining, and submitting reports of training to the LRGV Academy Training Coordinator within 10 business days from the end date of the class, unless otherwise approved by Training Coordinator
- (3) the administration and conduct of each course taught.
- (4) at a minimum, providing a complete lesson plan, clear learning objectives, instructor biography, approved class roster and original sign-in sheet/daily roster, course evaluation, students' completed testing instrument, test key, all applicable handouts, make up assignments, and any memos when there is an inconsistency with the documentation provided to the training coordinator for the training file.
- (5) enforcing all attendance and other standards set by the commission or the training advisory board.
- (6) maintaining the discipline and demeanor of each student during class.
- (7) distributing or presenting learning objectives to all students at the beginning of each course.
- (8) ensuring that all learning objectives are taught; and
- (9) ensuring examinations are proctored or supervised to have fair, honest results.

- E. Provide the LRGV Academy with a signed Release of Liability Waiver and Assumption of Liability form, for every student, absolving the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the LRGVDC of liability for any issue arising as a result of students participating in the class.

#### **IV. Binding Effect; Benefiting Parties**

**4.1** This Agreement shall bind and benefit the respective Parties and their legal successors, but shall not otherwise be assigned, in whole or in part, by either Party without first obtaining the written consent of the other Party.

**4.2** This Agreement inures to the benefit of and obligates only the Parties. No term or provision of this Agreement shall benefit or obligate any person or entity not a Party to the Agreement. The Parties shall cooperate fully in opposing any attempt by any third person or entity to claim any benefit, protection, release, or other consideration under this Agreement.

#### **V. Governmental Functions; Liability; No Waiver of Immunity or Defenses**

**5.1** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary herein, this Agreement is a contract for and with respect to the performance of governmental functions by governmental entities.

**5.1.1** The services provided for herein are governmental functions, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **COUNTY OF WILLACY** shall be engaged in the conduct of a governmental function while providing and/or performing any service pursuant to this Agreement.

**5.1.2** The relationship of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy and the **COUNTY OF WILLACY** shall, with respect to that part of any service or function undertaken because of or pursuant to this Agreement, be that of independent contractors.

**5.1.3** Nothing contained herein shall be deemed or construed by the Parties, or by any third party, as creating the relationship of principal and agent, partners, joint ventures', or any other similar such relationship between the Parties.

**5.2** Each Party reserves and does not waive any defense available to it at law or in equity as to any claim or cause of action whatsoever that may arise or result from or in connection with this Agreement. This Agreement shall not be interpreted nor construed to give to any third party the right to any claim or cause of action, and neither the **COUNTY OF WILLACY** nor the LRGVDC shall be held legally liable for any claim or cause of action arising pursuant to or in connection with this Agreement except as specifically provided herein or by law.

**5.3** Neither Party waives or relinquishes any immunity or defense on behalf of itself, its trustees, council members, officers, employees, and agents because of the execution of this Agreement and the performance of the covenants and agreements contained herein.

**5.4** The LRGVDC agrees to hold the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** and the **COUNTY of WILLACY**, Texas, harmless from any and all claims arising out of acts or omissions of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy during any police in-service training classes and activities.

**5.4.1** The **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** agrees to hold the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council harmless from any and all claims arising out of acts or omissions of **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** during any police in-service training classes or activities.

**5.4.2** This section does not apply to, nor has any effect in, Workers Compensation claims filed against either party by that party's personnel, resulting out of acts or omissions during any police in-service training classes and activities.

## **VI. Notices**

**6.1** All correspondence and communications concerning this Agreement shall be directed to:

LRGVDC:    Manuel Cruz  
                  LRGVDC Executive Director  
                  301 W. Railroad Street  
                  Weslaco, TX 78596

Willacy County  
                  County Judge Aurelio Guerra  
                  576 W Main Ave #152  
                  Raymondville, TX 78580

Notices required hereunder shall be hand-delivered or sent by prepaid certified mail, return receipt requested.

## **VII. Severability**

**7.1** If any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision hereof, but rather this entire Agreement will be construed as if not containing the invalid or unenforceable provision(s), and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed and enforced in accordance therewith. The Parties acknowledge that if any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, it is their desire and intention that such provision be reformed and construed in such a manner that it will, to the maximum extent practicable, give effect to the intent of this Agreement and be deemed to be validated and enforceable.

**7.2** Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy may immediately suspend operation of contract with **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** for noncompliance with the terms of the contract or any TCOLE rule or law. Operation of the contract may be suspended for a period of time, including a period pending outcome of an investigation or until remedial compliance with applicable standards has been met. The suspension is considered effective when **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** is notified in writing.

## **VII. Entire Agreement**

**7.1** This Agreement is the entire agreement between the **COUNTY OF WILLACY** and the LRGVDC as to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any prior understanding or written or oral agreement relative to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may be amended only by written instrument duly approved and executed by both Parties in accordance with the formalities of this Agreement.

## **VIII. Governing Law; Venue**

**8.1** All Parties agree that this Agreement shall be construed under the laws of the State of Texas, and obligations under the Agreement shall be performed in Hidalgo County, Texas. Should the need for dispute resolution arise, the venue shall be in Hidalgo County, Texas.

## **IX. Term and Termination**

**9.1** This Agreement shall be for an initial term of two (2) years and will automatically renew for subsequent one-year terms unless terminated as herein provided and subject to any necessary funding being appropriated by the governing bodies of the Parties.

**9.2** Either party may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part hereto whenever such termination is found to be in the best interest of either party. Termination shall be in effect by the conveyance of a written notification thereof to the other party at least ninety (90) days in advance of the effective date of the termination.

**9.3** Either party may terminate this contract upon a ten-day written notice. The LRGVDC may also terminate this contract if:

- (a) the **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** training staff intentionally or knowingly submits, or causes the submission of, a falsified document or a false written statement or representation to LRGVDC.
- (b) **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** training staff has not met the needs of the communities or agencies it serves by providing or attempting to provide law enforcement training classes at minimum 12 times during a calendar year from the execution date of this agreement.
- (c) **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** training staff fails to comply with any term of a contract or violation of a TCOLE rule or law, including when a provider has been classified as at risk under this chapter for a twelve-month period without complying with commission rules.
- (d) **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** training staff has failed to conduct training within a calendar year without a waiver from the Training Coordinator; or
- (e) If applicable, **WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** training staff has lost accreditation, including SACS or THECB approval.

