

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Notice is hereby provided that the LRGVDC Board of Directors will hold a Regular IN-PERSON Meeting on

**WEDNESDAY, February 26, 2025, at 12:00 P.M**

at 301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas and provide the public with the ability to view the meeting via Internet

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

Presiding: Mayor Norma Sepulveda, 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 January 29 Meeting Minutes.....President

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

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve of the LRGVDC 2025-2030 Strategic  
Plan.....Javier Dominguez  
Executive Analyst

#### A. 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  
Assistant Director

### Program Status Reports

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

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

### Program Status Reports

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

C. Public Safety.....Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security..... Cesar Merla  
Assistant Director

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

### Program Status Reports

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

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District..... Dennis Moreno  
Assistant Director

### Program Status Reports

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

D. Transportation Valley Metro.....Tom Logan  
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Executive Director to Initiate and enter into an Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and Edinburg Economic Development Corporation, along with the procurement procedures for the completion of Edinburg Transit Terminal Phase III .
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Executive Director to initiate and submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation “TXDOT”
3. Discussion and **ACTION** on approval of Resolution #2025-02, Authorizing the Executive Director to execute A Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration.

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

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

**Item #6 Executive Session:**

1. Personal 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.

**Item #7 New or Unfinished Business**

**Item #8 Adjourn**

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday, March 26, 2025**

**12:00 Noon**

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

### **PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:**

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



**ITEM. #2**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, January 29, 2025

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:11 pm quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Councilwoman Marissa Gerlach, City of Mission  
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County  
Commissioner Rose Gowen, City of Brownsville  
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County  
Commissioner David Fuentes, Hidalgo County  
Mayor Alma Salinas, Sullivan City  
Mayor George Guadiana, City San Perlita  
Mayor Pro-Tem Gabriela Fernandez, City of Los Fresnos  
Commissioner Omar Quintanilla, City of McAllen  
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville  
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito  
Veronica Gonzalez, UTRGV Edinburg  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College  
Luke Lucio, TSTC  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake  
Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large  
Mr. Tony Chavez, Member at Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots

**Absent :**

Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg  
Mayor Adrian Gonzalez City of Weslaco  
Mayor JR Garza, City of Alamo  
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna  
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan  
Ronald Mills, Willacy County Nav Dist.  
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large

Without any questions from the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Item #2

Item #2: 1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Meeting Minutes for May 29 ,2024. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2024. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2024. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve meeting minutes for December 11, 2024. Jim Darling seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #3: Public Comment- No Public Comment

With no further comments and questions, Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item #4.

Item #4: Administration – Mr. Cruz started off with, before we move on to the action items, I'd like to take a moment to briefly recap the recent State of the COG, which we discussed earlier this month.

During the State of the COG meeting on the 9th of this month, we solicited nominations for regional champions from the various regions. Mr. Javier Dominguez distributed the information to all participants, including cities and counties, resulting in a diverse pool of nominees. Based on population proportions, we selected three awards for Hidalgo County, two for Cameron County, and one for Willacy County.

At the meeting, we presented five of the six awards to individuals who exemplify regionalism. The goal was to recognize and express sincere gratitude for the ongoing efforts of those we work with daily. Unfortunately, one recipient was unable to attend, but we are taking this opportunity to present the award. Judge Guerra from Willacy County will be presenting the regional award to the individual selected by Willacy County.

Mr. Cruz started off with, as mentioned earlier, the Annual Report and Budget Committee meeting on January 9th, 2025. This meeting was held in a hybrid format and marked our very first-ever State of the COG event, hosted at this facility. Due to limited space, we were able to accommodate about 70 attendees, and the room was filled. I noted during the meeting that this was a record attendance for the Annual Report and Budget Committee, as we typically have around five attendees, so this was a significant increase.

The meeting included participants from various jurisdictions, and during the session, a recommendation was made. This action item is now being presented to the general membership for consideration and approval.

The recommended action is to approve the FY 2025 Annual Report and Budget. The annual report provides the general membership, the Board of Directors, and the public with a comprehensive outline of the LRGVDC's composition, organizational structure, and programmatic responsibilities. It also highlights LRGVDC's performance goals for 2025, the budget for the current year, and productivity outcomes for the previous year, 2024. The final recommendations are being presented today, January 29th, 2025, during this general membership and corporation meeting. The 2025 annual budget totals \$42,547,325, reflecting an increase of just over \$2.3 million compared to the 2024 budget. This increase is due to additional funding awards from sources such as the RGV-911 District, the Federal Transit Administration, TxDOT, and Health and Human Services. Notably, the 2025 budget does not include an increase in membership dues.

The 2025 fringe benefit rate is set at 50.09%, representing a decrease of 0.48% from the 2024 rate of 50.57%. The total budget expenditures for 2025 allocate 11.59% to indirect costs, based on the state's revised guidance and calculation method. This marks a decrease of 1.78% from the 2024 indirect rate of 13.37%.

According to the Texas Local Government Code, Section 391.0115(e), a Regional Planning Commission (RPC) cannot allocate more than 15% of its total expenditure, excluding capital expenditures and any subcontracts or subgrants.

The 2025 salary recommendation includes a 3% performance-based salary increase for employees who have successfully met all standards in their annual evaluations.

This report is presented as a recommendation by the committee that met on January 9th.

4A. Consideration and General membership ACTION to approve FY 2025 Annual Report and Budget. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve FY 2025 Annual Report and Budget. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4B. Consideration and ACTION to adopt Annual Investment Report and Accept Quarterly Investment. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve Adopt Annual Investment Report and Accept Quarterly Investment. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

The 2025 meeting schedule is provided for your reference, so that you are aware of the upcoming dates and plan accordingly. Please note there are a few exceptions: there will be no meetings in July or November. Additionally, and as a quick reminder, the annual elections will take place in early May, with the election presentation scheduled for May 28th before this board. This meeting schedule is presented for your approval.

4C. Consideration and ACTION to approve the 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Schedule. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

4D. Discussion and Presentation of the LRGVDC 2025-2030 Strategic Plan with Request for feedback from Board of Directors. Javier Dominguez started off as mentioned earlier, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council serves as a fiscal agent, overseeing HR and finances for many of these programs. While we don't typically delve into the specifics of each department, we rely on their expertise to help guide us. We take this opportunity to look ahead at their goals for the next five years and work collaboratively to share a platform that demonstrates our commitment to advancing and improving the lives of residents in the three-county region.

I want to emphasize that the role of the LRGVDC is not project-specific, but rather focused on researching ideas and goals we want to pursue over the next five years. This is what the plan is intended for, and it should not be confusing with the CEDS, which is also being updated. While the Economic Development Advisory Committee, led by our chair here today, plays a related role, it focuses on different aspects. However, both committees support one another.

