

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Regular IN-PERSON Meeting at 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas

**WEDNESDAY, February 25, 2026, at 12:00 P.M**

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

Live-streaming at: [LRGVDC COG - YouTube](#)

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 Meeting Minutes January 28, 2026.....President

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

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

#### **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 RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) membership.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Request for Proposal (RFP) award to All 4 INC.

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration
- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund
- Air Quality
- South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)
- 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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the continued service of Maria Connie Garza as Chairperson and Kendra Stein as Vice-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Council for a one-year term, in accordance with Article VI (officers) and Article V, Section 4 of the Rules of Function.

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

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Member.
- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Resolution for Statewide Emergency Infrastructure for the calendar years 2026-2028.
- 3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) FY2026-2027 Regional Budgetary Expenditure for the FY 2026 Grant Application Cycle.

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.1B 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

Program Status Reports

- Inservice Courses
- Officers Trained
- Contact Hours

**D. Transportation**

Valley Metro ..... Sandra Carrizales  
Director

Program Status Reports

- Ridership Report

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

Program Status Reports

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

**Item #7: Adjourn**

**Next Meeting  
March 25, 2026**

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.

**PUBLICINPUT 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 agenda posted for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on the posted agenda as 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, GENERAL MEMEBRSHIP, & LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY COUNCIL CORPORATION MEETING

12:00PM Wednesday January 28, 2026

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:10 p.m. quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County  
Commissioner Nurith Galonsky, City of Brownsville  
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg  
Commissioner Frank Morales, City of Harlingen  
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County  
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  
Mayor Rosa Perez, City of La Villa  
Mayor Pro-Tem Alberto Escobedo, City of Los Fresnos  
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen  
Mayor Gilbert Gonzales, City of Raymondville  
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito  
Mr. Ron Garza, UTRGV  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College  
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake  
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District  
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large  
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

**Absent:**

Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco  
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna  
Mayor Sylvia Castillo, City of Sullivan City  
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes  
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan  
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

Item #2:1. Consideration and ACTION for approval of Annual Elections Meeting Minutes May 28, 2025. **Ms. Lupita Sanchez made a motion to approve the minutes for May 28, 2025; Mayor Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

2.2. Consideration and Action to approve minutes for Board of Directors Meeting on December 18, 2025. **Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve meeting minutes for December 18, 2025, Mayor Ricardo Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

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

**Item #4:** Administration - Mr. Cruz started off with before moving on to the next action item, staff provided a brief debrief and expressed appreciation to the Board for their participation and support of the State of the COG Address held earlier in January. The event was well attended, with approximately 160 participants in attendance, reflecting strong engagement and interest in the work of the organization.

The Board was also informed of the LRGVDC Regional Recognition Award, for which three nominees were solicited from each county. The 2026 award recipients included Ms. Jacqueline Moya (Cameron County – Los Fresnos), Ms. Barbara Jean Garza (Hidalgo County – Weslaco), and Mr. Ernesto “Lefty” Cavazos (Willacy County), who is also a new Board member representing the Willacy County Navigation District.

Congratulations were extended to all award recipients, and the Board was advised that nominations for the LRGVDC Regional Recognition Award will again be accepted next year to honor individuals who demonstrate leadership, take on new responsibilities, and serve as champions for the region.

1. Consideration and General Membership ACTION to approve FY 2026 Annual Report & Budget. Mr. Cruz started off with the Annual Report provides the general membership, Board of Directors, and the public with a comprehensive overview of the LRGVDC’s organizational structure and programmatic responsibilities. It outlines the Council’s 2026 performance goals and proposed budget, along with productivity outcomes for FY 2025.

The proposed 2026 annual budget totals **\$4,227,006**, reflecting an increase of just over **\$2.6 million** from the 2025 budget due to additional funding awarded by agencies such as the RGV 911 District, Federal Transit Administration, TxDOT, Texas Water Development Board, and TCEQ Water Quality. The 2026 budget does not include an increase in membership dues.

The fringe benefit rate for 2026 is **52.60%**, representing a **2.51% increase** from the 2025 rate of 50.09%. Total budget expenditures reflect an indirect cost rate of **9.16%**, consistent with revised state guidance. Under the updated calculation method, this represents a **2.46% decrease** from the 2025 indirect rate of 11.59%. In accordance with Texas Local Government Code, Section 391.0115(e), regional planning commissions may not exceed 15% of total expenditures, excluding capital expenditures and pass-through subcontracted funds.

This report would not have been possible without the dedication and service of the Council’s administration, finance department, and program management staff. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their continued support and leadership in guiding the Council’s financial operations in a responsible and forward-looking manner. The comprehensive FY 2026 Annual Budget for the LRGVDC is hereby presented and recommended by the Budget Committee for approval.

2. Consideration and ACTION to adopt FY 2026 Annual Investment report and Accept Quarterly Investment. Crystal states that the annual and quarterly reports have been provided in your packets. If there are no questions, this item requires board action. **Mr. Ron Garza made a motion to Adopt FY 2026 Annual Investment report & Accept Quarterly Investment; Mr. Paul Rodriguez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

**B. Executive Directors Report.** Mr. Cruz introduced all new and all Promotions that were brought in. Mr. Cruz started off with, I would like to introduce new and promoted staff. I would like to inform the Board that, as of December, we welcomed a new director. Ms. Sandra Carrizales is serving as the Interim Director for Valley Metro. She has over 15 years of experience in transportation, and we are pleased to have her on board. Ms. Carrizales is with us today. Mr. Cruz then went on to introduce all Promotions & New Hires. Mr. Cruz then moved on to updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training and Legislative Items.

First, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce a guest who recently met with us and will be presenting to the Board. Mr. Christopher Hartley is with the USDA and serves as a Senior Advisor. We had a brief meeting with him yesterday. Without getting ahead of his presentation, he will be discussing potential funding opportunities related to water—an issue of significant concern at this time due to current shortages. Whether funding is available or not, his insights will be valuable. With that, I would like to invite Mr. Hartley to present to the Board. Mr. Chris Hartley then started off with Thank you very much, Executive Director, and thank you to the members of the Board for welcoming me this morning. As mentioned, I serve as a Senior Advisor to the USDA, where my work includes engagement on the 1944 Water Treaty with Mexico, as well as a secondary project spanning the Lower Rio Grande Valley and extending into the upper reaches of Region M. This work focuses on water use efficiency and water conveyance.

Over the past several months, I have had the opportunity to meet with numerous irrigation districts, agricultural stakeholders, water agencies, and other partners throughout the region. I am very interested in continuing my engagement with the Regional Development Corporation, as well as with cities, agencies, and stakeholders across the Lower Rio Grande Valley. My current effort is focused on developing an initial assessment of water availability, system losses, and opportunities for future investment in the Valley. I recognize that there are several existing structures already actively engaged in water-related efforts. We have reached out to many of these entities at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as to less formal stakeholder groups. Over the next month or two, my goal is to complete this initial assessment, identify the areas with the greatest investment potential, and explore possible funding sources to support those opportunities.

Many of you may already be familiar with the proposed NAD Bank investment totaling \$400 million—\$200 million for the Texas side of the border and \$200 million for New Mexico. These funds are beginning to roll out. I met with NAD Bank again this morning, and we are working to coordinate efforts not only with them, but also with the Texas Water Development Board. We also hope to bring several additional partners to the table in the coming months. Ultimately, our goal is greater collaboration and a coordinated regional voice. If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them. If not, my contact information has been provided to the Board, and I encourage you to reach out.

Lastly, Mr. Cruz mentioned, I would like to remind everyone of an upcoming event scheduled for next month, on February 25, which also coincides with our next Board of Directors meeting. On that day, the LRGVDC will be hosting a tree planting event. As you may recall, we successfully applied for and received a small grant from H-E-B, which will allow us to plant trees in and around the LRGVDC main office.

The tree planting will take place on February 25 between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m., prior to the Board meeting. It will be a full morning of activities, and we look forward to everyone's participation.

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 approve a Resolution Adopting the Rio Grande Valley Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) as the official framework for advancing broadband infrastructure and digital equity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. For those who may not be familiar, we do have an RGV Digital Broadband Coalition. If you have not yet joined our efforts, I invite all of you to participate. **Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve resolution Adopting the Rio Grande Valley Broadband**

**& Digital Opportunity Plan (RGVBDO) as the official framework for advancing broadband infrastructure and digital equity in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Albert Escobedo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Elections of officers for 2026. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice Chair & Vice Chair Elect. **Mr. Ron Garza made a motion to approve south Texas Clean Cities Coalition (STC4) elections of officers for 2026. Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Program Status Reports:** The Solid Waste Request for Applications is currently open. If your organization is interested in applying for solid waste funding, now is the time to do so. The deadline to submit RFAs is February 13 at noon, and all applications must be received by that time. If you have any questions regarding the open RFAs, please contact either myself or Brenda Salinas.

We are also working with Chris to coordinate either a regional stakeholder's workshop or a series of virtual meetings to gather the information he needs to ensure we receive high-quality data for our region. This information impacts everyone, so your participation is important. Please be on the lookout for emails or calendar invitations from our office, as we look forward to hearing from stakeholders across the region.

Finally, I would like to share that the Region M Plan for our area has been approved by the state. If you have not yet reviewed the updated plan, it will be distributed to stakeholders and is also currently available on our website. Should you have any questions regarding the new Regional Water Plan, including water conservation, drought contingency, or rate-related assistance, please feel free to contact us.