## **X. Current Revenues**

**10.1** Pursuant to Section 791.001(d)(3), Texas Government Code, each party paying for the performance of governmental functions or services will make those payments from current revenues available to the paying party.

## **XI. General Terms**

**11.1 Execution in Counterparts.** This Agreement may be simultaneously executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall be considered fully executed as of the date first written above, when all Parties have executed an identical counterpart, notwithstanding that all signatures may not appear on the same counterpart.

**11.2 Effective Date.** The Effective Date of this Agreement shall be the date last executed by a Party.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have executed this Agreement by their authorized representatives as of the dates noted below.

*[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]*

**LRGVDC**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
LRGVDC Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM

---

Legal Counsel

**COUNTY OF Willacy**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Aurelio Guerra Willacy County Judge**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WILLACY COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sheriff Jose A. Salazar**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
WILLACY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Name

---

Annette Hinojosa Willacy County Attorney

ATTEST:

---

Susan Garza Willacy County Clerk

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AMENDMENTS**

The parties agree that this agreement is given and accepted upon the expressed condition that it cannot, in any manner, be changed, altered, varied, or modified unless such modification, change, or alteration shall be in writing and executed by both parties.

This agreement may be amended by mutual written agreement of both parties and terminated by either party giving not less than thirty (30) days written notice prior to the proposed effective date of the proposed amendment or termination.

In the event of actions which may include, but not limited to, actions that are illegal, unsafe instructional practices, unethical, or not in the best interest of either party, this agreement can be immediately terminated.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have executed this Agreement by their authorized representatives as of the dates noted below.

The effective start date of this agreement is the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_.

---

**Sheriff Jose A. Salazar**  
**Willacy County Sheriff**

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**Honorable Aurelio Guerra**  
**Willacy County Judge**

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**Manuel “Manny” Cruz**  
**LRGVDC Executive Director**

# **EXHIBIT**

## **"A"**



## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY RULES FOR INSERVICE TRAINING



1. All attendees must be in class on time.
2. Tobacco or Vaping products are not allowed at the Academy.
3. Profane or offensive language is prohibited.
4. Attendees who are on break must not disturb any classes that may still be ongoing.
5. Attendees will maintain a professional demeanor while attending any classes.
  - a. Sleeping in class will not be tolerated.
  - b. Disrespect towards any instructor or guest speaker will not be tolerated.
6. All attendees will abide by the following rules of attire:
  - a. No sleeveless or cut-off shirts.
  - b. All shirts must have a collar.
  - c. No shirts with offensive or vulgar words or markings.
  - d. No shirts with a neckline lower than 3 inches from the neck.
  - e. No shorts of any type.
  - f. No pants or trousers that fall lower than the waistline.
  - g. No spandex or warm-ups.
  - h. No sandals of any kind.
  - i. Attendees may wear their regular work attire, but it must be worn within regulation.
  - j. The instructors may order the attire of the day for classes.
  - k. Some classes will require special attire which will be included in memo form or in the course description.



## LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY RULES FOR INSERVICE TRAINING



Grooming standards shall apply at the LRGV Academy. All male employees must be clean shaven. All female employees must wear their hair and nails in the same way they wear them to their regular work duties in compliance with regulations. Employees who attend classes while on vacation are not exempt from these rules. These rules are waived for those employees who are assigned to special units that require different grooming standards for undercover officers, however, they must wear appropriate attire. All attendees are to follow the LRGV Academy rules when attending classes at other satellite sites sponsored by other law enforcement agencies or civilian organizations. The LRGV Academy Training Coordinator has the discretion to appoint a designee to enforce these rules at any LRGV Academy Satellite Site.

All people attending the LRGV Academy must adhere to these rules. Attendees who violate the rules may be dismissed from the Academy. Persons from outside agencies who violate the rules may be dismissed from the Academy and the LRGV Academy Coordinator may write a letter to the person's supervisor addressing their dismissal. These rules are meant to create and maintain a professional learning environment for everyone.

# **EXHIBIT**

## **"B"**

**TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT  
REPORT OF TRAINING**

Page #	TCOLE Dept. or Provider #	Course #	Today's Date	Total Hours	Beg. Date	Ending Date	Provider Type:
1	511481						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Academy <input type="checkbox"/> - Contract Provider <input type="checkbox"/> - Other
Course Title:			Today's Hours	Name of Academy / Department: Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Police Academy Instructor Name & PID:			

	PID#	Last Name, First Name	Class	D.O.B.	Print Name
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					
16.					
17.					
18.					
19.					
20.					

THESE STUDENTS HAVE COMPLETED THIS COURSE AND ARE APPROVED FOR CREDIT.

956-682-3481

---

Acad./Training Coordinator (please type or print)      Signature      Date      Phone #

*If provider type "Other," chief administrator signs.*

# **EXHIBIT**

## **"C"**



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Score Sheet

**Instructor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Course Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Course Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Course Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Course Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# **EXHIBIT**

## **"D"**



## Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Course Evaluation

Instructor's Name:	Date:					
Course Title:						
Instructor Evaluation		High	Low			
1.	Effectiveness of instructor(s) presentation.	5	4	3	2	1
2.	Instructor(s) ability to answer questions.	5	4	3	2	1
3.	Coverage of subject matter.	5	4	3	2	1
4.	Suitability of instructional materials.	5	4	3	2	1
5.	Overall rating of the instructor(s) effectiveness.	5	4	3	2	1
Comments:						
Instructor Evaluation		High	Low			
1.	Your knowledge and skill level of the course subject matter before the course.	5	4	3	2	1
2.	Your knowledge and skill level of the course subject matter after the course.	5	4	3	2	1
1. What were the course strengths?						
2. What area(s) of the course need improvement?						
3. Were the course facilities adequate?						
4. How would you rate the assistance of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy staff associated with the presentation of this course?						
Please Rate		High	Low			
1.	The overall training session	5	4	3	2	1
2.	Clarity of training session	5	4	3	2	1
3.	Relevance of course content to course topic	5	4	3	2	1
Your Title:						
Agency:						
Telephone:						

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to ratify the appointment of Police Chief Mark Perez, Police Chief Josue Trevino, and Cameron County Emergency Management Director Tom Huchen to the LRGV Academy Advisory Board.