I understand there's a long agenda today, but I wanted to briefly share that we have drafts of our executive summary. There will be two versions: a short, condensed version, and a more in-depth version, which we will present for adoption next month. The strategic priorities and initiatives we aim to explore over the next few years include the following:

- **Census Preparation:** As you know, there was a significant undercount in the last U.S. Census. The LRGVDC worked hard alongside Texas Census partners and U.S. Census partners to help prepare, but there's always room for improvement in preparation for the next census.
- **Merging Metropolitan Statistical Areas:** There have been discussions about merging the metropolitan statistical areas here in the Rio Grande Valley, which could help increase funding for the MPO, criminal justice, homeland security, and other federal and state-funded programs.

- **Regional Transit Authority and Mobility:** The Regional Mobility Advisory Committee was established following House Bill 71, ratified in 2019. This bill authorized the LRGVDC to create a regional transit authority, as we are the only metropolitan area in Texas without one. We are actively researching ways to best serve our constituents and improve public transportation access.
- **Intelligent Transportation System:** With the region's growth and the development of major roadways such as the I-69 connector, the outer loop, and the 365 tollways, we aim to establish an intelligent transportation system. This would help us manage and share real-time traffic data, like the Houston Trans Star system, ensuring better communication and traffic management as our region becomes more complex.

These are just some of the areas we want to start researching so we can be prepared for future developments. In the executive summary, each program will have a one-pager outlining its goals and vision. The full document will include specific strategies for achieving those goals.

I apologize for speaking quickly, but I wanted to get through all the key points. Currently, I welcome any questions, comments, or feedback. If you don't have any now, feel free to drop off a card later today or email us. I've provided my email and Mr. Cruz's for any feedback you'd like to share afterward. Mr. Cruz also mentioned that these goals are intentionally broad to ensure that no specific city or jurisdiction is limited in applying for a particular priority. This approach has been used historically to allow flexibility for all jurisdictions. Additionally, these goals complement the CEDS plan, and both will work in conjunction to support regional development. The CEDS plan will be presented as another action item next month, likely in March.

If you have any input on the goals and objectives listed, please share it with us. If you're satisfied with them, we can proceed with finalizing the document. We will also be reaching out to gather input from other stakeholders throughout the region.

I'd also like to add that we're coming to you because there may be aspects we haven't considered. As subject matter experts, your input is invaluable, and we want to ensure we include all relevant perspectives in the final document. Historically, even though the document is designed for five years, it has been revisited and updated every couple of years to stay aligned with the evolving needs of the region. This is something we can also revisit, and we can commit to reviewing it in two years to assess whether it's working or if any updates are needed. Ron Garza from UTRGV made a comment that the RGV Partnership is doing an RGV at the Capitol, and that Daniel was finalizing the Regional Legislative Priorities. Mr. Ron Garza stated that the first 4 Javier had shared align perfectly and that should mirror the same. Mayor Sepulveda then stated in today's digital age, for those who aren't ready to jot down feedback on a postcard right now, it would be helpful to have the option to email their input instead. It might be a good idea to set a deadline for submissions, so that people have the chance to review the materials and provide any suggestions, comments, or even confirm that they're satisfied with the current state. Do you have a preferred timeline for when you'd like to receive this feedback? Javier then stated that there are no Federal Guidelines, this is just something that we are doing on our own and would like to include everyone in it. With that said, everyone agreed that 2 weeks from now would be the deadline for any feedback.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Executive Report: Mr. Cruz introduced all new staff to the board. Then Mr. Cruz moved on to Updates on regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation.

- **87th Legislative Session Focus and Funding Opportunities:**
- The 87th legislative session focuses on water issues. Along with this, new funding opportunities have emerged:

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has made available \$10.9 million in grant funding.
- Under public safety, over \$500 million in grant funding will become available.

- **89th Legislative Session Schedule:**

- The 89th legislative session was convened on January 14th.
- The bill filing deadline is March 14th.
- The session will adjourn on June 2nd.

- **President's Executive Orders:**

- The President released executive orders on Monday, which were received the following day. These orders direct federal agencies to place a temporary pause on federal funding assistance, including grants, loans, and cooperative agreements.
- The pause went into effect yesterday at 5:00 PM.
- A judge issued a block on the executive orders, making them effective until February 3rd.
- The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has instructed federal agencies to evaluate the alignment of their financial assistance programs with the President's agenda and submit reports by February 10th.
- Members of various associations, including the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), and the Texas Association of Regional Councils, were informed of these developments.
- Ron Garza and Commissioner Garza shared that the executive order was discussed in relation to the update provided by Mr. Cruz and has just been rescinded. Mayor Sepulveda mentioned that she had just discussed this with Manny and was evident that things are moving fast and did not agree how the executive order was released.

- **Impact on Local Programs:**

- The executive orders affect the Council of Governments (COG), as approximately 43% of the funding it receives is federal, with another 35% coming from state funds passed through the federal government.
- Specifically, transportation funding through the FTA and funding for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) under HHS may be impacted. This includes services such as Meals on Wheels and support for community centers across the region. The COG receives about \$9-10 million in funding through HHS for AAA programs.

- **Texas State Updates:**

- While federal funding issues are clear, the state's response is still pending. Governor Abbott's State of State address will provide more information regarding any changes or developments in Texas.

Additionally, the Texas House has realigned and merged several committees, with some being abolished.

- **Committee Restructuring:**

- As an example, the Veterans Affairs committee has now been moved under the Public Safety committee. Previously, it was a standalone committee. Several other committees have been revised or eliminated as well.

- **Ongoing Updates:**

- Information regarding these changes is being actively shared with the Executive Committee. Members can receive email updates as new information becomes available. While much of the information is widely circulated and sometimes picked up by the media before it reaches the committee, the updates will be forwarded as they come in.

- **Grant Funding Sources:**

- Various grant funding sources continue to be available, including:
  - FTA (Federal Transit Administration)
  - EDA (Economic Development Administration)
  - HHSC (Health and Human Services Commission)
  - CDBG (Community Development Block Grants)
  - Funds through cities, TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation), the Office of the Governor, and TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality).
- Additionally, various pass-through grant funds are available.

- **Closing Remarks:**

- The speaker thanked the committee for allowing them to keep the update brief.

No questions or comments, Mayor Sepulveda then moved on to Item #5 Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development: Melisa Gonzalez started with her first actions items on the agenda for her department.

5.A1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) elections of Officers for 2025. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary. The meeting was held on January 14. Recommendations for Officer Roles The following positions were recommended: **Chairperson:** Selena Gonzalez, City of Primera, **Vice Chair:** Mayor Jose Solis, City of Lyford. **Secretary:** Mayor Alma Salinas, City of Sullivan. **Commissioner David Garza approved Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) elections of Officers for 2025. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of chair, Vice Chair, & Secretary. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

5.A2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Road to Recycling Tire Disposal Services Request for proposal (RFO) Awards. Bids **for Contract:** Two organizations submitted bids for the contract, and both are being recommended for acceptance:

- **Republic Services**
- **UTW**

**Collaborative Effort:** Both entities will work together to ensure that all tires collected during the April 2025 tire event are kept out of the landfill. The goal is to process the tires into much, with UTW exploring creative solutions to minimize the landfill footprint.