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

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

Ms. Margarita Lopez had one action item on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the following Membership Application for the Citizens Advisory Council. Dr. Mary Young Lee is being recommended for appointment to represent Cameron County under the Other category. The appointment will be for a three-year term in accordance with the Citizen Advisory Council Rules of Function, Article V, Membership, Section 4. Dr. Lee holds a Ph.D. and is an Associate Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health. Her expertise is in epidemiology and healthy aging. Her professional work focuses on promoting quality of life, independence, and fall prevention among older adults, including translating scientific evidence to support community decision-making. Dr. Lee seeks to contribute to the Citizen Advisory Council through grant development and evidence-based recommendations that address local aging-related needs. **Commissioner Joey Lopez made a motion to approve the following Membership Application for the Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Program Status Reports:** I have two announcements. First, we will be hosting our LiiFE Conference this year on March 27, once again here at our usual location. This year's conference will focus on technology and artificial intelligence as support tools for caregivers. The agenda will include hands-on sessions designed to help caregivers navigate medical portals, order prescriptions online, and better understand what AI can and cannot do. We will also address concerns around technology use, including fraud prevention, to ensure caregivers feel confident using these tools safely and effectively.

Second, I am pleased to share that we have reinstated services that were previously on hold, including residential repairs and health maintenance assistance. Over the next two quarters, we anticipate serving approximately 1,012 individuals, supported by \$1,154,000 in funding. All services are now fully operational and underway.

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

## **C. Public Safety**

### **C.1.A Emergency Services Criminal Justice & Homeland Security**

Mr. Cesar Merla with the Board's permission, I will begin by reviewing the four action items on the docket and would like to approve all at same time.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution for FY 2026-2027 Non-profit Security Grant Application Titled Regional Planning and Security.
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution for FY 2026-2027 State Homeland Security Program Grant Application Titled Regional Planning.
3. Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution for FY 2026-2027 State Homeland Security Grant Application Titled Regional Fire Academy Training Coordinator.
4. Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution for FY 2026-2027 Criminal Justice Assistance Grant Application Titled Regional Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance.

***Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca made a motion to approve all action items from 1-4, Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

**Program Status Reports:** The current Requests for Funding Applications (RFAs) for criminal justice remain open. All submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on February 12. Jurisdictions or entities, whether public service or nonprofit, must submit their applications to the Governor's Office by that deadline.

Regarding homeland security funding at the state level, we are still awaiting certain federal-level resolutions. We continue to monitor these funding sources and will notify the Board and all relevant agencies as soon as funding becomes available.

Additionally, our Criminal Justice Division will be hosting a Crisis Leadership Training course on February 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This four-hour training is open to interested participants. We recommend attendance by mid-level personnel, such as an assistant chief of police or assistant fire chief, rather than top-level leadership, to ensure practical benefit for responding entities. Telecommunicators from your city are also welcome to attend this training. While it takes place during the day, the four-hour session is highly valuable and well worth the time.

### **C.1B Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.**

**Program Status Reports:** I would like to highlight a few key points regarding our ongoing regional services. In 2025, we saw 20% growth, responding to over 3,000 tickets addressing various needs across the region. This number continues to increase. Our IT division provided full support throughout the recent Verizon outage earlier this month, ensuring there was no lapse in coverage and maintaining strong support for our public safety answering points.

Additionally, our Public Education Division continues to expand awareness of 9-1-1 services and resources, particularly in rural areas, ensuring the region remains well-serviced. Mr. Cruz then provided an update regarding FEMA Emergency Preparedness Grants. A decision on their release is expected by the end of this month. Previously, not all states received allocations due to administrative issues, which led to litigation affecting federal funding. This has delayed Homeland Security grants, including those that support local councils of governments. These funds are crucial for providing first responders with equipment and upgrades. We remain hopeful for a favorable outcome by month's end so that funding can move forward.

## C.2. Police Academy Program

**Program Status Reports:** Sara Casares began by noting that there are no action items for this month, but she wanted to share announcements regarding upcoming training for law enforcement officers, current academy projects, and a few highlights.

### Upcoming Training:

1. **Solo Officer Rapid Deployment (SWORD) Training** – February 5–6 in Weslaco.

This course is designed for officers responding to active attacks while in plainclothes.

Topics include solo response movements, drawing and engaging from concealed carry, medical intervention for victims, post-engagement procedures to prevent misidentification or friendly fire, and establishing family plans for off-duty encounters.

Recommended for officers in plainclothes assignments, including narcotics investigators, gang investigators, or any officer carrying a firearm off duty.

Training is offered free of charge, and registration assistance is available through the academy.

2. **Advanced Instructor Training** – February 9–13 in the CIEDO Boardroom at the COG.

This training is designed for instructors with a minimum of three years' TECOLE basic instructor certification.

The course focuses on public speaking, advanced course development, curriculum delivery, and utilizing technology to engage learners.

Training is free of charge, and registration assistance is available through the academy.

Additional trainings in March include Special Investigative Topics, Intermediate Child Abuse Prevention, Intermediate Use of Force, and Cultural Diversity. All are free and can be accessed through the in-service calendar on the LRGVDC website.

### Current Projects:

**Academy Applications:** We are accepting applications and testing for the Weslaco part-time and Rio Grande City full-time academies. Background investigations will begin in February, with both academies scheduled to launch in March.

**Basic County Corrections Course:** We have launched a marketing and recruitment campaign for this new course, including attending job expos and coordinating with school districts to introduce high school seniors to careers in law enforcement.

### Highlights:

On January 23, we commenced the 232nd Academy class in collaboration with the Mission Police Department. These cadets will train for six months in preparation to serve as Texas peace officers in our region. We wish them every success in their training journey.

### January Training Summary:

Total students: 14 - Course hours: 40

Contact hours: 328. The lower numbers reflect testing, background checks, and preparations for the 232nd Police Academy.

## Valley Metro Transportation

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Updated Section 5310 Program Management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the updated Section 5310 Program Management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Acquisition of Hardware for LRGVDC Valley Metro. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Acquisition of Hardware for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion, upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

**Program Status Reports:** Finally, I would like to share an update on ridership and some upcoming initiatives. Year-to-date ridership stands at 409,195 riders. We are also preparing to update our Five-Year Regional Transportation Coordination Plan, which was last completed in 2021. KFH was selected through a competitive RFP process to develop this plan, which will serve as a roadmap for transportation services in the region. The plan will include short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations, along with performance measures to track progress over time. We expect to receive the completed plan early next year.

### **RGVMPO Program Status Reports:**

Mr. Medina was not present therefore no reports at this time for RGV MPO. Mr. Cruz mentioned that as a reminder, MPO meetings have been rescheduled and will now take place the week prior to our Board meetings. Additionally, beginning in 2026, MPO will be conducting “road trip” meetings, with sessions hosted in a different city each month. This is simply an update for the Board’s awareness.

#### Item #6 Executive Session

1. Personnel Matters under section 551-074 (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee RE: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation.
2. Reconvene into an Open Session to consider ACTION, if any on items related to the Executive Session as described above. **Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve items related to the Executive Session as described above. Mr. Alberto Escobedo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Item #7 New & Unfinished Business – None at this time

Item #8 Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 1:01PM

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Liza Alfrao, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #3**

**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT**

**ITEM #4. A**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**ITEM #4. B**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE**

**REPORT**

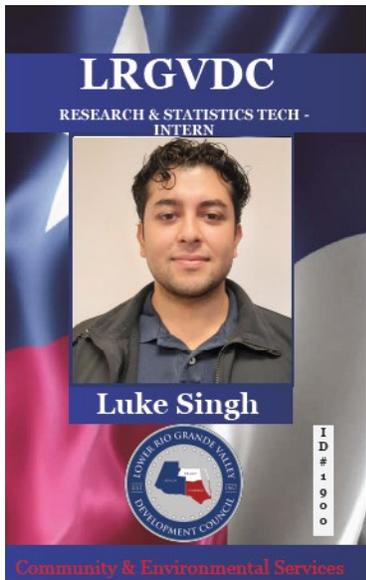
# **ADMINISTRATION**

## **NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS**

# LRGVDC New Hires/Promotions

New Hire Date: Monday February 9, 2026

Luke Singh  
Research & Statistics Tech Intern  
Community & Environmental Services



New Hire Date: Monday February 16, 2026

Clara Munoz  
Planner II  
RGV MPO



# LRGVDC Promotions

New Hire Date: Monday February 16, 2026

Shana Bricker

Planner II

RGV MPO



**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) membership.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) solicited nominations for EDAC committee members to serve. Each nomination form was reviewed and selected based upon their qualifications, experience, and interest.

At the February 18, 2026, EDAC meeting, the committee approved the following nomination:

<b>Membership Category</b>	<b>Entity</b>
Special EDO	RGV Lead

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

## Item #5: Community & Economic Development

### A. Community & Economic Development

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve and Enter contract for Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Request for Proposal (RFP) award to All 4 Inc.

Rider 7 funds are limited to inventorying emissions, monitoring pollution levels, air pollution and data analysis; modeling pollution levels; and administration of the program. Rider 7 further requires that no more than 10% of the allocation be used for administrative purposes. The grant recipients shall channel the funds to those projects most useful for the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The LRGVDC shall use Rider 7 funds in the following performance/subject areas: Development of SOW & QAPP, Inventorying Emissions, Monitoring of Pollution Levels, Air Pollution & Data Analysis, and Modeling Pollution Levels, and installation of 2 new air quality monitoring equipment.

Two proposals were submitted; staff reviewed, scored, and ranked the following proposals.

LRGVDC Proposal Evaluation Talley Sheet RFP 2026-01: Rider 7 PM2.5 Program Services / Air Quality Planning Activities											
Evaluation Members											
Evaluator Name											
#	Proposer	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	-	-	Totals
1	AECOM	90	72	95	94	65	97	92			<b>605</b>
2	All4, LLC	97	97	100	92	70	85	91			<b>632</b>
3											
4											
5											
6											

Recommended vendor derived from highest score from the tally above.