The LRGV Academy Advisory Board met on November 5, 2025. Nominations and elections were held by the board to fill in vacancies for the following positions:

1. Cameron County Representative
2. Ex-Officio Board Member 1
3. Ex-Officio Board Member 2
4. Board of Directors Representative

The LRGV Academy Advisory Board nominated and elected Tom Huchens as Cameron County Representative.

Police Chiefs Mark Perez, from the Alton Police Department, and Joseph Trevino from the Palmview Police Department, were nominated and elected to serve as Ex-Officio members.

Willacy County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Ernesto Garcia, has been recommended by the LRGV Academy Advisory Board to serve as LRGVDC Board of Directors Representative.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to have the LRGVDC Executive Board appoint Willacy County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Ernesto Garcia, to serve on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board as LRGVDC Executive Board representative

Currently there is a vacancy on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board for an LRGVDC Board of Directors Representative. Willacy County Precinct 4 Commissioner, Ernesto Garcia, has been recommended by the LRGV Academy Advisory Board to serve in this capacity.

Commissioner Garcia has an extensive background in law enforcement having served as a Texas Peace Officer with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Texas Office of Inspector General, and the Willacy County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Garcia holds a Master Peace Officer certification with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and is also a firearms instructor and range master. He has an extensive background in detention and correctional operations, having converted several detention facilities into operational jails.

Commissioner Garcia has expressed interest in wanting to serve as LRGVDC Board of Directors Representative. This an LRGVDC Executive Board appointed position requiring board approval.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve amendments to the LRGV Academy Cadet Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual to include a section on United States Veteran Benefits.

Modifications had to be made to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Cadet Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual. The Texas Veteran Affairs Office mandates certain policies be in place for any institution of learning which provides military veteran assistance with tuition and enrollment. The following was added to the LRGV Academy Manual for compliance purposes:

- Retention of records for enrolled students.
- Registered trademark notification for the terms “GI Bill” \*\*  
(\*\*GI Bill is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)
- Policies pertaining to the issuing of credit for classes completed prior to enrollment in any licensing course.

These changes in policy require LRGVDC Executive Board approval so we kindly ask for consideration and action.

**ITEM #5. D.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #5: Valley Metro

D. Transportation

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the updated 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.

Table 1: Agency Information  
Organizational Chart

Table 3: ASP Record of Changes  
Annual Reviews

Table 6: Flexed Route Safety Performance Targets

Table 7: Demand Response Safety Performance Targets

The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) is a federally required document that outlines a transit agency's approach to managing safety risks and ensuring the well-being of passengers, employees, and the public. It establishes safety objectives, performance targets, and procedures for hazard identification, risk management, and safety performance monitoring.

The plan also defines the roles and responsibilities of key personnel and promotes a safety management system (SMS) framework to foster a proactive safety culture throughout the organization.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #5 Valley Metro

D. Transportation

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve contract award for Bulk Diesel, DEF and Fluids for LRGVDC Valley Metro Transit Operations.

Staff is seeking Board approval of the Bulk Diesel, DEF and Fluids contract award and entering into an agreement with vendor for LRGVDC Valley Metro Transit Operations. A formal procurement has been conducted for this requisition resulting in the recommendation to award vendor Maverick Fuels LLC., based on the evaluations.

Valley Metro procures bulk diesel fuel, Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF), and related maintenance fluids to support its transit operations across the region. The most recent Request for Proposals outlines stringent standards for DEF (including compliance with ISO 22241) to ensure purity and safe system performance. Annually, Valley Metro consumes tens of thousands of gallons of diesel to power its fleet and integrates the supply of engine oils, coolants, and lubricants into a consolidated procurement strategy — securing economy of scale and maintaining consistent quality across the system.

# Maverick Fuels

***Best and Final Offer for the Bid submitted on May 18, 2025.***

**No Change to the Diesel**

Base Index Price: Current OPIS Rack Average for Harlingen, TX

+plus

**Fixed Markup:**

Trasport >7000 gallons = (+) 0.21 per gallon

Trasport <7000 gallons = (+) 0.12 per gallon

***No additional freight and/or delivery Fees Apply***

**Pricing**

DEF : \$3.00 per gallon

15w40 Drum: \$12.10 per gallon

5w30 Drum: \$11.10 per gallon

ATF Drum- \$650 per drum

Red Coolant: \$7.00 per gallon

Yellow Coolant: \$6.75 per gallon

Michelle Schuler

Michelle Schuler (Oct 15, 2025 15:30:57 CDT)

Michelle Schuler

**Maverick Fuels, LLC**

Manager

Oct 15, 2025

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday , December 18, 2025

Item #5: Valley Metro

D. Transportation

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve award and enter into contract with the highest-ranked proposer resulting from the evaluation of responses to RFP No. 2025-07, LRGVDC Valley Metro 5-Year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) released RFP No. 2025-07 on October 29, 2025 seeking a qualified consulting firm to complete the 5-Year Update to the Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan (RPTCP) for Region 21, as required by TxDOT and the Federal Transit Administration Section 5304 program. The plan must follow the methodologies and structure established in the TxDOT Coordination Plan Guidebook. The Evaluation Committee completed scoring in accordance with the published criteria, and recommends award to **KFH Group, Inc.**

Staff is seeking Board approval for KFH Group, Inc. and authorizing contract negotiation and execution by the Executive Director.

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (LRGVDC) / VALLEY METRO



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) 2025-07

### LRGVDC Valley Metro 5 Year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and transit department Valley Metro are soliciting proposals from qualified consulting firms to prepare the (5) Five-Year Update to the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) for Region 21 – Lower Rio Grande Valley. The RPTCP is a requirement of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under Section 5304.