**Tire Event Details:** The tire event is scheduled for April 2025. Outreach will be made to cities and counties to gauge participation. Additional information about the event will be provided at the next meeting in February. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve Road to Recycling Tire Disposal Services Request for Proposal (RFO) Awards. Alma Salinas seconded the motion upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Status Reports: Mrs. Gonzales had some announcements. **Tire Event:** The tire event is scheduled for April 2025. Outreach will be made to cities and counties to determine participation. More information will be provided at the February 2025 meeting. **CEDS Updates:** The goal is to present the CEDS draft to the EDAC at the end of February 2025 for approval, followed by approval from the Board in March 2025.

No further Questions or comments, Mayor Sepulveda then moved to Health & Human Services

B. Health & Human Services: Margarita Lopez had one Action item on the agenda.

B.1 Consideration and ACTION to approve the following Membership Applications for the Citizens Advisory council. ***Luke Lucio made a motion to approve the following Membership Applications for the Citizens Advisory Council. Mayor Alma Salinas seconded the motion, upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.*** The council requests your approval for the following appointments:

- **Rosalinda Martinez** (Cameron County) - Appointed under the category of 60 years of age or older.
- **Carmen Nordyke** (Cameron County) - Appointed under the "Other" category. Carmen works for a medical coverage insurance company and represents older individuals.
- **Ms. Alice Cobos** (Hidalgo County) - Appointed under the "Other" category. Ms. Cobos works for a kidney care and dialysis agency, representing the needs of older individuals.
- **Eliodora Flores** (Hidalgo County) - Appointed under the category of 60 years of age or older.
- **Belinda Olivo** (Cameron County) - Appointed under the "Other" category. Ms. Olivo works for Star Health Insurance and represents supportive services, leadership, and the needs of older individuals.
- **Term Duration:** All appointments will be for a three-year term, as outlined in the Citizen Advisory Council rules of function, Article 5, Section 4 (Membership).

Status Reports: Ms. Lopez let the board know that all her status reports were in the packet and were available to answer any questions.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Public Safety.

C. Public Safety: Criminal Justice & Homeland Security. Mr. Cesar Merla was not able to attend the Board meeting, but all Criminal Justice and Homeland Security status reports were provided in everyone's packet.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to LRGV Police Academy.

C.B. LRGV Police Academy: Mr. Javier Solis started off with his Action Items on the Agenda.



C.B1. Consideration and Action to Approve a resolution for Fiscal years 2025-2027 for the LRGV Regional Law enforcement Academy Project. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve a Resolution for fiscal years 2025-2027 for the LRGV Regional Law enforcement Academy Project. Mayor George Guadiana seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

C.B2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas for the purpose of reporting training hours to TCOLE for Texas Peace Officers attending the South Texas All Hazards Conference, and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, to sign and finalize the agreement. ***Mayor Alma Salinas made a motion to approve Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas for the purpose of reporting training hours to TCOLE for Texas Peace Officers attending the South Texas All Hazards Conference, and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, to sign and finalize the agreement. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

C.B3. Consideration and Action to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the Rio Grande City, Texas for the purposes of utilizing the Rio Grande City Municipal Airport as a training site for the LRGV Academy Basic Peace Officer Course and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, to sign and finalize the agreement. ***Commissioner David Garza approved an Interlocal Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the Rio Grande City, Texas for the purposes of utilizing the Rio Grande City Municipal Airport as a training site for the LRGV Academy Basic Peace Officer Course and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director, Manuel Cruz, to sign and finalize the agreement. Jim Darling seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Status Reports: Mr. Solis explains On Friday, January 3rd, the department began the Mission 228th Academy, with 25 cadets currently enrolled. On Monday, January 6th, 18 out of 20 cadets graduated from the Edinburg Police Academy. The department is in the process of finalizing the first-ever Starr County Police Academy. Testing is currently underway with the Rio Grande City Police Department to prepare for the launch of this historic academy.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.

Status Reports: Mr. Dennis Moreno started off with no action items on Agenda but wanted to give an update on Departments reports. We've been hosting the RGV911 website throughout 2024, and we've had approximately 64,000 hits and page views. We attribute a large part of this success to the tickets our team processes. Our GIS department alone has handled over 20,000 tickets, addressing updates to address points, new road creation, and road updates. This is a key aspect of our ongoing work within the ticketing system.

Moving on to our IT department, we've conducted 33 PSAP audits and reviewed the generators at the 911 centers, ensuring their maintenance. Additionally, we're introducing two important training classes for your dispatchers: Active Shooter Training, which teaches dispatchers how to manage calls and handle the influx of calls during an active shooter situation, and Crisis Negotiation Training. These training programs are highly requested by our PSAPs and will be rolled out through our office.

Now, a quick update on our 2024 outlook: We handled nearly half a million emergency calls in 2024, a significant milestone. However, we did see a decrease of about 20,000 calls this year. One notable trend is the increase in text-to-911 usage. We've seen a 33% increase in text messages to 911, which is a great success. Texting to 911 is now available in our region, and we encourage everyone to use this platform. Just text "911" to begin the process, just like a call. We're seeing more crime victims utilizing this feature, and it's making a difference. Please help spread the word in your cities to ensure everyone knows texting to 911 can save

lives. Cities like Granjeno and Sullivan City are already promoting this, and we're planning to introduce video and text translation for our region as well.

On the community engagement front, our team has been incredibly active. In the past quarter alone, we attended five events, bringing our total for the year to 89. That's over one event per week! Keep in mind, this is all done by a small team, and we're working on expanding it. We ask for your support in helping us raise awareness about the resources available to your residents.

No questions or comments, Mayor Sepulveda proceeded to Item D Valley Metro.

D. Transportation Valley Metro: Mr. Tom Logan started off with his action items on the agenda.

D.1. Consideration and Action to Approve Acquisition of Vehicles Under State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve Acquisition of Vehicles Under State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Mayor Alma Salinas seconded the motion upon a vote, and the motion was carried unanimously.***

D.2. Discussion and Action on Approval of Resolution # 2025-01 Authorizing Adoption of the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Active Tourism Plan "The Active Plan" My name is Julian Salas, and on behalf of Halff and Associates and Tool Design Group, we are excited to present the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Active Plan. First, I'd like to express how incredible this experience has been for us over the past year. From the warm and welcoming people who have shared their insights and ideas to the rich culture and amazing food that truly defines South Texas, this region has been inspiring. And of course, the breathtaking landscapes of Hidalgo County make it truly unique.

This journey has been both insightful and inspiring for our team. Through active community involvement and the guidance of a dedicated steering committee, we've developed a proposal for a 278-mile network of trails to connect communities throughout Hidalgo County. The plan outlines design guidelines, recommended amenities, signage, and funding strategies to support and expand this network. It also identifies opportunities for active tourism in the county, including trail-based recreation and birdwatching.

To ensure successful implementation, the plan assigns specific responsibilities to local and regional entities and includes a five-year action plan to achieve these goals. Ultimately, the vision is to enhance connectivity, promote active and healthy lifestyles, and boost tourism throughout Hidalgo County.