**All 4, LLC**

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

02/13/2026

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Procurement Signature
Date

Felipe Lopez  
Asst. Director of Business Operations

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

- **Economic Development Administration**

During the week of February 2–5, 2026, staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) conference, where the Texas Regional Broadband Program Kick-off Meeting took place on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. This meeting provided a comprehensive overview of the program, covering every stage—from development and implementation to financial planning, monitoring, and reporting. The initiative is a three-year program, and LRGVDC will soon be seeking a new hire dedicated to supporting this effort. While LRGVDC has not yet finalized the full scope of broadband activities, by adopting the resolution at the January Board meeting to accept the RGV Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan as the region’s official broadband plan marks a significant step forward. Our Community & Economic Development (C&ED) team will collaborate closely with the RGV Broadband Coalition and local stakeholders to bring this project to life. We are excited about the opportunities this program will create and the transformative impact it will have on expanding broadband access and digital inclusion across our region.

In addition, on February 4th, the Economic Development session featured presentations from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on funding opportunities, as well as sessions from SPEER and PACE. On February 5th, staff attended a recap of the TARC sessions, reinforcing key takeaways and next steps for regional collaboration.

The EDAC meeting was held on February 18, 2026, focusing on broadband initiatives. The C&ED Director provided updates on regional broadband initiatives, including the Texas Regional Broadband Program and the TARC/COG application process. She also discussed progress on the RGV Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan, aimed at expanding connectivity and promoting digital inclusion across the region.

Our team provides technical assistance, project development, and grant administration for EDA proposals and serves as the designated regional point of contact. We also coordinate with governmental entities to maximize project benefits and avoid duplication of resources. For more information on EDA funding opportunities, please contact the Community & Economic Development Department or visit, <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

**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).

C&ED has issued several letters of support, and staff continue to work closely with city officials, EDCs, EDOs, and other economic development partners to identify and develop potential projects for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). These collaborative efforts strengthen applications and help secure letters of support that align with our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

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

The Community & Economic Development Department remains dedicated to empowering small communities by providing resources that drive growth, success, and improved quality of life for residents. At the most recent meeting, held on February 10, 2026, staff engaged the committee in a discussion about training topics and potential presenters for 2026. One of the key interests expressed by members was GIS training, highlighting a strong desire for tools that enhance planning and development.

In addition, the C&ED team shared updates on regional broadband initiatives, including the Texas Regional Broadband Program and the TARC/COG application process. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to expanding connectivity and creating opportunities for digital inclusion across the region.

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**

LRGVDC received Community and Economic Development Assistance Funds (CEDAF) contract for Administrative and Technical Assistance Services. These funds are designated for technical assistance activities not tied to a specific Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) project. Instead, they support regional initiatives such as disseminating information from TDA, conducting outreach to promote fair housing objectives, and organizing regional meetings.

If any city or county is planning to host Fair Housing event(s), please contact Crystal Valdez at [cvaldez@lrgvdc.org](mailto:cvaldez@lrgvdc.org). The Community & Economic Development staff would like to participate in and support any outreach efforts related to Fair Housing.

## **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

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 report was submitted by the consultant, ALL4, to TCEQ and received approval on January 29, 2026. This report will serve as the baseline for FY27 funding, with an expanded scope of work planned for the upcoming fiscal year. All major project tasks have been successfully completed, including preparation of the Scope of Work, Quality Assurance Project Plan, Emission Inventory, Data Research and Analysis, Air Quality Modeling, and both the draft and final reports. We look forward to continuing efforts to monitor and improve air quality in our region.

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

LRGVDC has initiated the recruitment process for an intern to assist with the coalition application effort. The intern for this project has been hired and has joined the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) team. The selected intern will be introduced to the committee at the next meeting and will play a critical role in supporting the preparation and submission of the coalition application, scheduled for June 2026.

We will continue to encourage all 18 counties, including judges and municipal representatives, to encourage team members to join the STC4 coalition and support STC4 efforts. The meeting date is yet to be scheduled.

- ***Solid Waste Management Program***

The 2026–2027 Solid Waste Funding Cycle has officially closed, and we received 8 applications. All submissions will be reviewed for administrative completeness. Applications deemed complete will advance to scoring and ranking by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee during its meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ken Jones Board Room. Each

applicant with an administratively complete application will have three minutes to present their project to the committee.

Should you have questions regarding the Solid Waste grant funding opportunity, please contact C&ED staff, Brenda Salinas, [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org); or via phone (956)682-3481 ext. 123.

Under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, the CED Department continues to manage and support project activities. We are currently determining the quantity of worms needed for each school that is participating in this composting project. This will enable us to complete the final coordination. We're also looking forward to visiting some of the schools to see the project in action!



The Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) recognized the success of this project and invited the C&ED Director to present it to Solid Waste Planners' Association Training & Meeting. During the presentation, Mrs. Gonzales-Rosas emphasized that the project was implemented in full compliance with EPA and TCEQ requirements and directly supports the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan by addressing Goals #1, #2, and #3, along with several related objectives. She provided a comprehensive overview of the project's progression, from finalizing staff and scheduling the kick-off meeting with Region One and participating schools, to conducting staff training, identifying schools, and securing Memorandums of Agreements. The development of problem-based learning activities and instructional materials was completed, along with an activity calendar, and the next steps include training students to create instructional activities followed by initiating the composting process. Mrs. Gonzales-Rosas also noted that even well-planned projects can face challenges and delays; however, strong partnerships and collaborative problem-solving have been critical in overcoming obstacles and ensuring the continued success of the initiative.



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 continued supporting water quality outreach and public education through participation in community and regional events during February 2026. Outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of pollution prevention, litter reduction, environmental responsibility, and community preparedness, while engaging residents and distributing educational materials related to water quality and environmental stewardship.

## Outreach Events Attended – February 2026

- Paws at the Park** – Bill Schupp Park, City of McAllen (February 7, 2026). Staff participated in this community event focused on responsible pet ownership. Outreach included engagement with residents on the importance of proper pet waste disposal and its role in preventing non-point source water pollution in local waterways.



- Evenings at the Square** – Donna City Square Park, City of Donna (February 12, 2026).
- 19th Annual Friendship Festival** – City of Granjeno Veterans' Park, City of Granjeno (February 14, 2026). Staff conducted outreach activities during these community events, providing educational information on pollution prevention, litter reduction, and environmental responsibility while engaging families and community members.



- **Rio Grande Valley Disaster Ready Expo** – South Texas College, Mid-Valley Campus, Weslaco (February 20, 2026). Staff participated in this regional preparedness event, engaging attendees on environmental awareness, water protection considerations during disasters, and the importance of pollution prevention before, during, and after emergency events.



### Outreach Planning and Coordination Activities

In addition to event participation, staff dedicated time during February to outreach coordination and preparation activities, including communicating with regional partners and local jurisdictions, confirming participation in upcoming events, preparing and organizing educational materials, and maintaining outreach supplies. These activities support continued public education efforts related to water quality protection, litter prevention, and environmental stewardship throughout the LRGV.

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](#)



**Plastic-Free February Challenge**  
 This February, we're encouraging our community to **reduce single-use plastics** by making simple, everyday changes. Small actions—like bringing reusable bags and bottles, skipping plastic straws, and choosing products with less packaging—can make a big difference. Together, we can help reduce waste and protect our environment. Take the challenge and be part of the solution!  
 #PlasticFreeFebruary #PlasticFreeChallenge #ReduceSingleUsePlastics #SolidWaste #WasteReduction #Sustainability #RGV



**Water & Agriculture**  
 Water is essential to agriculture—supporting the crops we grow, the food we eat, and the hardworking farmers across our region. Protecting water quality helps ensure healthy soil, strong harvests, and a sustainable food supply for future generations.  
 How we can help:  
 • Use water efficiently  
 • Prevent pollution & runoff  
 • Support sustainable farming practices  
 #WaterAndAgriculture #WaterConservation #ProtectOurWater #SustainableFarming #RGV



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>

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

As noted in last month's board report, a workshop was held with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to provide valuable insights into available state funding programs. The C&ED team is currently collaborating with TWDB to organize an application workshop. For questions regarding any TWDB programs, please contact Enriqueta Caballero, TWDB Outreach Specialist and Program Administrator, at [enriqueta.caballero@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:enriqueta.caballero@twdb.texas.gov) or by phone at 512-435-9071.

💡 **TWDB Funding Opportunities:**

- 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 (DFund)
- Texas Water Fund (TWF)

We would like to inform our stakeholders that our water specialist, Jack Cano, is no longer with the organization. We are actively recruiting for this position and anticipate having a new water specialist on board by March. During this transition period, there may be temporary pauses in water-related meetings and FIF bi-weekly calls. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to ensure a smooth transition. Once the new team member is in place, we will resume full engagement and continue advancing our water initiatives.

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

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

The Planning Group (Region M) is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on its voting membership: Nominations will be accepted for one (1) vacancy in each of the following categories: (1) Municipalities, (1) Water Districts, and (1) Other.