This project aims to strengthen coordination among public, private, and nonprofit transportation providers; assess current and future mobility needs of the region's transit-dependent populations; and identify strategies to enhance service efficiency, accessibility, and equity. The selected consultant will lead a collaborative planning process that includes comprehensive stakeholder engagement, analysis of transportation needs and resources, identification of service gaps, and development of actionable goals and strategies consistent with the TxDOT Coordination Plan Guidebook (2025).

This project is a critical component of Valley Metro's ongoing efforts to enhance public transportation infrastructure in the region. Proposals will need to be in accordance with the terms, conditions and requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals (RFP) 2025-07. *A copy of the RFP, Form Packets, and reference material can be obtained from the LRGVDC website located at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/procurement.html>.*

### PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Interested parties will need to submit the Proposal by **5:00 PM on November 12th, 2025**, via mail carrier or hand delivered to the LRGVDC offices at **301 W Railroad St. Building D Weslaco, TX 78596** and addressed to the Asst. Director of Business Operation to be considered.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Any informational questions regarding this RFP must be submitted to the LRGVDC email at [LRGVDC@LRGVDC.ORG](mailto:LRGVDC@LRGVDC.ORG).

# RFP 2025-07 Criteria

## **1. Project Understanding and Technical Approach (25 points)**

Evaluation will focus on the proposer's comprehension of the project objectives, tasks, and deliverables as outlined in the Scope of Work and TxDOT's Coordination Plan Guidebook. Reviewers will assess:

- The proposer's understanding of regional transit coordination challenges and opportunities.
- The soundness, clarity, and innovation of the proposed methodologies, analytical tools, and work plan.
- The extent to which the approach aligns with TxDOT and FTA requirements for developing a compliant and actionable Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan (RPTCP).

## **2. Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant Team (25 points)**

The proposer's relevant experience and qualifications will be reviewed for:

- Demonstrated expertise in transit planning, mobility coordination, and stakeholder engagement.
- Experience preparing TxDOT-compliant Regional Public Transit Coordination Plans or similar federally funded planning efforts.
- The qualifications, experience, and availability of key personnel assigned to the project.
- Past performance with LRGVDC, TxDOT, or other regional planning entities.

## **3. Stakeholder and Public Engagement Plan (20 points)**

Evaluation will consider the proposed strategies for ensuring meaningful participation and compliance with Title VI and ADA engagement requirements, including:

- Proposed techniques to involve seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income residents, veterans, and other target populations.
- Innovative or inclusive approaches to community engagement and communication.
- Strategies to document feedback and integrate public input into the planning process.

## **4. Proposed Schedule and Project Management (15 points)**

Evaluation will consider:

1. The feasibility and clarity of the proposed project schedule, including milestones and deliverable dates.
2. The proposer's project management structure, quality control procedures, and ability to meet deadlines.
3. The proposer's capacity to coordinate with the Agency's project manager, Regional Coordination Committee (RCC), and TxDOT reviewers.

## **5. Cost Effectiveness (15 points)**

Evaluation will focus on:

- The reasonableness and cost efficiency of the proposed budget relative to the Scope of Work.
- The allocation of staff time, resources, and subconsultant costs to project tasks.
- The proposer's ability to deliver a high-quality product within budget and schedule constraints.

## Scoring

Each proposal will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined above, with a total of **100 points** available. The offeror with the highest cumulative score will be ranked accordingly. The LRGVDC reserves the right to weigh and interpret scores in accordance with project needs and best value considerations. In the case of tied scores, the LRGVDC may conduct further evaluations, including interviews, additional documentation requests, or reference verifications, to determine the final selection.

<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Available Points</b>
Project Understanding and Technical Approach	<b>25</b>
Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant Team	<b>25</b>
Stakeholder and Public Engagement Plan	<b>20</b>
Proposed Schedule and Project Management	<b>15</b>
Cost Effectiveness	<b>15</b>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>



## LRGVDC Proposal Evaluation Talley Sheet

RFP 2025-07: LRGVDC Valley Metro 5-Year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan



## Evaluation Members

*Evaluator Name*

Recommended vendor derived from highest score from the tally above.

# KFH Group, Inc.

### *Recommended Proposer*

The scoring values presented in this tally are accurate and transcribed directly from the individual evaluations submitted by the members of the Project Evaluation Committee. The vendor recommendation reflects not only the highest cumulative score based on the established evaluation criteria, but also the extent to which the proposal aligns with the goals, priorities, and operational needs of the LRGVDC.

*It is important to note that this recommendation does not constitute a final award decision. It represents the conclusion of the evaluation phase. The final scoring results and vendor recommendation will be formally submitted to the Board of Directors for review and final approval.*

Felipe Lopez  
Procurement Signature

*Procurement Signature*

12/02/2025

Date

*Felipe Lopez*  
*Asst. Director of Business Operations*

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council**  
**Bid Tabulation Sheet**

*It is hereby certified that the tabulation presented below accurately and completely reflects the information provided in the proposal forms submitted by each bidder. All data included has been transcribed directly from the original bid documents without alteration.*

<b>Project Name:</b> LRGVDC Valley Metro 5 Year Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan	
<b>Project Ref:</b> 2025-07	<b>Project #:</b> na
<b>Project RFP Close Date:</b> 11/19/2025	<b>Project Bid Opening:</b> 11/20/2025 @ 2pm CST

No.	Bidder	Proposed Amount
1	Alliance Transporation Group	\$152,669.00
2	KRH Group, Inc	\$152,410.00
3	Hendrickson Transportation Group	\$145,720.00
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

*The tabulation of bids provided herein is for informational and evaluation purposes only and does not constitute a notice of intent to award, a determination of responsiveness or responsibility, or a guarantee of contract award to any bidder. The inclusion of a vendor's bid in this tabulation does not imply acceptance or approval by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). All bids remain subject to further review, analysis, and formal approval in accordance with applicable Federal and Texas State procurement regulations, and the LRGVDC's internal procurement policies and procedures.*

*The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive informalities or minor irregularities, and make an award in the best interest of the agency.*

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council		
Sign:	<i>Felipe Lopez</i>	
Asst. Director of Business Operations	Date: 11/20/2025	

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

**Item #5: Valley Metro**

**D. Transportation**

**4. Discussion and ACTION to approve on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Inactive Grant and Scope.**

This notice is to inform the Board that a transfer of funding is required for the Harlingen Terminal Grant TX-2021-064-00 FTA Section 5307, FY 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2020 due to prolonged inactivity on the construction portion of the project. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidelines require active progress on funded projects, and without action, the agency may recapture the unused funds.