We're thrilled to present this plan for your consideration and adoption. It represents the passion and dedication of community members, local leaders, and stakeholders who are committed to building healthier, more connected communities. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Hidalgo County, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, and all the neighboring communities within the county. We can't wait to see this vision become a reality for all of you.

Additionally, Ilda Capriccioso, our project manager Mr. Cruz then added, "Madam President, if I may, I just want to express my sincere gratitude to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for their willingness to step forward and fund this plan. This is truly for the benefit of Hidalgo County. It also complements the existing plans in Cameron County, so together, both plans create an even stronger resource. Not only does this benefit our region, but it also provides valuable justification when applying for funding or working to expand and improve our hike and bike trails. Additionally, it plays a key role in the tourism aspect, helping to attract more people to the region by highlighting the many trails and destinations that are already identified for them to visit. For this initiative, we are also joining online. We're both really excited for you beginning the work ahead. Ron Garza made a comment to the board, I do want to mention, and this may be more of an MPO matter, but it could be worth considering an incentive for cities that adopt this plan and potentially create their own active transportation plan that aligns with it. This could be a points qualifier when they apply for CATS 7 funding. Of course, if you're applying for projects in this category, it's important to have adopted and supported the plans in the region. Just something to keep in mind. Mr. Cruz added, the plan will first be presented to the Commissioners Court and then we will visit each city individually to

get on with their agendas for adopting the resolution. Commissioner Fuentes mentioned I completely agree with Ron's point about being prepared especially when grant funding becomes available.

A lot of it comes down to planning and organization, ensuring that you have everything in place so you can start applying for grants right away. Typically, there's anywhere from \$4 million to \$6 million in funding available each year. Of course, it's a competitive process, usually between Hidalgo County and Cameron County. These types of projects are essential for building the infrastructure needed for alternative mobility, active lifestyles, and promoting health and wellness, especially since the impact of COVID-19 in 2020. I encourage everyone to engage in proactive planning because you never know when funding opportunities will arise, but you must be ready when they do. I wholeheartedly support what Ron is saying, and I appreciate the work done on this plan. Commissioner David Garza also commented, Yeah, this is a great project because, as Commissioner Fuentes knows, having shovel-ready projects makes it much easier to secure support. When the announcement is made and you're still in the planning phase, it's more challenging. But with shovel-ready projects, you're already prepared to move forward. I know that the cities of Harlingen, Brownsville, and the county have had great success in having projects pre-prepared for funding opportunities. When you approach the small cities with resolutions, please avoid presenting a resolution where they're simply agreeing to provide money or being asked for funding. That approach has been a major turnoff in our area. Instead, focus on gaining their support and buying first. Show them what can be achieved with their investment and allow them to decide on their own if they can contribute financially. Asking for money upfront can really kill the momentum. Commissioner Fuentes then stated that he also agreed with Commissioner David Garza on his comment. ***Ron Garza made a motion to approve Resolution # 2025-01 Authorizing Adoption of the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Active Tourism Plan "The Active Plan" Mayor Alma Salinas seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Status Reports: Lastly Mr. Logan then stated that all his department reports were attached to the packet.

No further Questions or comments, Mayor Sepulveda then moved to Rio Grande Valley MPO.

Rio Grande Valley MPO: Mr. Cruz just wanted to announce that, as you know, they currently have an open solicitation for projects, totaling about \$1.9 million. They've already sent out the emails, and this funding is intended for studies with a regional focus. I highly encourage all of you to apply, as we are planning to submit applications as well. Specifically, we're applying for two feasibility studies: one for the RTA and another for transit-oriented development on 27 acres down the road. Just wanted to give you a heads-up, especially if you're involved with the MPO.

With no further questions or comments Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item #7

#7 New & Unfinished Business: **Closing Remarks:** Mr. Cruz wanted to add that, during our State of the COG address, we presented service awards to a few of our members. Unfortunately, we also had the sad news of losing one of our most dedicated team members, my executive assistant, Ms. Debbie Morales. She passed away, and we didn't learn of it until later that afternoon, after the State of the COG concluded, when we were contacted by her relatives. Her service was held this past weekend, and several staff members attended to pay their respects.

Debbie will be deeply missed. As I mentioned during the State of the COG, she was the glue that kept everything together. Her impeccable filing system was something well-kept and it made it easy for anyone to step into the position and continue. She had been with us for 21 years, and in that time, she became an integral part of the team.

The COG attracts unique, dedicated individuals, and Debbie was truly one of those special people. It's not an easy job, especially in a not-for-profit or local government setting where compensation isn't always high. For her to stay with us for so long is a testament to her commitment. She started from the bottom, working in transit as a temporary staff member, and over the years, she worked her way up. She initially worked under the great Ken Jones, and then with Ron for about five years before I took over in 2020. Unfortunately, her passing has left a void, and we are all deeply saddened by it. I just wanted to make everyone aware.

#8 Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Sepulveda made a motion to adjourn at 1:03 PM

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President Mayor Norma Sepulveda

ATTEST:

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Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #3**

**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT**

**ITEM #4.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Lower Rio Grande Development Council

Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Administration Item #4 Action Item -1

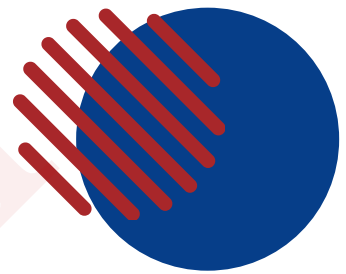
1. Consideration ad **ACTION** to approve of the LRGVDC 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.....

Javier Dominguez

Executive Analyst

The LRGVDC is presenting the final draft of the **5-Year Strategic Plan Executive Summary (2025-2030)** for board approval. Last month, the board of directors reviewed the initial draft and provided feedback, which has now been incorporated alongside staff input. This document will guide LRGVDC's and its associated programs, organizations, and initiatives over the next five years, ensuring alignment with regional priorities and strategic goals.

# LRGVDC 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



2025 - 2030

PREPARED BY:

LRGVDC STAFF

PRESENTED TO:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

956-682-3481

301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, TX 78596



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## INTRODUCTION

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), established in 1967, serves as the regional council of governments for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. The LRGVDC was formed through the merger of the Texas Southmost Economic Development District and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Council of Governments. As one of the 24 State Planning Regions codified under Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code, the LRGVDC is a voluntary association of local governments dedicated to fostering regional collaboration, improving health and safety, and preparing for sustainable growth and economic development across the region's 3,643 square miles.

Although the LRGVDC ranks 22nd among Texas' councils of governments in land size, it is the 5th most populous, reflecting the area's significant urbanization and development. According to projections from the Texas Demographic Center, the region's population is expected to grow by 15.67% by 2060, adding approximately 206,500 residents to the current population. This anticipated growth highlights the critical need for strategic planning and regional collaboration to address future demands while maintaining the region's quality of life.