**Deadline for receipt of nominations:** Friday, March 20, 2026

**Submission Instructions:** Nomination forms must be submitted in written form, either by email or mail to:

RGRWPG (Region M) c/o LRGVDC  
Attn: Valerie Ramos, Program Manager  
301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596  
Email: [vramos@lrgvdc.org](mailto:vramos@lrgvdc.org)

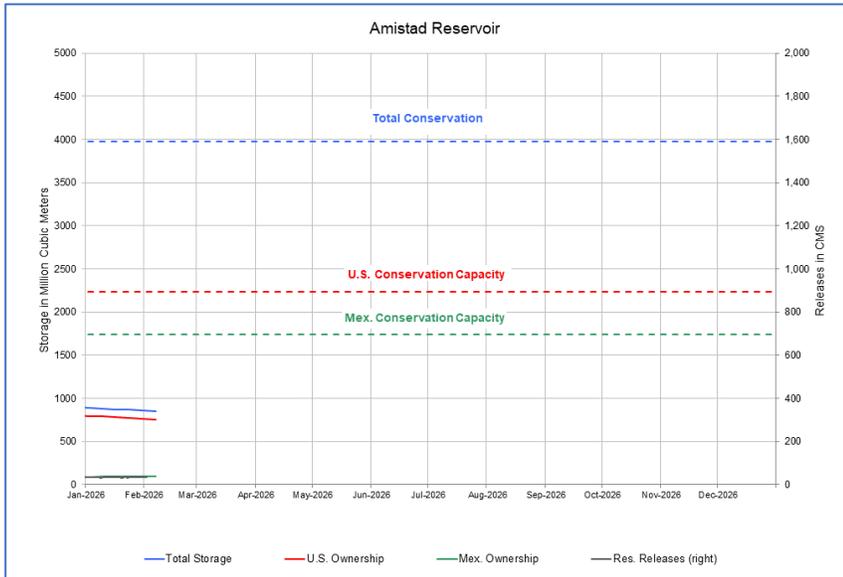
The nomination form can be found at: <http://riograndewaterplan.org/>  
For details regarding eligibility criteria, membership conditions, or questions about the objectives of the RGRWPG, please contact: Valerie Ramos.

Solicitation notices have been published in 7 of the 8 Region M covering counties: Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, Webb, Maverick and Zapata. Please note that efforts to post this notice in Jim Hogg County have not been successful, as the local newspaper has been non-responsive.

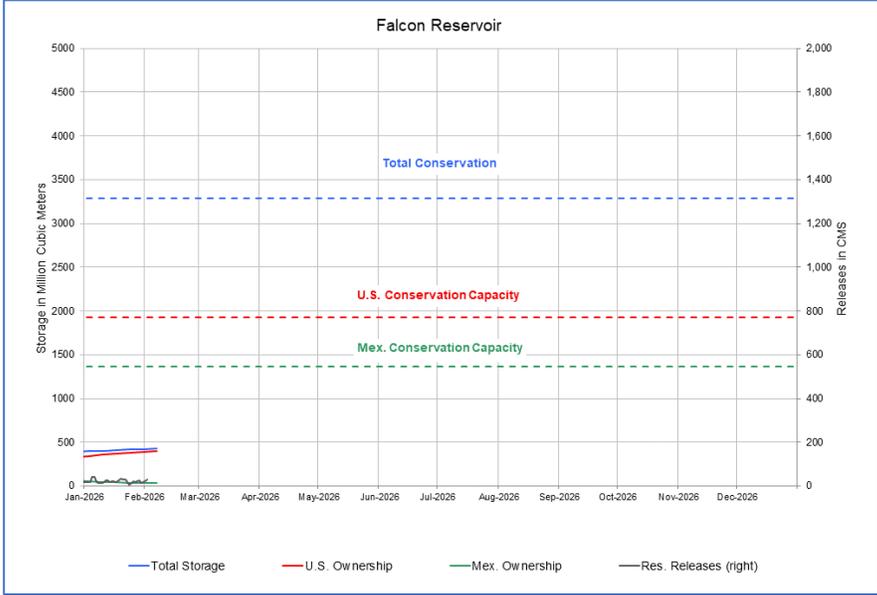
The next Region M meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2026, at 9:30 AM. Meeting details can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar webpage and the Region M website, <http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

For any other 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);

- Reservoir Levels as of February 12, 2026 (www.IBWC.gov).



**AMISTAD  
RESERVOIR**



**FALCON  
RESERVOIR**

**ITEM # 5. B.**

**HEALTH  
&  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item ..... Margarita Lopez  
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the continued service of Maria Connie Garza as Chairperson and Kendra Stein as Vice-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Council for a one-year term, in accordance with Article VI (Officers) and Article V, Section 4 of the Rules of Function.

**Maria Connie Garza** has been serving as Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Council and will continue in this role for an additional one-year term. A retired police officer, Ms. Garza remains actively involved in the community through service on the City of Mission Advisory Board, Women in Touch, and Calvary Baptist Church, and by teaching painting classes. She contributes strong advocacy, education, and outreach efforts to support older adults and individuals with disabilities across the region. Ms. Garza also meets the Council’s composition requirement as an individual 60 years of age or older representing Hidalgo County, further supporting compliance with membership guidelines.

**Kendra Stein** has been serving as Vice-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Council and will continue her leadership for an additional one-year term. Throughout her service, she has actively supported Council operations, participated in discussions, and provided consistent guidance on matters impacting older adults and individuals with disabilities. Her continued service ensures stability and continuity in Council leadership. Ms. Stein meets the Council’s composition requirement under the “other” membership category representing Cameron County.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Report

This document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's report for FY 2026, encompassing data for January 2026.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination January 2026**
  - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 88 new clients.
  - A total of 1,575 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
Care Coordination Services	88	1,575

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Services**
  - 2,131 individuals are enrolled in Care Coordination services. Funding is in place, and case managers are authorizing and initiating services to address identified client needs.
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support January 2026**
  - The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 74 new clients.
  - A total of 282 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
Caregiver Support Services	23	291

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services**
  - As of this reporting period, 305 individuals have been enrolled in the Caregiver Support Program for respite services. The budget has been approved, and respite services are actively being authorized and prepared for initiation to support family caregivers of older adults and individuals with disabilities.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant January 2026**

- The Area Agency on Aging was awarded \$86,331.12 in CDBG funding for FY 2026 to support Health Maintenance and Homemaker services in Harlingen, Pharr, McAllen, Mission, and Precinct 3. This funding strengthens access to essential in-home services that promote health, safety, and independence among older adults. Case managers have begun opening cases and initiating services in accordance with the approved funding.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List January 2026**

- As of February 7, 2026, 574 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging.

<b>Direct Consumer Services Interest List</b>	
Health Maintenance Services	34
Homemaker Services	111
Residential Repair Services	397
Transportation Services	14
Respite In-Home Services	18
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>574</b>

- **Nutrition Program Report: January 2026**

- Enrolled 19 new clients into the Home Delivered Meal program
- Successfully delivered 20,721 meals
- Successfully enrolled 236 new clients into the Congregate Meal program
- Successfully served 32,581 Congregate meals.

<b>Meals Program</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Home Delivered Meals	19	20,721
Congregate Meals	236	32,581

- **Senior Center Operations Report – January 2026**

- Program successfully enrolled 58 new clients
- Senior Centers conducted 13,404 activities with their clients

<b>Senior Center Operations</b>	
Total New Clients	58
Activities	13,404

**Special Services Report**

- **Benefit Counselors Program – January 2026**
  - The Benefit Counseling Program reached 492 new clients and conducted 533 total contacts through outreach and one-on-one assistance.

<b>Benefit Counselors</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
HICAP Awareness	138	138
HICAP Assistance	35	40
MIPPA	137	151
Legal Awareness	143	143
Legal Assistance	39	61

\***HICAP:** Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

\***MIPPA:** Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act

- **Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – January 2026**
  - During January, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 33 new clients.
  - They made 112 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

<b>CTI Coaches</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Contacts</b>
<b>January 2026</b>	33	112

\*4 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, and Rio Grande Regional Hospital

- **Ombudsman Program Report – January 2026**

- In January 2026, the Ombudsman Program addressed 69 complaints and documented 394 program activities, including facility visits, information and assistance, care plan meetings, resident and family council meetings, survey participation, and continuing education. Not all activity types allow time to be recorded, particularly Information and Assistance contacts, which are tracked by count only. A total of 110.51 activity hours were recorded, representing combined staff and volunteer time for activities where time tracking is permitted. Ombudsman staff devote the remainder of their work hours to required documentation and case records, ensuring compliance, accuracy, and continuity of services. The program is supported by three staff members and three trained volunteers, with volunteers contributing 15 in-kind service hours during the reporting period.

Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints
January 2026	15	110.51	394	69

### **Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – January 2026**

- The intake team had a total of 320 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- Engaged with 188 individuals, 182 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 6 individuals were 59 years of age and below, 182 are individuals with a disability and 9 are veterans.

<b>IR&amp;A Interactions</b>	
1-800 AAA	19
1-855 ADRC	5
(956) 682-3481	85
(956) 412-0958	33
Walk-ins	7
E-mails	40
Follow ups	131
Total Interactions	320

<b>Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	182
Consumer 59 and below	6
Total Consumers	188

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	182
Veterans	9

- **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – January 2026**
  - Successfully enrolled 15 new clients and served a total of 25 clients.

<b>BRI</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
January 2026	15	25

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – January 2026**
  - Assisted 4 consumers with housing inquiries.
  - Actively participated in 2 events, meetings, and coalitions engaging with 51 individuals

<b>Housing Intakes Total</b>	
Cameron County	3
Hidalgo County	1
Willacy County	0
Total Housing Intakes:	4

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Outreach Events	2

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	0
Consumers 59 and below	51
Total Consumers	51

**ITEM # 5. C.**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

# **ITEM # 5. C.1.A**

**EMERGENCY  
SERVICES  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE &  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla  
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Member

Due to the retirement of Hector Gonzalez, a replacement member is needed for the HSAC Member jurisdiction, City of Los Fresnos. In Accordance with the HSAC Bylaws the Appointment of Charlie Banda, Los Fresnos Commander has been made by the City Mayor. In accordance with HSAC Bylaws, Policies and Procedures for full appointment, this item requires Board action.



January 15, 2026

Cesar Merla  
Director of Homeland Security & Training  
LGRVDC & Homeland Security Advisory Committee  
301 W. Railroad Street  
Weslaco, TX 78596

RE: Homeland Security Advisory Committee Representative & Alternates

Dear Mr. Merla:

The City of Los Fresnos request that Hector Gonzalez be removed as representative for the City on the Homeland Security Advisory Committee as he will retire January 31, 2026. The City of Los Fresnos designates Commander Charlie Banda as representative with Assistant Chief Juan Rodriguez as alternates or proxy as board members to represent the City on the Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Milum at (956) 233-5768 or by email at [mmilum@losfresnostx.gov](mailto:mmilum@losfresnostx.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Alejandro Flores", is positioned above the printed name.