To prevent the loss of these dollars, staff recommends amending the grant to move the remaining construction funds into Operating and Preventive Maintenance activities. This transfer must occur as soon as possible. The City of Harlingen will also be notified of the amendment and the reasoning behind the change. The funds can then be re-issued to the Harlingen Terminal project in a future grant year when activity resumes.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Valley Metro Status Report

- Ridership Report

**Y-T-D Total Ridership FY 2025-2026:**

Total ridership: **254,113 riders**

**Breakdown of Ridership per system:**

Service Area	Small Urban and Rural Ridership	Large Urban Ridership	Total Ridership
Valley Metro	22,610	41,578	64,188
UTRGV	-	186,880	186,880
STC	-	2,634	2,634
TSTC	411	-	411
	23,021	231,092	<b>254,113</b>

# LARGE URBAN RIDERSHIP REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 - YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP

	Route	Total Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
LARGE URBAN ROUTES	Route 10	3,190	1%	Edinburg
	Route 12	1,141	0%	Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg
	Route 14	7,264	3%	Edinburg
	Route 15	926	0%	Edinburg
	Route 16-1	4,566	2%	Courthouse Circulator
	Route 16-2	4,394	2%	Courthouse Circulator
	Route 17	243	0%	Edinburg T-line
	Route 20	4,058	2%	Mission
	Route 30	1,508	1%	Pharr, San Juan
	Route 31-1	3,891	2%	Hidalgo-Cameron
	Route 31-3	2,942	1%	Hidalgo-Cameron
	Route 32	323	0%	Donna
	Purple Line	613	0%	Weslaco, Pharr
	Redline 1	3,179	1%	Rio Grande Valley
	Redline 2	2,829	1%	Rio Grande Valley
	Redline 3	511	0%	Rio Grande Valley
	STC JagExpress YL	2,634	1%	Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen
	Vaquero Express	186,880	81%	Edinburg
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>231,092</b>	<b>100%</b>	**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized



	Total
Flex Routes	13
Metro Express	3
STC Jag Express	1
Vaquero Express	1
<b>Total Large Urban</b>	<b>18</b>

*"Connecting the Valley One Ride at a Time"*

Large Urban - service between or within large urbanized area

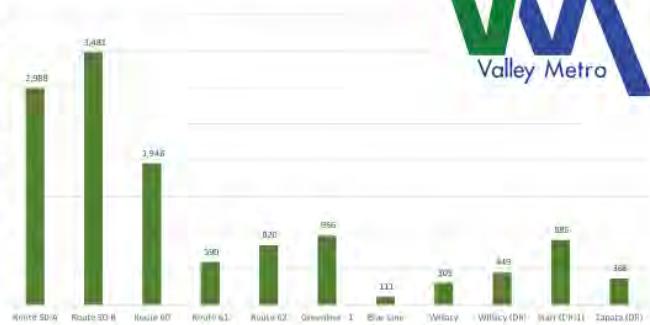


Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	
FY 2025-2026	113,076	118,016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	231,092	

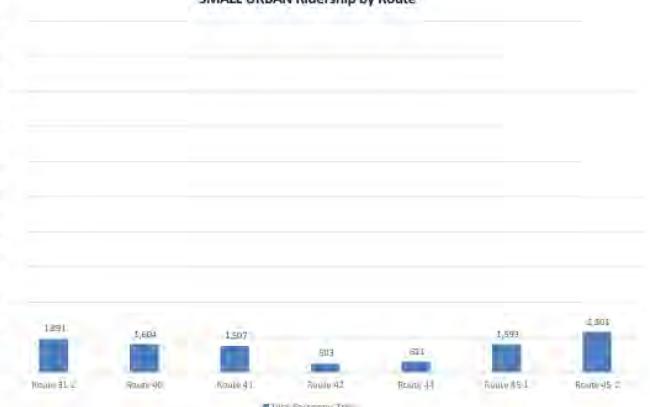
## RURAL AND SMALL URBAN RIDERSHIP REPORT

**Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 YEAR TO DATE TOTALS**

Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
Route 50-A	2,988	13% Brownsville, Port Isabel 15% Brownsville, Port Isabel 8% Roma, Rio Grande City 3% Rio Grande City 4% Rio Grande City 4% Rio Grande City 0% Brownsville, Port Isabel 1% Willacy-Cameron 2% Willacy County 4% Starr County 2% Zapata County 8% Cameron-Hidalgo 7% Harlingen 7% Harlingen 2% San Benito 3% Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa 7% Cameron County 10% Cameron County	13% Brownsville, Port Isabel 15% Brownsville, Port Isabel 8% Roma, Rio Grande City 3% Rio Grande City 4% Rio Grande City 4% Rio Grande City 0% Brownsville, Port Isabel 1% Willacy-Cameron 2% Willacy County 4% Starr County 2% Zapata County 8% Cameron-Hidalgo 7% Harlingen 7% Harlingen 2% San Benito 3% Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa 7% Cameron County 10% Cameron County
Route 50-B	3,481		
Route 60	1,946		
Route 61	590		
Route 62	820		
Greenline - 1	956		
Blue Line Sunday	111		
Willacy Express	305		
Willacy (DR)	449		
Starr (DR-1)	895		
Zapata (DR)	368		
Zapata Express	92		
Route 31-2	1,891		
Route 40	1,604		
Route 41	1,507		
Route 42	503		
Route 44	621		
Route 45-1	1,593		
Route 45-2	2,301		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,021</b>		
		<b>100%</b>	**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized



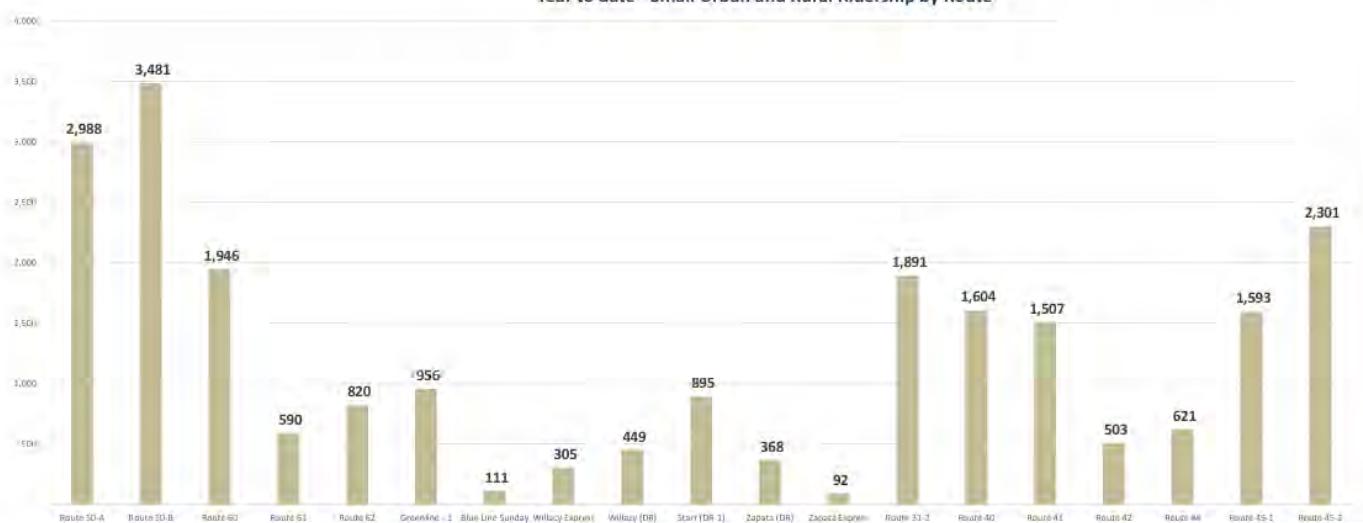
#### SMALL URBAN Ridership by Route



## ***"Connecting the Valley One Ride at a Time"***

	Rural	Urban	Total
Flex Routes	6	7	13
Express Routes	2	0	2
Demand Response	4	0	4
	12	7	19

#### Year to date - Small Urban and Rural Ridership by Route



Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	
FY 2024-2025	11,224	11,797	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,021	

FY 2026 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

## RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

## RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

### LARGE URBAN RIDERSHIP COUNT

## RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

## RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

FY 2026 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

## RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

## RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

## SMALL URBAN and RURAL RIDERSHIP

## RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

## RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

## RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

# **Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Sub-committee Meeting Activity:**

## **Upcoming RTAP Meeting Summary**

### **RTAP upcoming meeting discussions:**

The RTAP meeting was held on October 02, 2025. The meeting began with consideration and action on the approval of minutes from the July 24, 2025 meeting.

The agenda consisted of consideration and action on the nomination and appointment of the RTAP Executive Member for the Secretary position to fill the vacant role within the RTAP Executive Committee.

Valley Metro provided RTAP Subcommittee updates. These updates included recent activities, progress reports, and priorities identified in the Five-year Regional Public Transportation Cooperation Plan by the subcommittee.

The RTAP committee had discussion and recommendations on several key items, including the upcoming National RTAP Conference, “Wrangling Access and Mobility on Rural and Tribal Transit,” scheduled for December 7–10, 2025, in Austin, TX.

Members reviewed the agency stakeholder and proxy member form for Fiscal Year 2026 and reviewed current membership and underrepresentation from key stakeholder groups, such as Veterans Affairs, Bicycle and Pedestrian organizations, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and Senior Centers.

Transit providers shared updates covering performance metrics, service changes, ongoing projects, funding opportunities or applications, and public engagement efforts. Members also provided valuable insight into regional transit activities and upcoming initiatives.

## **Valley Metro received one of the newest additions to our fleet.**

This is a 2023 Ford Starcraft Allstar, assigned as Vehicle #2501

The Type XI vehicle is in excellent condition, and fully equipped for accessibility with a wheelchair lift.

It runs on diesel fuel, was purchased from Model 1 at a cost of \$267,421.57 and is fully funded through TxDOT under the 5310 Project.

This vehicle was officially accepted into service on September 2, 2025, and will support our ongoing efforts to provide safe, reliable and accessible transportation throughout the region.



## RGV BCycle: Project Upgrade 2025 Award

LRGVDC Valley Metro, was awarded \$800,000 through the RGVMPO Category 7 (STBG Carryover) Funds for the RGV BCycle Upgrade Project.

This project will modernize and expand the region's bikeshare system by adding 150 new 3-speed bikes, spare batteries, docks, kiosks, and communication technology. Upgrades will support new services in areas of Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties, as well as to expand access in Cameron County, Harlingen and Brownsville. This upgrade will improve system reliability and enhance multimodal connectivity across the Rio Grande Valley.

### PROJECT GRAND TOTAL

Part no.	BCYCLE ELECTRIC BIKES	UNIT \$	QTY	TOTAL \$
590839	Bikes (3-speed) includes shroud	\$ 2,715.00	150	\$407,250.00
W581583	-E-Bike Key	\$ 7.00	0	\$-
580867	-Spare Battery	\$ 455.00	55	\$25,025.00
580908	-Battery Charger	\$ 83.00	28	\$2,324.00
596163	-Battery Charger Cable set	\$ 5.00	28	\$140.00
	-Bike Shipping	\$ 90.00	160	\$14,400.00
			Bike Sub-Total:	\$449,139.00