As the federally designated Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, the LRGVDC plays a pivotal role in fostering economic resilience and promoting shared prosperity. The 2025–2030 Regional Strategic Plan focuses on five interconnected domains that address the core priorities of the region:

- Economic Development
- Health & Human Services
- Public Safety
- Community Development & Environmental Services
- Transportation

Each domain is essential and interdependent, ensuring that the region operates as a cohesive unit to meet current needs while preparing for future challenges. Through effective planning, collaboration, and service delivery, the LRGVDC strives to enhance the quality of life for its residents and visitors and to maintain the region's standing as a vital and thriving area in Texas.

The LRGVDC is governed by a board of directors consisting of local elected officials and leaders, who provide oversight and ensure that the council fulfills its mission of promoting regional cooperation and addressing issues that transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Advisory committees composed of subject matter experts, business representatives, and community members further strengthen the planning process by ensuring broad input and local buy-in for programs and initiatives.

As the region continues to grow and evolve, the LRGVDC remains steadfast in its mission to assist member governments in planning for common needs, fostering mutual cooperation, and recognizing opportunities to improve the region's overall quality of life.

## ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

As the regional planning commission for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) remains committed to advancing initiatives that will strengthen our region and enhance the quality of life for all residents. While these initiatives are not the sole focus of our efforts, they represent a foundation for our strategic direction over the next five years. They will guide our planning and implementation while allowing flexibility for updates or recommendations from our Board of Directors.

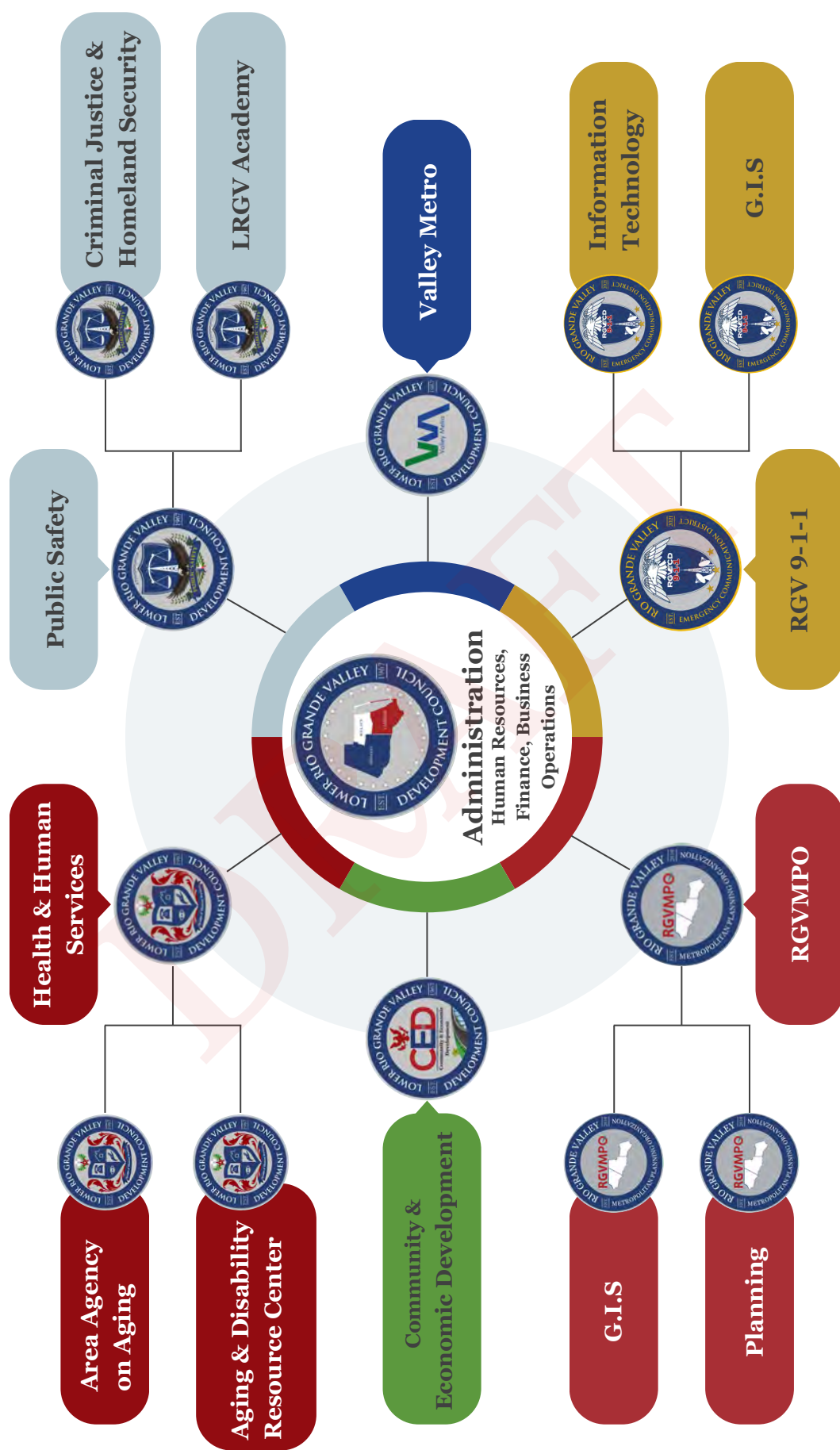
### Key Initiatives for the Next Five Years

- Preparing for the 2030 Census
  - The LRGVDC recognizes the significant impact of an accurate census count on funding and representation. Following the challenges of an undercount in the 2020 Census, we are committed to assisting regional stakeholders in achieving a more accurate count in 2030. This effort will include:
  - Collaborating with U.S. Census Bureau officials and the Texas Census Institute.
  - Partnering with local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholders.
  - Implementing outreach strategies and education campaigns to ensure full participation across the region.
- Advocating for the Merger of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
  - A merged MSA designation has the potential to bring transformative benefits to the region. The LRGVDC is advocating for this change to better align funding formulas with our region's needs. Key benefits include:
  - Public Safety: A larger MSA designation could secure an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) designation, significantly increasing funding for the LRGVDC's public safety programs.
  - Regional Transportation: The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) would benefit from enhanced formula funding and greater flexibility in the use of Category 7 funds, improving infrastructure and local road networks.
- Researching and Establishing a Regional Transit Authority
  - The LRGVDC is actively pursuing funding to study the establishment of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA), as authorized by House Bill 71, signed into law in 2019. This initiative will:
  - Address the region's historically low per capita public transportation investment.
  - Enhance public transportation options and create a framework for future expansion, including the potential development of passenger rail services.
  - Strengthen regional mobility and economic growth by improving access to jobs, education, and healthcare.

- Establishing an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
  - The LRGVDC envisions developing an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for the Rio Grande Valley, modeled after Houston TranStar's successful approach. This system would be a collaborative effort between cities, TxDOT, counties, and regional transit agencies, and would aim to:
  - Utilize sensors, cameras, and dynamic message signs to collect and share real-time traffic data.
  - Enable traffic engineers and emergency operators to detect and respond to incidents efficiently.
  - Provide the public with real-time travel information, including travel times and alternative routes, through a dedicated website and dynamic message signs.
  - Improve traffic management, safety, and mobility across the region.