Alejandro Flores  
Mayor

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla  
Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Resolutions for Statewide Emergency Infrastructure for the calendar years 2026-2028.

As part of the Public Safety Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) grants guidelines, application for 2026 Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) funding applications from non-profit organizations, local governments and other political subdivisions must include a resolution that contains specific information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of an application. Upon approval the resolution will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline March 12, 2026.



*Regional Interoperable Emergency Radio Infrastructure Enhancement*

Resolution Number: 2026- 06

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the citizens of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the *Regional Interoperable Emergency Radio Infrastructure Enhancement* project to be operated for 09/01/2026 – 8/31/2028. This project is to be applied under the current request for application through the State Emergency Radio Infrastructure grant solicitation for Fiscal Year 2027.

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC Board of Directors agrees that in the event of loss or misuse of the Office of the Governor funds, the LRGVDC Board of Directors assures that the funds will be returned to the Office of the Governor in full; and

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the LRGVDC Executive Director as the grantee's authorized official. The authorized official is given the power to apply for, accept, reject, alter, or terminate the grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC Board of Directors designates the Finance Director as the grantee's financial officer. The financial office is given the power to submit financial and/or programmatic reports or alter a grant on behalf of the applicant agency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the *Regional Interoperable Emergency Radio Infrastructure Enhancement*.

Passed and approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026.

Signed by:

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza,  
LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item.....Cesar Merla  
Director

- 3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) FY 2026-2027 Regional Budgetary Expenditure for the FY2026 Grant Application Cycle.

On February 18, 2026 The Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) met via special meeting, and recommends approval of the attached Regional Budgetary Expenditure (RBE) Projections of Option #4 in the estimated amount of \$1,198,273.82 This amount is divided by two funding sources for the FY 2026-2027 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications of State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) Regular Projects in the amount of \$419,395.84 to fund potential applications and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) Projects in the amount of \$778,877.98 to fund potential applications.

RBE 2025	\$599,136.91			
RBE PROJECTIONS				
	OPTION 1 + 50%	\$ 898,705.37	LETPA	REGULAR
			\$ 584,158.49	\$ 314,546.88
	OPTION 2 + 75%	\$ 1,048,489.59	LETPA	REGULAR
			\$ 681,518.23	\$ 366,971.36
	OPTION 3 + 85%	\$ 1,108,403.28	LETPA	REGULAR
			\$ 720,462.13	\$ 387,941.15
	OPTION 4 + 100%	\$ 1,198,273.82	LETPA	REGULAR
			\$ 778,877.98	\$ 419,395.84

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety.....Cesar Merla  
Director

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff attended Bi-Annual Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Conference Criminal Justice on February 4-6, 2026, in Austin Cambria Hotel, Austin, TX
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on February 11, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX

Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) MGT-340 Crisis Leadership workshop on February 4, 2026, at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom Weslaco, TX
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on February 5, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff members participated in the webinar on February 5, 2026, Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable.
- Staff attended Bi-Annual Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Conference Homeland Security on February 4-6, 2026, in Austin Cambria Hotel, Austin, TX
- Staff members participated in the webinar on February 9, 2026, for Situational Awareness Call for Potential Fire Weather from the State Operation Center (SOC).
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on February 12, 2026, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff participated in the Ribbon Cutting on February 17, 2026, at the Weslaco Fire Department in Weslaco Fire Station #2
- Staff participated in the LRGVDC Benefit Training for Emergency Services Staff on February 19, 2026, at the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, TX
- Staff participated in the RGV South Texas College Disaster Expo on February 20, 2026, at the South Texas College Mid-Campus, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff participated in the Tree Planting Day on February 25, 2026, at the LRGVDC grounds in Weslaco, TX

# MGT -340 Crisis Leadership

February 4, 2026, at Ken Jones Executive Boardroom



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

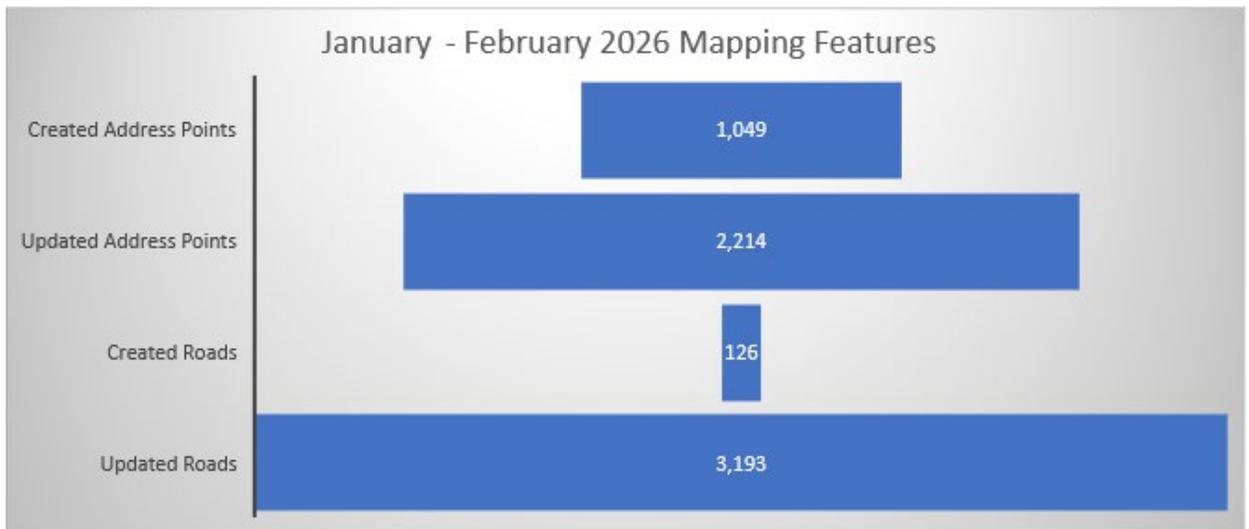
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

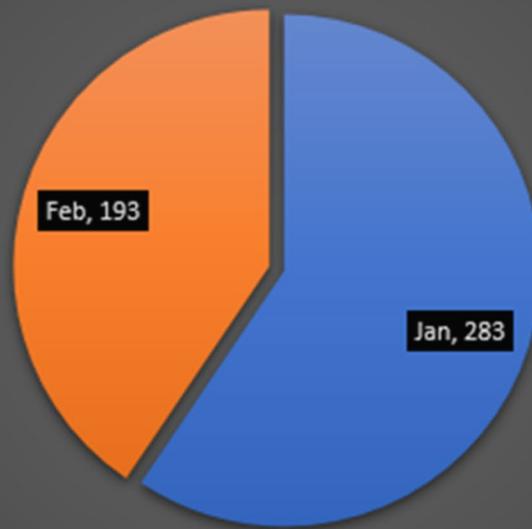
The GIS Division continues to demonstrate growth and innovation, strengthening regional geospatial data accessibility and enhancing emergency response capabilities. In 2025, the Division successfully upgraded its ArcGIS Enterprise environment to version 11.5.1, ensuring long-term system stability and improved performance across all GIS servers and services. Strategic initiatives planned for early 2026 include the implementation of Image Server 11.5 to support online aerial imagery for PSAP mapping and the deployment of ArcGIS Monitor to enhance system performance monitoring.

The Division has also begun working with the Intrado SSC Mapping Project, with GIS staff collaborating closely to streamline the process of making regional GIS data available to the new mapping solution that will be utilized by PSAPs. This effort includes coordinating data standards, schema alignment, and automated data-sharing workflows to ensure timely, accurate, and consistent GIS data delivery to support next-generation call handling and dispatch operations across the region.

During the recent freeze, the GIS Team created a regional warming center map to support situational awareness and emergency response efforts. The map highlighted available shelters across the region, was shared across Facebook, and received a total of 1,351 views, demonstrating its value as an accessible and widely used resource during severe weather conditions.



## 2026 Jan-Feb Address Tickets Totals



■ Jan ■ Feb ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

## RGV911.org Pageviews Jan-Feb Total





- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

IT was able to perform P9-1-1 and MapFlex training for call takers from Elsa PD and Texas Department of Public Safety. During this period, staff conducted P9-1-1 and MapFlex training for call takers from Elsa PD and the Texas Department of Public Safety. The training gave them a better understanding of how the 9-1-1 system works, including call handling functions and mapping tools. Providing this firsthand overview helps ensure they are comfortable with the system and able to use it effectively when responding to emergencies.

In addition to technical training, our team also participated in Crisis Leadership training through TEEX. The course focused on leadership during critical incidents and reviewed how the Incident Command System (ICS) supports organized response and public communication. It was a good opportunity for staff to better understand leadership roles during emergencies and how to communicate clearly during high-stress situations.