Part no.	BCYCLE 3.0 STATION	UNIT \$	QTY	TOTAL \$
600903	3.0 Dock	\$ 1,885.00	120	\$226,200.00
5257547	Battery Charger	\$ 32.21	30	\$966.30
5255793	-Spare Battery	\$ 222.00	30	\$6,660.00
1052305	-Baseplate (2 dock single sided, 3 dock doublesided)	\$ 665.00	11	\$7,315.00
5252597	- Endcap Kit	\$ 599.68	6	\$3,598.08
5252598	- Ballast Kit	\$ 713.38	11	\$7,847.18
5252599	- Ballast Removal Tool	\$ 53.65	3	\$160.95
5268526	- Dock Fastener Pack (Baseplate install) (2 docks)	\$ 29.02	7	\$203.14
	3.0 Dock Shipping (Estimated)	\$ 100.00	120	\$12,000.00
			Station Sub-Total:	\$264,950.65

ONGOING BCYCLE SOFTWARE & DATA FEES	UNIT \$	QTY	TOTAL \$
- Annual Enterprise Software Fee (per dock)*	\$ 143.33	120	\$17,199.60
- Annual Dock Communication Fees (per dock)	\$ 60	120	\$7,200.00
Contingency			\$61,510.75
Software/data fees Sub-Total:			\$85,910.35

	Total RGV BCycle Project:	\$ 800,000
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## Route 40 – Medical Bus Stop Request:

Evaluating feasibility of two new bus stops along Treasure Hill

Intended to improve access to:

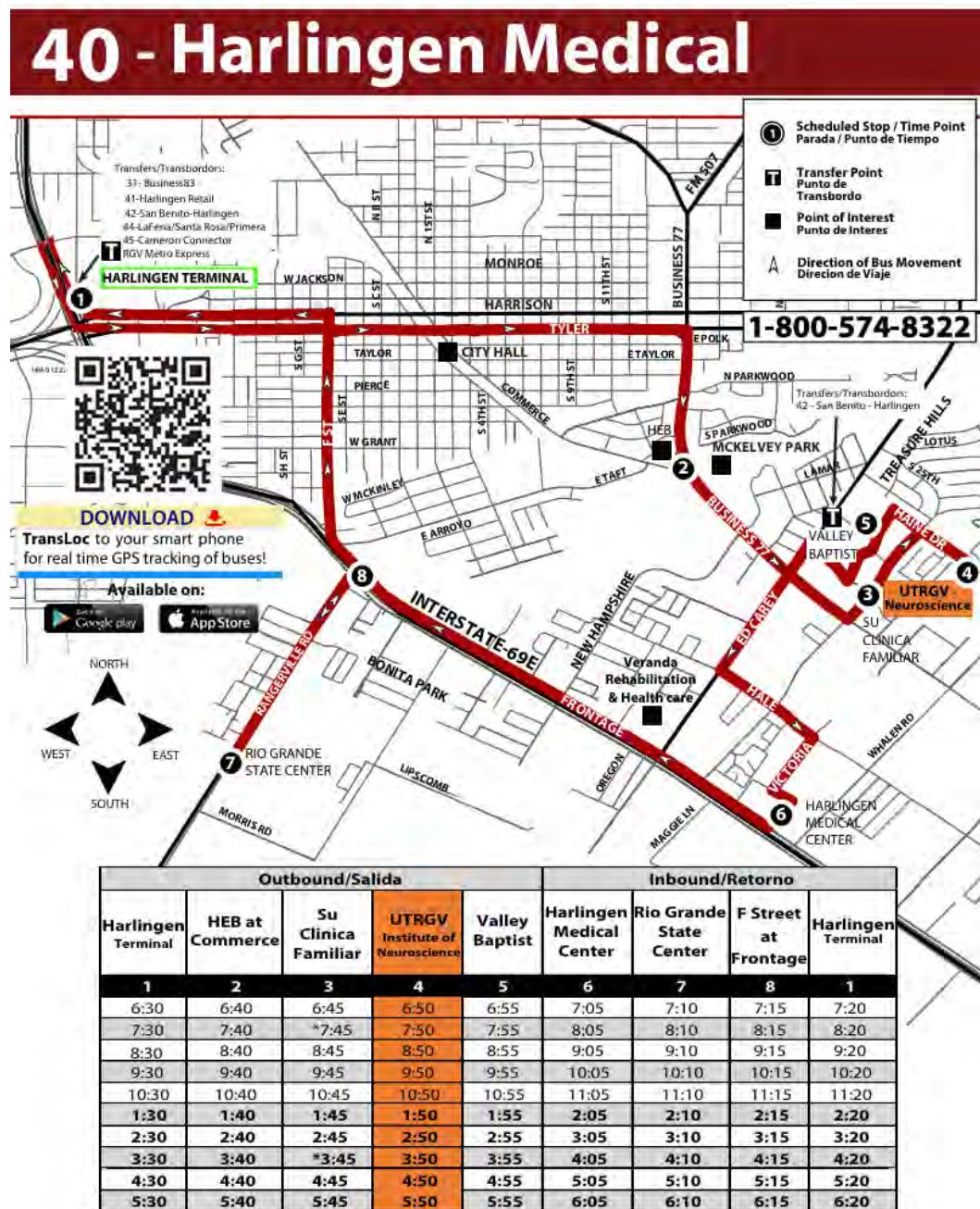
VA Harlingen Health Center

VA Harlingen Outpatient Clinic

Stops would be served by Route 40 – the Medical Route

Goal:

Enhance mobility for veterans and residents attending medical appointments



# Valley Metro Planning Monthly Outreach Report

## Key Topics:

- Zapata Co. Health & Wellness Event
- Petals on the Lake
- Starr Co. 2025 Fall Job Fair
- Travel Training Session – The possible Dream Adult High School
- Willacy County Sheriff's Office NNO

October 2025



## Zapata County Fall into Continuing Education / Health & Resource Event



607 US-83, Zapata, TX 78076

Valley Metro attended Zapata County's "Fall into Continuing Education / Health and Resource Fair" to connect with the community and promote access to vital transportation services that support education, health, and overall well-being. By participating in this event, Valley Metro aimed to raise awareness about its programs, share information on transit options, and engage directly with residents to better understand their mobility needs.