## LOOKING AHEAD

These initiatives reflect our commitment to proactive planning and regional collaboration. As we pursue these priorities, we will remain adaptive to the evolving needs of the region and responsive to the guidance of our Board of Directors. Together, these efforts will position the Rio Grande Valley for sustainable growth, enhanced opportunities, and a stronger regional identity.





## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### VISION STATEMENT

As a highly desirable place to live, work, and visit, the Lower Rio Grande Valley will ensure regional prosperity and a premier quality of life by sustaining a balanced and resilient international economy, developing an educated, qualified workforce and providing enhanced opportunities for commercial, industrial and entrepreneurial growth.

### GOALS

- A. Support essential public and higher education, as well as workforce development programs to successfully prepare a well-educated, highly-skilled professional and technical workforce to meet the demands of regional industry growth.
- B. Expand urban and rural economic and workforce development projects through strategic regional collaboration, expansion of resources, and funding of private, public and industry-targeted partnership initiatives.
- C. Enhance regional perception through marketing and communication strategies, highlighting the region's geographic, environmental, and established assets to strengthen quality-of-life dynamics for current and potential residents and visitors.
- D. Preserve the abilities of municipalities and jurisdictions to cultivate vibrant, competitive and livable communities by supporting flexible and local decision-making with regards to factors such as tax-base development, revenue limits, unfunded mandates, and infrastructure expansion.
- E. Enrich international competitiveness by endorsing foreign trade and direct investment policies and opportunities.

F. Strengthen economic resilience through the advancement of emerging high-tech and high value industries (e.g., healthcare, manufacturing, skills-trade, etc.), reinvestment of agricultural/aquaculture, and programs for effective disaster recovery.

G. Improve regional economic disproportionality through diversified strategies to cultivate rural and small business incubation, entrepreneurial innovation, information technology infrastructure, and access to capital.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### VISION STATEMENT

Through effective services, education and preservation efforts, we shall strive for the healthiest environment where urban and rural community growth ensures residents safe and sustainable community development, housing opportunities, appropriate infrastructure development and proactive planning for the conservation of the Region's vital agricultural and natural resources.

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A. Expand the availability of suitable and affordable housing options for all valley families and residents.

B. Ensure appropriate housing and resources are available to under-served populations which may include economically disadvantaged, elderly, displaced women and children, veterans, and individuals with chronic mental and physical health conditions and disabilities.

C. Support homelessness prevention by ensuring adequate and accessible emergency shelter and transitional housing resources and programs.

D. Promote and protect Fair Housing rights for all residents of the Rio Grande Valley.

E. Expand fair-cost broadband access to rural and high-poverty areas of the region to allow residents more equitable access to internet and online-based resources and services.

F. Preserve the abilities of municipalities and jurisdictions to implement locally-beneficial policies and infrastructure development with regards to factors such as building codes, green preservation, housing policy, annexation, and zoning regulation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES GOALS

- A. Encourage innovative and sustainable projects and programs which promote environmentally sustainable development.
- B. Promote recycling and waste reduction through development of effective disposal systems for sewage, solid waste, tires, brush and hazardous materials.
- C. Support bi-national water conservation measures and improve awareness and understanding of water quality and water quantity issues, and how these issues collectively relate to flood management, drainage infrastructure, water quality standards, and economic development.
- D. Address flood management and drainage infrastructure strategies as a region by emphasizing collaboration and partnerships, especially when creating new and future projects.
- E. Protect, conserve and restore regional ecosystem and fragile native habitats.





## **AREA AGENCY ON AGING & AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER VISION STATEMENT**

To promote the independence, dignity, and well-being of older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities by building an inclusive, accessible, and resilient system of services and support that meet diverse needs across the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- A. Strengthen Access to Comprehensive Services
- B. Promote Preventative Health and Wellness
- C. Foster Equity and Inclusion
- D. Enable Aging in Place and Community-Based Living
- E. Support Caregivers and Families

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Year 1 (2025): Focus on foundational activities, including capacity building, expanding collaborations, and initiating new programs.

Year 2-3 (2026-2027): Scale successful initiatives, increase service delivery, and address gaps identified in needs assessments.

Year 4-5 (2028-2030): Evaluate program outcomes, refine strategies, and ensure sustainability of initiatives.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2025-2030 Strategic Plan outlines a clear and actionable framework to address the needs of older adults, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities across the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Through collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to equity, the LRGVDC AAA will continue to foster independence, dignity, and quality of life for the region's aging population.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE / HOMELAND SECURITY & LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Public Safety Division, as a whole, is as follows: ensure optimal, efficient and relevant public safety for the service region. The Public Safety Division is comprised of two departments, which include the Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Regional Planning Department and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Public Safety Division mission is to increase professionalism, training, collaboration and functionality of individuals serving in public safety professions to include: emergency management, law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire service, criminal justice, homeland security, cyber security, and non-government organizations.

## GOALS

- A. Establishing the creation of a Headquarters facility that will house the departments of the LRGVDC Public Safety Division. This Headquarters facility will include: office spaces, class rooms, conference rooms, physical fitness equipment, electronic incident response simulators and an Office of the Governor's Public Safety Division sanctioned testing center for state licensing examinations.
- B. Ensuring regional public safety agencies and personnel maintain optimal access to critical equipment, resources, legislatively mandated training and technological advancements that are relevant to the service region.
- C. Enhancing and providing sufficient resources to improve the capacity and capability of local governments, community-based and non-governmental organizations, surrounding communities and individuals to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency, cyber threats and weather-related events and incidents.

D. Enriching and supporting the coordination and capacity of border communities to promote, respond, and prevent issues in school safety planning, public health, mental health, public works, juvenile justice, emergency response, cyber security threats, narcotic trafficking, human trafficking, and family violence.

E. Ensuring the development of highly-qualified public safety professionals by providing quality and relevant education, training, continuing professional developmental, and instructional resources.

F. Establishing a network of public safety personnel by uniting interagency assets through the development of interlocal agreements and memorandums of understanding for the implementation of resources, information, and asset collaboration throughout the service region.

DRAFT



## RIO GRANDE VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION DISTRICT 9-1-1

### Vision Statement

To ensure optimal public safety and protect all persons throughout the region public safety personnel such as emergency managers, first responders, criminal justice, homeland security, 9-1-1 telecommunicators, and law enforcement will work collaboratively, with optimal training and resources to prevent, protect, respond and recover from threats.

### Goals

- A. Ensure regional public safety agencies and personnel maintain optimal access to critical equipment, resources, and technological advancements.
- B. Enhance and provide sufficient resources to improve the capability of local governments, communities and individuals to prepare for, respond and recover from emergency and weather-related events and incidents.
- C. Ensure the development of highly qualified public safety professionals by providing quality education, training, continuing professional developmental, and instructional resources.
- D. Provide a reliable, resilient and sustainable regional emergency communication and 9-1-1 network to include interoperable radio communications, advancements in technology, mobile contingency strategies, and Next- Gen 9-1-1 advancements.