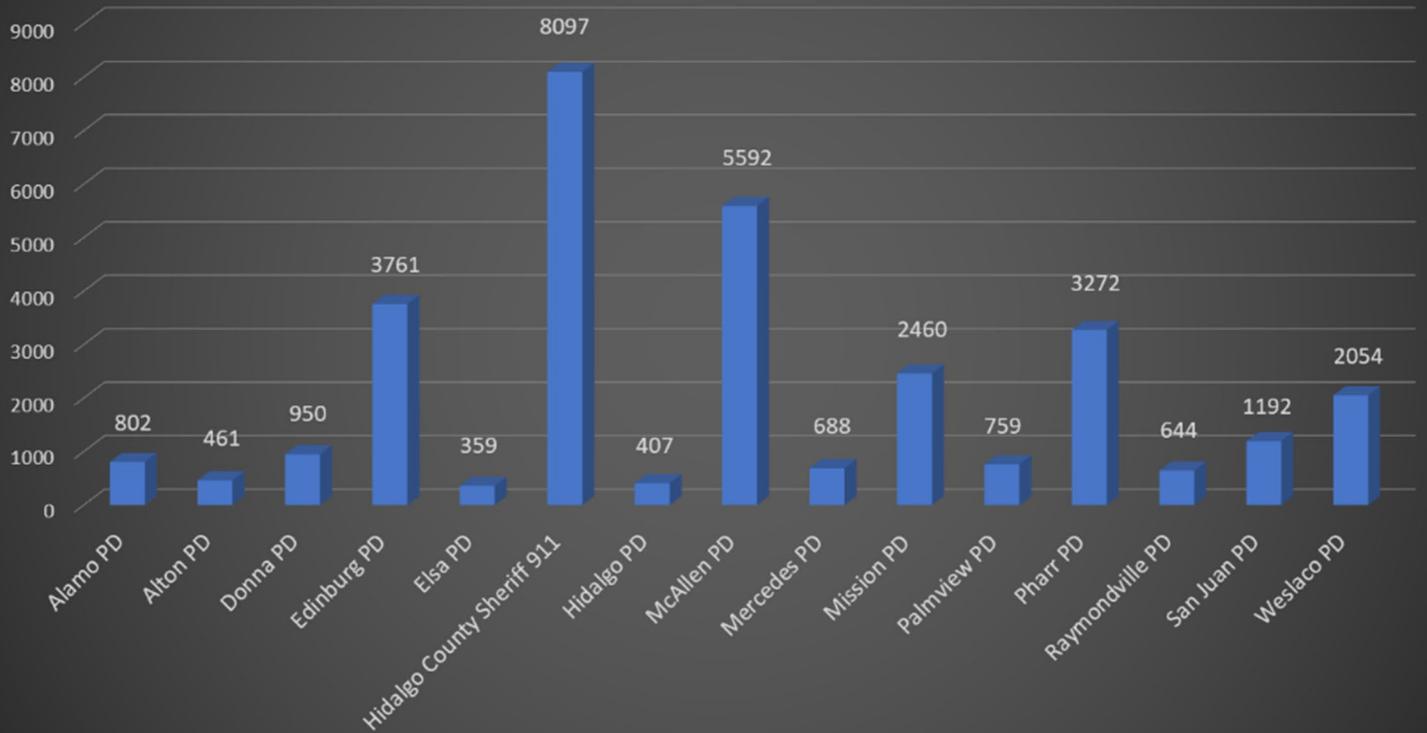
Infrastructure resilience remains a priority. We are in the process of getting transfer switches and camlock cables for the two mobile generators that were delivered in December. These enhancements will support PSAPs that have an existing generator. Along with this, staff are in the process of getting another network provider for our PSAP network so we can maintain redundancy in network infrastructure, providing a more resilient network to keep our 9-1-1 system infrastructure running at an optimal level. This approach ensures continuous 9-1-1 call delivery, improves cybersecurity posture, and provides a more resilient communications backbone capable of withstanding service interruptions.

SCC mapping project, which was purchased in the last quarter, is in full swing. Staff are conducting weekly conference calls to guide development, with an estimated implementation timeline of eight to ten weeks. The project focuses on enhanced GIS integration, data optimization, and system configuration to improve situational awareness and mapping accuracy. Staff are conducting weekly conference calls to guide development, with an estimated implementation timeline of eight to ten weeks. The project focuses on enhanced GIS integration, data optimization, and system configuration to improve situational awareness and mapping accuracy.

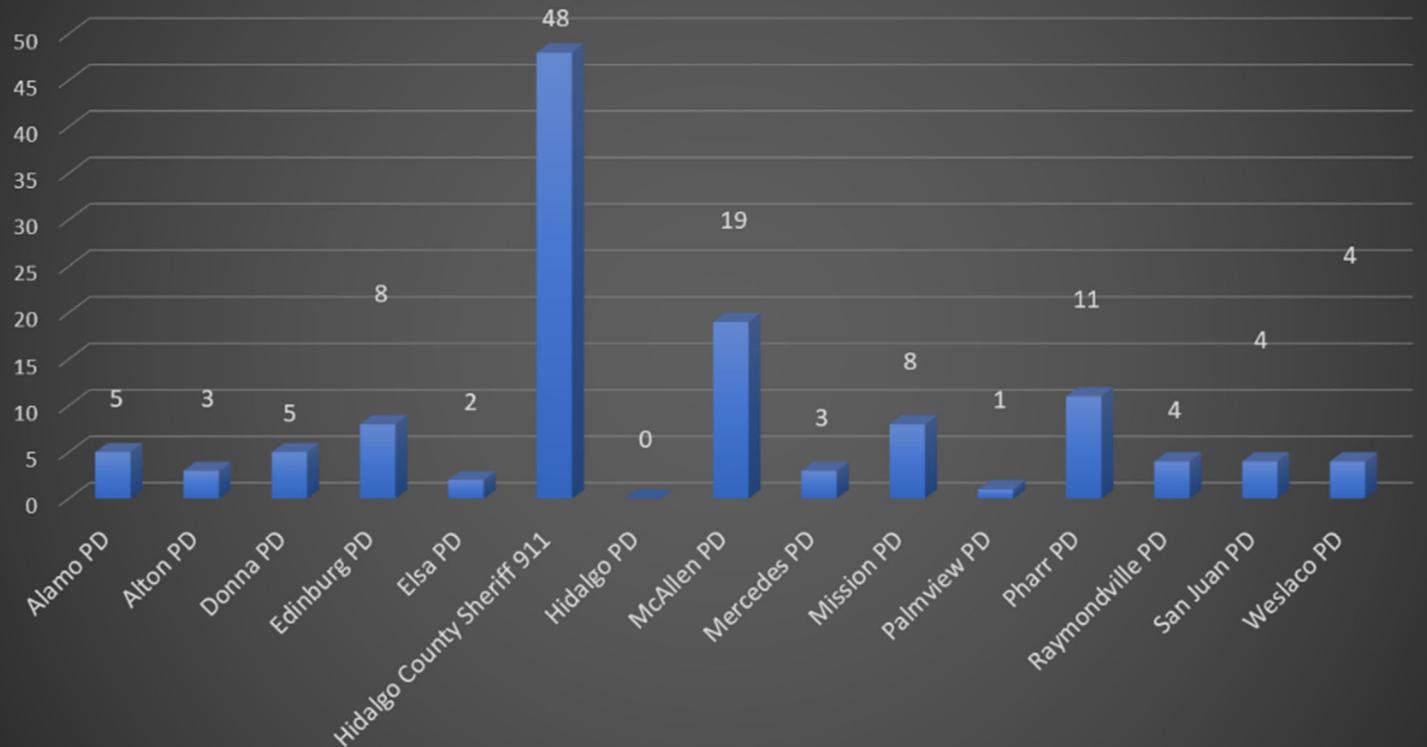
The Mobile Command Center from Nomad was officially received on February 12, 2026, where the project has been completed, and testing and turn up of all 9-1-1 equipment will be performed. Staff are currently testing and turning up all 9-1-1 equipment, installing workstations, and configuring routers and switches for full integration with our 9-1-1 system. The unit is expected to be fully operational within the next few weeks. Once deployed, the Mobile Command Center will provide critical redundancy, rapid response capability during disasters, and interoperable communications support for multi-agency incidents throughout the region.

Staff 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.

## Call Summary January 2026



## Text to 9-1-1 January 2026



- Community Engagement Division

This past month, RGV911 continued strengthening regional partnerships through community outreach, professional development, public education, and interagency collaboration. Below is a summary of completed events and upcoming engagements that support our mission of public safety awareness and service excellence.

**January 2026: TC Week Preparations (April 12–18, 2026)**

The District is actively preparing for National Telecommunicators Week in collaboration with local PSAPs and local vendors. Throughout January, sizing information was collected for approximately 240 Hidalgo and Willacy County telecommunicators to ensure timely production of this year's appreciation gifts. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to recognizing and celebrating the critical work of our 911 professionals.

**TC Appreciation Video with Judge A. Marroquin- January 6, 2026, Edinburg**

The Public Education team began recording appreciation messages from elected officials in recognition of National 911 Telecommunicators Week. Judge Marroquin participated in this initiative. Videos will air in April during TC Week.

**State of the COG- January 8, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

The event highlighted regional accomplishments, key initiatives, and future priorities for the Lower Rio Grande Valley while honoring civic leadership across counties.

**7th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day Event- January 9, 2026, Raymondville, TX**

The team joined Willacy County residents to raise awareness about recognizing the signs of human trafficking and accessing help and resources.

**Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education Summit- January 12, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

In partnership with Region One and local agencies, we shared strategies to educate, empower, and advocate for youth while promoting prevention efforts.

**2026 Fire Safety Expo- January 12, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

Staff supported fire prevention education efforts and engaged families in interactive safety learning.

**RGV911 Gives Back- January 15, 2026, Hidalgo & Willacy Counties**

Through Operation RGV911 Gives Back, essential items were distributed to community closets at local nonprofits, including Mujeres Unidas, Altacair Foundation, and Community Action Corporation of South Texas.

**911 Public Educators of Texas (PETS) & Texas 911 Trainers (TNT)- January 23, 2026, Austin, TX**

The RGV911 Public Education Team traveled to Austin alongside 911 trainers from across Texas. Connecting with fellow 911 professionals strengthen our mission and helps us bring back innovative ideas, tools, and best practices to the Rio Grande Valley.