Dear Community Partner:

South Texas Development Council "Community Action Program & "Aging & Disability Resource Center" will be hosting "Fall into Continuing Education / Health & Resource Event". The Event is scheduled for Wednesday October 8, 2025, at Zapata Community Center located at 607 US-83, Zapata, TX 78076 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. And it will be open to the community.

We cordially invite your organization to participate by providing an informational or service booth. The venue will be available for setting up at 9:00 am. In lieu of a registration fee we ask that you kindly donate 2 door prizes ex Goodie Basket, Gift Card etc, to raffle during the event.

We thank you in advance for your time and participation. Please fill out attached registration form and return it to our office no later than **Friday, September 26, before 5:00 pm**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, at 956-722-3995 ext. 138 or 124 or via email at [mrodriguez1@stdc.cog.tx.us](mailto:mrodriguez1@stdc.cog.tx.us) or [mbarral@stdc.cog.tx.us](mailto:mbarral@stdc.cog.tx.us)

Best regards,

## Petals on the Lake



90 E Taylor St, Brownsville, TX 78520

Valley Metro participated in "Petals on the Lake," hosted by DAC RGV, to support and honor survivors of domestic violence while promoting community awareness and access to essential transportation services. The event provided a meaningful space to engage with attendees, share resources, and demonstrate Valley Metro's commitment to serving vulnerable populations through safe, reliable transit options.

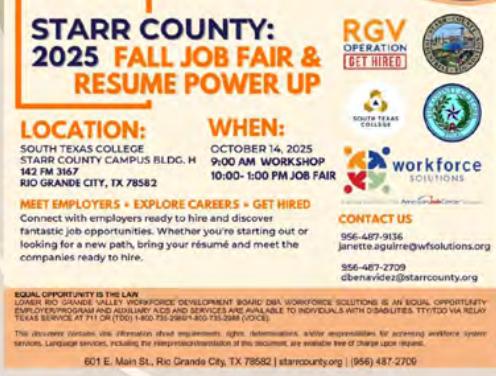


## STC Starr Co. Fall Job Fair



601 E Main St, Rio Grande City, TX 78582

Valley Metro attended the STC Starr County Fall Job Fair to connect with job seekers and share information about career opportunities within the organization, as well as the vital transportation services it provides to the region. The event offered a valuable platform to engage with students, recent graduates, and community members, highlighting how Valley Metro supports workforce development through reliable transit options.



## Possible Adult High School Travel Training Session



3000 N Cage Blvd, Pharr, TX 78577

Valley Metro presented its Travel Training program to the staff of PossAble Adult High School to promote transportation independence and ensure that educators are equipped to guide students in accessing reliable transit options. By sharing this training, Valley Metro aimed to build awareness of its services, demonstrate how to navigate the public transportation system confidently, and foster partnerships that support adult learners in reaching educational, employment, and personal goals.

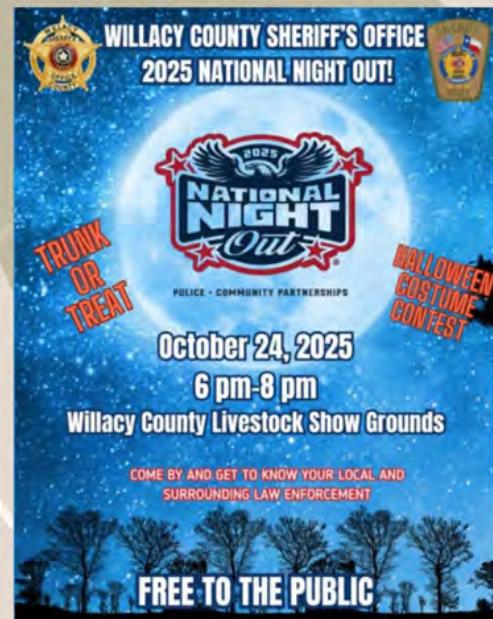


## Willacy County Sheriff's Office NNO



10520 Business 77, Raymondville, TX 78580

- Valley Metro attended the Willacy County Sheriff's Office National Night Out to foster stronger community connections and promote public transportation awareness in the region. By participating in this vibrant event held in Sebastian, Valley Metro aimed to engage directly with residents, share information about their transit services, and support the Sheriff's Office in building trust between law enforcement and the community



# CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

<https://lrgvdc-prod.gfcp.io/efare>





# VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Valley Metro's mission is to provide safe and reliable transportation options that connect our community to opportunity, support economic vitality, and enhance quality of life throughout the Rio Grande Valley.



## Types of Systems Provided

### ➤ 21 Fixed Routes

Providing service in the counties of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Rio Grande City. (with advanced notice, most routes may deviate up to 1/2 mile of the main route)

### ➤ 3 RGV Metro Express (limited stops)

Connecting Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Port Isabel

### ➤ 5 Demand Response

Serving Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties

### ➤ 5 Microtransit-Fast Ride

Serving Cameron and Hidalgo County, City of Edinburg, Mission to Sullivan City, and San Benito to Brownsville on Military Road.

### ➤ B-Cycle

Available in McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville.

## Serving the RGV's Five-County Region:

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata



## VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

- ❖ Edinburg - 617 West University
- ❖ Weslaco - 510 S. Pleasantview
- ❖ Harlingen - 1216 Fair Park Blvd.
- ❖ Rio Grande City - 407 E. Mirasoles

## Proudly serving:

- General public
- Elderly, over 60
- Persons with Disabilities
- Veterans
- People with Medicare/Medicaid
- Students, Faculty, and Staff from schools and institutions of higher learning

## Valley Metro Fares:

- Regular Fare - \$2.00
- Discounted fares - \$1.00 for the following:

- Students and faculty
- Persons with disability
- Elderly over 60
- Veterans
- Medicare recipients

- 20-Ride Pass - \$20.00
- (\$10.00 with discount)
- Transfers \$1.00
- Other fares vary by service

Passes may be purchased on the bus routes or at LRGVDC 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, TX

## VM Transit Website



Route Maps with locations



ValleyMetro Weslaco

## Ride Systems



Track our buses in real time



**VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322**

**ITEM #5. D.**

**RGVMPO**

**RGVMPO**  
**NO Status Updates**  
**Currently**