E. Enrich the bi-national coordination and capacity of border communities to promote, prevent, and respond to public health issues such as opioid addiction, maternal health, and infectious and/or degenerative diseases.

F. Support programs and resources to address public safety concerns such as school-safety action-planning, juvenile-related delinquency, gang-related criminal activity, violent crime prevention, and human and drug trafficking.

G. Encourage the establishment of additional facilities, support groups and programs to address drug/alcohol abuse, chronic mental health, suicide prevention, victims of violent crime, senior neglect, and child abuse.

DRAFT



## VALLEY METRO

### VISION STATEMENT

To connect the Rio Grande Valley through a seamless network of services that is safe, dependable, and convenient.

### GOALS

- A. Establish a seamless transportation system to increase connectivity and accessibility for people and freight, emphasizing regional planning efforts to meet the growing population demands of the region and ensure strategic development of urban and rural areas.
- B. Further adopt and implement multi-modal transportation infrastructure, policies and resources such as sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, pedestrian paths, rideshare systems, and transit corridors to develop healthier, safer, livable communities.
- C. Preserve and improve existing transportation infrastructure and systems to ensure the safety and security for motorized and non-motorized users.
- D. Support flexible and sustainable transportation resources such as a Regional Transit Authority (RTA), freight and light rail infrastructure, and adaptable right-of-way and traffic regulation policies to support the region's growing population.
- E. Ensure environmental sustainability, energy conservation and preservation of natural resources through coordinated state and local planning and economic development.
- F. Expand infrastructure and resources for international land, sea, and ports-of-entry to enhance economic development opportunities and ensure safe, secure and efficient transportation of people and freight.



## RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### VISION STATEMENT

Through effective planning and service delivery, people and goods shall be able to move throughout the region safely and efficiently by using a seamless multi-modal transportation network.

### GOALS

**A. Establish a Setting for Effective Decision-Making.** Create and manage a fair and impartial setting for regional decision-making in the metropolitan area.

**B. Identify and Evaluate Transportation Improvement Options.** Develop transportation improvement options and use data and planning methods to evaluate how well these options support established criteria and performance targets. Planning studies and evaluations are documented in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

**C. Prepare and Maintain a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).** Create and update a long-range transportation plan (LRTP), called the MTP, covering a 20-year planning horizon.

**D. Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Prepare a short-term, four-year program of priority transportation improvements derived from the MTP. The TIP outlines immediate actions to achieve regional goals and performance targets and includes funding and management tools.

**E. Establish Performance Targets and Monitor Progress.** Coordinate with the State and public transportation operators to establish performance targets addressing federally required measures and track progress through the MTP and its System Performance Report. Locally significant performance indicators may also be used to guide decision-making.

**F. Engage the Public.** Involve the general public and stakeholders in the decision-making process through meaningful engagement, ensuring transparency and collaboration.

## KEY PRODUCTS OF THE RGVMPPO

A. **Unified Planning Work Program.** The UPWP outlines the transportation studies and tasks to support the metropolitan planning process, including funding sources, schedules, and responsible agencies. It identifies regional Planning Emphasis Areas, such as climate crisis, equity, complete streets, and public involvement.

B. **Metropolitan Transportation Plan.** The MTP establishes long-term investment strategies for transportation, incorporating public and stakeholder input. It includes performance measures, scenario analyses, landuse considerations, and cost estimates for operations and capital investments.

C. **Transportation Improvement Program.** The TIP identifies priority projects for the next four years based on the MTP, adhering to federal requirements for fiscal constraint, performance monitoring, and alignment with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

D. **Public Participation Plan.** The PPP ensures inclusive and effective public engagement in transportation planning. It outlines strategies for fostering transparency, collaboration, and meaningful public involvement.

E. **Congestion Management Process (CMP).** The CMP applies strategies to reduce congestion and improve system reliability, focusing on travel demand reduction and operational efficiency. It provides a systematic approach for evaluating and integrating congestion mitigation strategies into the planning process.

F. **Travel Demand Model (TDM).** The TDM is a tool that forecasts future traffic and travel patterns in a region. RGVMPPO use TDM model to help plan transportation systems and evaluate proposed projects.



## CONCLUSION

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is dedicated to fostering a vibrant, thriving region that embraces opportunity, innovation, and collaboration. Through strategic planning, meaningful partnerships, and a steadfast commitment to addressing the unique needs of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties, the LRGVDC continues to serve as a vital force in shaping the future of the Rio Grande Valley.

As we look ahead, the initiatives outlined in this document—census preparation, metropolitan statistical area merger advocacy, regional transit authority establishment, and intelligent transportation system development—serve as key pillars for our strategic vision. These efforts are not merely individual projects but interconnected components of a broader mission to enhance the health, safety, mobility, and prosperity of our region.

The success of these initiatives will depend on the collective action of our regional stakeholders, including local governments, private organizations, and the communities we serve. By leveraging our shared resources, knowledge, and expertise, we can overcome challenges and position the Rio Grande Valley as a model of growth and resilience in Texas and beyond.

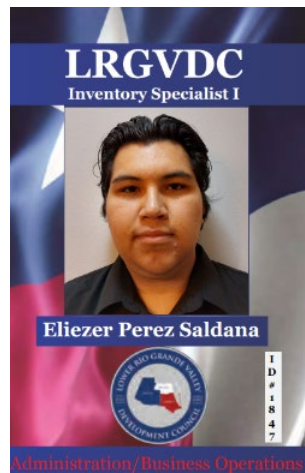
As the regional planning commission, the LRGVDC remains committed to transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in all its endeavors. We will continue to adapt to changing conditions, respond to emerging opportunities, and work tirelessly to ensure that the voices of our diverse communities are represented and valued.

The path forward is one of progress, unity, and determination. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected region that provides equitable opportunities for all residents and establishes the Rio Grande Valley as a beacon of regional excellence for future generations.