**APCO Training: Active Shooter Incidents for Public Safety Communications- January 29, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

This course focused on real-world experiences and current trends related to active shooter events. The training ensured PSAP personnel remain informed, prepared, and aligned with best practices in emergency response.

**Young Hearts Matter Proclamation- February 3, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

Staff participated in Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month activities, reinforcing the importance of youth advocacy and community involvement.

**TEEX EXSUM MGT-340 Crisis Leadership Training- February 4, 2026 Weslaco, TX**

This seminar uses one of four case studies to examine the dynamics of crisis leadership and decision making from an elected or senior official's perspective.

**UPCOMING EVENTS :**

**Health Education Presentation Hosted by Driscoll Health Plan- February 19, 2026. Edinburg, TX**

The Public Education team will present in Spanish on RGV911 services, appropriate 911 usage, Text-to-911, Medical ID, and department functions.

**Rio Grande Valley Disaster Ready Expo Hosted by South Texas College- February 20, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

Staff will provide emergency preparations, including 911 services and non-emergency resources for students and families.

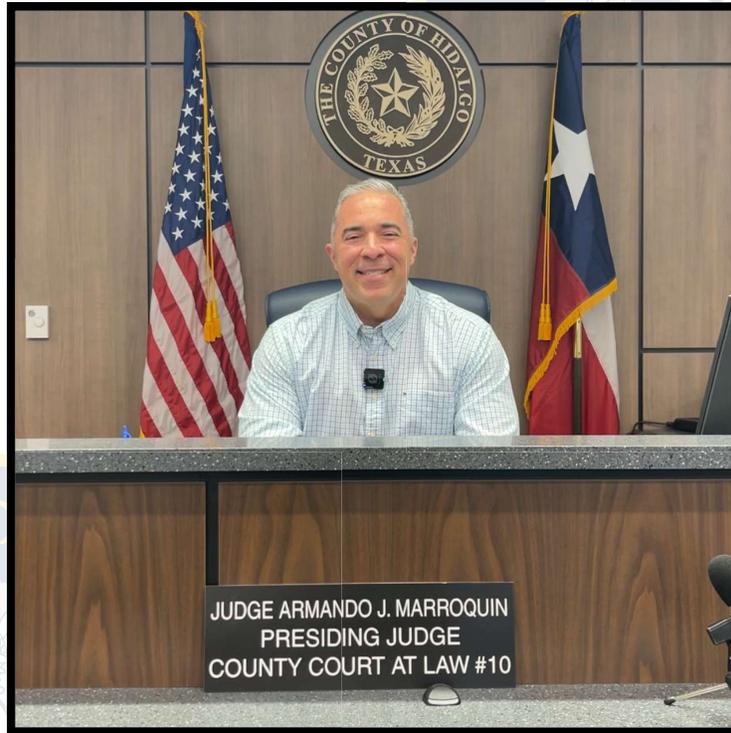
**2026 Texas Preventing Targeted Violence Conference Hosted by DPS- March 1-5, 2026, Fort Worth, TX**

This conference will focus on prevention strategies, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration to address targeted violence.

**Spring Break Luau Hosted by UTRGV- March 12, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

Our team aims to provide safe travel tips and information on appropriate usage of 911 to students who will soon be facing Spring Break.

# TC Appreciation Video with Judge A. Marroquin- January 6, 2026



# State of the COG- January 8, 2026



# 7th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day Event- January 9, 2026



# Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education Summit- January 12, 2026



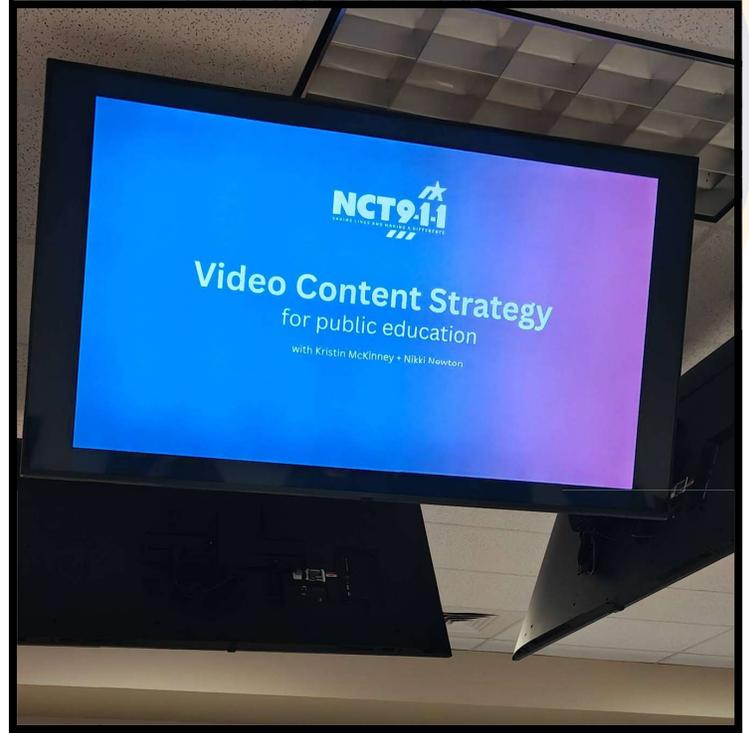
# 2026 Fire Safety Expo- January 12, 2026



# RGV911 Gives Back- January 15, 2026



# 911 Public Educators of Texas (PETS)- January 23, 2026



# Texas 911 Trainers (TNT)- January 23, 2026



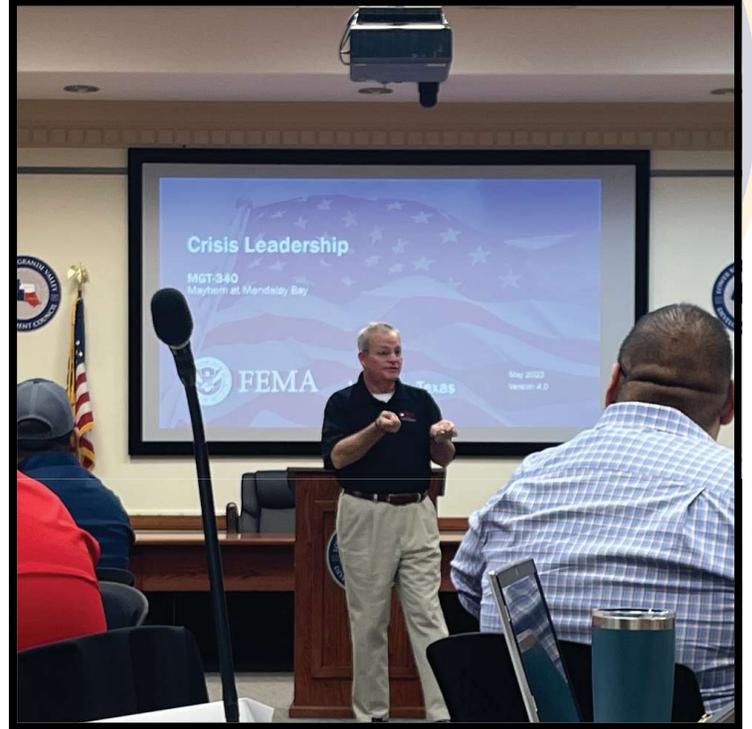
# APCO Training: Active Shooter Incidents for Public Safety Communications- January 29, 2026



# Young Hearts Matter Proclamation- February 3, 2026



# TEEX EXSUM MGT-340 Crisis Leadership Training- February 4, 2026



# **ITEM # 5.C.2**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE ACADEMY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Department Reports

Public Safety .....Javier Solis Jr  
Director

Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

- Mission Class 232 has completed training on Racial Profiling, U.S. and Texas Constitution, Texas Penal Code, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, and Arrest Search and Seizure.
- Weslaco Class 231 has completed their O.C., Taser, Baton, and Emergency Vehicle Operations training. They are in their final phase of the academy where they will be tested on patrol skills, use of force encounters, and active shooter response.
- The LRGV Academy hosted a two-day A.L.E.R.R.T. active shooter response training course for certified officers on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The course was designed for off-duty and plain clothes encounters. The course was designed to emphasize the moral and ethical obligation to be a protector of society regardless of whether officers are on the clock or not.

Officers also received training on alternative methods of communication, techniques on solo response tactics, the importance of having a family plan in place, and the need to have law enforcement identification wherever they go to avoid misidentification by other responding uniformed personnel.

- Our part time LRGV Academy class 233 is scheduled to commence in March. We are in the background phase and are sifting through our applicants and will be making final selections by the end of the month. We had a high turnout for entrance exam testing and are reviewing over 38 applications and anticipate the academy starting at max capacity with 30 enrolled cadets.

**ITEM #5. D.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation.....Sandra Carrizales  
Valley Metro Director

Valley Metro Status Report

- Ridership Report

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

Total ridership: **434,082 riders**

**Breakdown of Ridership per system:**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Small Urban and Rural Ridership</b>	<b>Large Urban Ridership</b>	<b>Total Ridership</b>
Valley Metro	49,096	91,290	140,386
UTRGV	-	288,635 pending Jan. data	288,635
STC	-	4,384	4,384
TSTC	677	-	677
	49,773	384,309	434,082

\*Pending final ridership numbers as of print date

## **Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Committee Meeting Activity:**

### **Regional Transportation Advisory Panel updates:**

#### **RTAP 02/29/2026 Meeting Highlights:**

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##### **Purpose of Meeting**

- **Share agency updates:** The meeting served as a platform for agencies to provide updates on current projects, initiatives, and operational changes, ensuring transparency and alignment among stakeholders.
  - **Strengthen collaboration among regional partners:** The session aimed to foster stronger partnerships between transit agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders to improve regional transit services and coordination.
- 

##### **KFH Presentation**

- **Provided an overview of their ongoing partnership with Valley Metro:** KFH Consulting shared insights into their collaborative efforts with Valley Metro, emphasizing how this partnership supports regional transit planning and service improvements.
  - **Highlighted progress on the five-year recommendation plan:** The presentation included updates on milestones achieved within the strategic five-year plan, outlining key recommendations and actions taken so far.
  - **Discussed the strategic direction supported by the plan:** KFH explained how the plan aligns with long-term goals for regional mobility, sustainability, and service efficiency.
- 

##### **MADD Presentation**

- **Delivered a powerful presentation on their services:** Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) showcased the range of programs and resources they offer to communities, focusing on advocacy and education.
  - **Emphasized the importance of community engagement:** MADD stressed that active involvement from local communities is essential to promote safety and prevent impaired driving.
  - **Focused on safety and prevention efforts to reduce impaired driving:** The presentation highlighted strategies and initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol-related crashes and improving overall roadway safety.
- 

##### **Key Themes**

- **Collaboration and partnership development:** Strengthening relationships among agencies and organizations to achieve shared goals for regional transit.
- **Strategic planning for regional transit improvements:** Using data-driven recommendations and long-term planning to enhance transit services.
- **Community involvement in safety initiatives:** Encouraging public participation and awareness campaigns to support safer transportation systems

# LRGVDC Five-Year Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) Update

The kickoff meeting for the Five-Year Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) was held on January 23, 2026, and brought together Valley Metro leadership, planners, finance, and the consultant team from KFH Group to align on project scope, roles, responsibilities, and timelines.

The purpose of the Five-Year Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) is to provide a structured roadmap for improving and coordinating public transportation services across the region. It aims to:

- **Assess Current Needs and Gaps:** Identify where transportation services are lacking and which populations have unmet mobility needs.
- **Engage Stakeholders and the Public:** Gather input through meetings, focus groups, and surveys to ensure the plan reflects community priorities.
- **Develop Goals and Strategies:** Establish actionable steps and best practices to address service gaps and improve regional coordination.
- **Update the Coordinated Transportation Plan:** Produce a comprehensive five-year plan that aligns with TxDOT requirements and regional priorities.
- **Guide Implementation:** Ensure recommendations lead to practical improvements rather than remaining a static document, focusing on achievable goals and collaboration among providers

## Project Scope & Key Tasks

Task 1: Project Management & Kickoff

Task 2: Stakeholder & Public Engagement

Task 3: Needs & Gaps Assessment

Task 4: Interim Plan

Task 5: Goals & Strategies

Task 6: Draft & Final Report

# Valley Metro Activities

## Route 41 Assessment

- Valley Metro conducted a route assessment on Route 41 to evaluate whether traveling from the Harlingen Post Office down to 1st Street before reconnecting to Business 77 would improve overall service efficiency and rider experience.
- This review was needed due to a turn along the previous routing that was partially obstructed by a fence, limiting the driver's visibility of oncoming traffic and creating a safety concern.

Route / Ruta  
**41**

**Harlingen Retail**

**Monday - Saturday  
Lunes - Sábado**

**Serving Servicio a**

- HEB (Morgan)
- LeMoyné Gardens
- Valley International Airport
- TSTC
- Sun Valley Mall
- Harlingen Public Library
- Boys & Girls Club
- Social Security Office
- Sam's/Bass Pro Shop
- Valle Vista Mall Target
- Walmart
- HEB (Frontage)
- Cinemark Theater






510 S. Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas 78596  
<https://www.lrgvdc.org/valleymetro.html>



Information / Información  
**1-800-574-8322**

## Route material & Triplog updates

- Valley Metro is working to streamline its materials by updating brochures, trip logs, and turn-by-turn instructions into a more consistent, standardized format that benefits both drivers and the public.
- By aligning these resources under a unified structure, the agency reduces confusion, improves clarity, and ensures that essential information is easier to follow regardless of the route or service type.



\* Express route – the bus only stops at the scheduled stop locations and at no other locations.  
**Description: Route from Zapata County to Laredo**

**BEGIN/END ROUTE – Begin route at the Zapata Co. Courthouse**

Drive southwest on 7th Avenue.

Stop at **Zapata Co. Courthouse** (Stop inside parking lot between flag poles) - **SS**

Exit the Courthouse, get back onto 7th Ave. at the stop sign take a right onto Bus 83

Continue on US 83 North/United States Highway 83, until arriving in San Ygnacio

Stop at **San Ygnacio Community Center** (Building next to the post office) - **SS**

Continue on US 83 North/United States Highway 83

Keep right to stay on US 83 North / Zapata Hwy.

Continue on Guadalupe St. / Houston St. at the traffic light on Houston St and Santa Ursula Ave  
**Take a left**

Turn right onto Farragut Street

Continue on Farragut Street

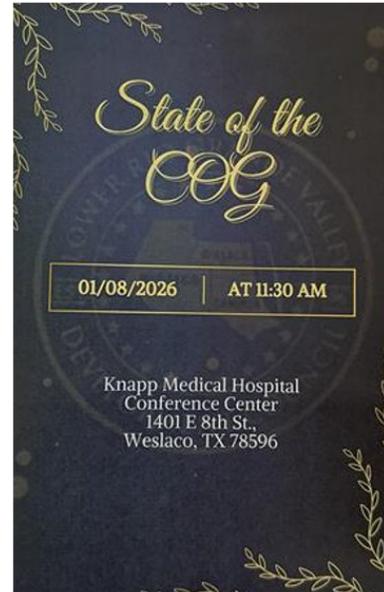
Stop at **El Metro Terminal** - **SS** (Option 1 – bus stop on Juarez Ave, Option 2 – Bus stop on Farragut St. across Burger King) **\*\*WORST CASE SCENARIO Option 3 – ONLY if 1 & 2 are full!**

West Bound Towards McAllen	Harlingen Terminal	La Feria Dollar General	Mercedes Bus 83 & Texas Ave	ISC Westaco	Danna Park	Alamo Park (La Pradera)	Pharr Bus 41 & Sugar Rd.	McAllen Central Station	East Bound Towards Harlingen	Pharr Bus 41 & Sugar Rd.	Alamo Park (La Pradera)	Danna Park	ISC Westaco	Mercedes Bus 83 & Texas Ave	La Feria Dollar General	Harlingen Terminal
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6:00	6:15	6:30	6:45	7:00	7:15	7:30	7:45	8:00	8:15	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	9:30	9:45	10:00
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1:00	1:15	1:30	1:45	2:00	2:15	2:30	2:45	3:00	3:15	3:30	3:45	4:00	4:15	4:30	4:45	5:00



# State of the COG

- Valley Metro participated in the LRGVDC State of the COG event on January 08, 2026, to support regional collaboration and highlight the agency's ongoing efforts to improve public transportation across the Rio Grande Valley.
- The event provided an opportunity to share updates on current projects, discuss future mobility initiatives, and engage with community leaders, partner agencies, and stakeholders who play a key role in shaping regional development.



## RGV Metro Express Meeting

The RGV Metro Express partners meet regularly to ensure coordinated oversight, transparent communication, and continuous improvement across the regional transit system. These meetings provide a structured setting for partners to:

- Review system performance and operational trends
- Discuss service needs and upcoming priorities
- Address issues affecting the four RGV Metro Express routes:
  - Red Line 1
  - Red Line 2
  - Orange Line
  - Blue Line

Maintain alignment on service goals, resource planning, and strategies that support reliable transit service for the region. A key component of each meeting is the Service Report, which offers a comprehensive, data-driven overview of system activity. The report is presented to ensure all partners have access to consistent, transparent information that supports informed decision-making. The Service Report includes:

- Ridership trends
- Hours of service
- Miles operated
- Fare collection
- Performance measures
- Expenses and fare analysis

In addition to reviewing operational data, each meeting includes an Open Forum segment. This portion of the agenda allows partners to:

- Raise concerns or operational challenges
- Share observations from the field
- Discuss emerging needs or opportunities
- Collaborate on solutions that enhance service delivery

Through these coordinated efforts, the RGV Metro Express partners work collectively to maintain a high-quality transit system that meets the mobility needs of the Rio Grande Valley community.



### New Fares - RGV Metro Express

\$10	\$50	\$200	\$50	FREE
Daily Pass (Unlimited Pass)	Weekly Pass	Monthly pass (Unlimited Pass)	20-Day Pass for any combination of routes other than T-RGV	T-RGV Transfer & Transfer to other routes
Pass diario (ilimitado)	Pass semanal	Pass mensual (ilimitado)	20-Días Pass para cualquier combinación de rutas, excepto T-RGV	T-RGV Transferencia y Transferencia a otras rutas

**New fares start beginning April 17, 2025. For additional information call 1-800-574-8322.**

**New fare transfer is partial and valid for 30 days.**

**New fare information available at 1-800-574-8322.**

**Blue Line (Weslaco, Odessa, Brownsville) - Brownsville**

**Orange Line (Weslaco, Odessa, Brownsville) - Brownsville**

**Red Line (Odessa, Odessa, Brownsville) - Brownsville**

**Transfer to other routes is available on all routes.**

**\*Monthly pass and 20-Day Pass for any transfer and transfer to other routes (T-RGV) may be purchased at the T-RGV Station - Fare Payment located inside building C at 201 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596.**

**\*\*20-Day Pass for any combination of routes other than T-RGV is available at the T-RGV Station - Fare Payment located inside building C at 201 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596.**

**†20-Day Pass for any combination of routes other than T-RGV is available at the T-RGV Station - Fare Payment located inside building C at 201 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596.**

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### Rural & Urban Vehicle Replacements

The seven newly acquired Starcraft Allstar vehicles replace aging units that have met or exceeded their useful life. This proactive fleet replacement supports safety, reliability, and regulatory compliance while reducing maintenance costs, minimizing service disruptions, and improving overall operational efficiency.



**ITEM #5.D**

**RGVMPO**

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