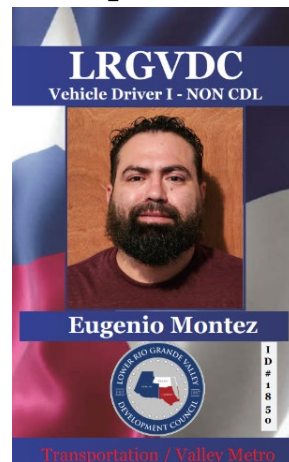


**ITEM #4. A**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
**FEBRUARY NEW**  
**HIRES**

Eliezer I. Perez Saldana  
Administration – Inventory Specialist I



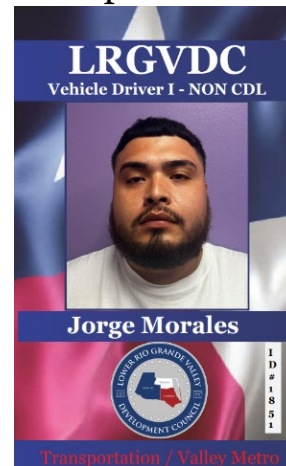
Eugenio Montez  
Transportation – Vehicle Driver I- Non CDL



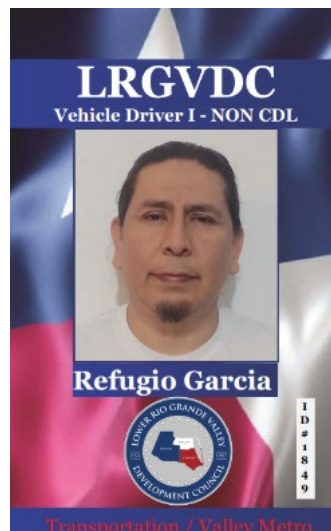
Angel Salinas  
Public Safety – Program Specialist I



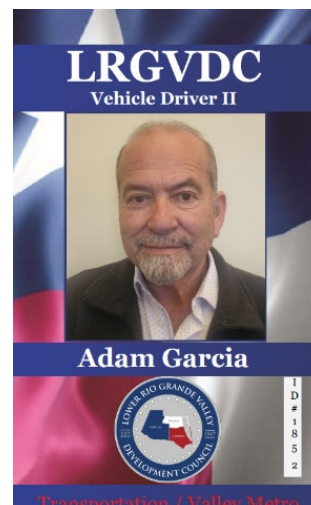
Jorge Morales  
Transportation- Vehicle Driver I- Non CDL



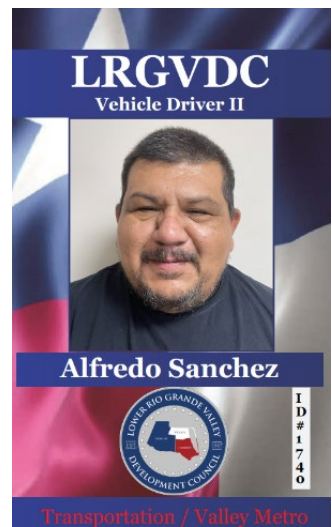
Refugio Garcia  
Transportation- Vehicle Driver 1- Non CDL



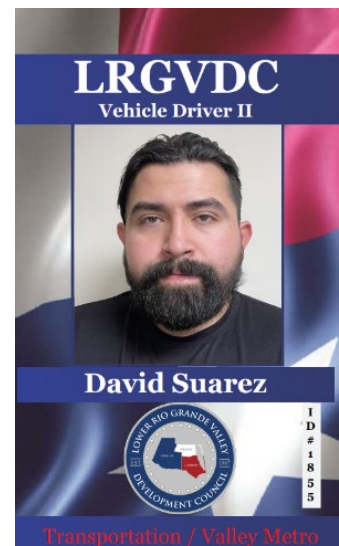
Adam Garcia  
Transportation-Vehicle Drive II



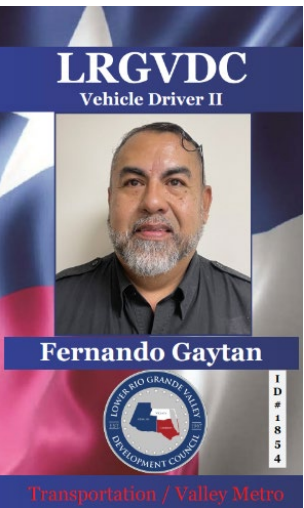
Alfredo Sanchez Jr.  
Transportation- Vehicle Driver II



David Suarez  
Transportation – Vehicle Driver II



Fernando Gaytan  
Transportation- Vehicle Driver II



**ITEM #4. A**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE**

**DIRECTORS REPORT**





## **LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Office of the Executive Director  
301 W. Railroad St.  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

### **Executive Directors Report**

#### **LRGVDC Board of Directors Meeting**

February 26, 2025

This report contains updates, regional news, funding opportunities training and legislative updates that your local gov't may be interested in. This information is courtesy of the Texas Association and Regional Councils (TARC), State funding agencies and LRGVDC Programs. Hyperlinks to external sources may be found throughout the report for additional and complete details.

### **TARC Bi-Annual Staff Training & Board of Directors Meeting**

The Texas Association of Regional Councils held its first Bi-Annual Staff Training & Board of Directors Meeting for 2025 on February 5-7, 2025. The 24 COGs convened in Austin to take part in various training sessions and meetings to share best practices on projects vital to the health and safety of Texans, which included, emergency preparedness strategies, community and economic development, services for the elderly, overseeing regional planning for environmental issues, and maintaining and improving regional 9-1-1 systems.

In addition, state funding agencies were present and provided the following discussions and presentations to COG staff during the program association meetings, Executive Director's Council Meeting, and Elected Officials at the TARC Board of Directors Meeting.

First and foremost, congratulations to Mayor Jim Darling for attending his first TARC Board of Directors Meeting.



### **Health and Human Services – AAA:**

Provided update on the recent Executive Orders and conducted a roundtable discussion on basic recommendations on changes to policies and procedures to include Area Plans.

Presentation on Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. ([Click Here](#))

Communication Keys with Meals on Wheels of Texas. ([Click Here](#))

Revitalizing Senior Nutrition Programs in Texas: Insights from a Learning Collaborative. ([Click Here](#))

### **Public Safety Training & Meetings:**

This was a joint training/meeting of the Homeland Security Association of Texas & the Criminal Justice Planners' Association.

Regional Training – Public Safety Office. ([Click Here](#))

Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) Approach to Understanding and Addressing Commercially Sexually Exploitation of Youth (CSEY) ([Click Here](#))

### **Community & Economic Development Meeting:**

Discovering the Texas Water Development Board: Your Guide to Water Solutions in Texas ([Click Here](#))

Community Development Program Updates (CDBG, Texas department of Agriculture ([Click Here](#))

### **Finance and Personnel:**

Employment Law Update Pay, Privacy & Other Workplace Issues. ([Click Here](#))

What's New in State Grant Management. ([Click Here](#))

Regional Procurement Do's & Don'ts – What every member of the COG staff needs to know about purchasing. ([Click Here](#))

### **Solid Waste Planners Association:**

Impacts & Results in Your Region – The FY22/23 Rpt on the Regional Solid Waste Grant Program. ([Click Here](#))

### **9-1-1 Coordinators Meeting:**

SB8-Corona State Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSFRF) Annual Grant Compliance Training. ([Click Here](#))



**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

#### A. Community & Economic Development

##### Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

On February 4, 2025, the EDAC gathered to continue finalizing the CEDs. The committee plans to reconvene in March for a final review and approval before presenting them to the Board at the March 2025 meeting.

The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (2) Special EDO. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to [vramos@lrgvdc.org](mailto:vramos@lrgvdc.org)

Staff are available to offer technical assistance, project development, and grant administration for EDA proposals and projects. For any inquiries or information on EDA, please contact the Community & Economic Development Department. We also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to share information as needed.

Additionally, our team coordinates with other governmental entities on economic development activities to maximize the benefits of all projects and objectives in the region and to avoid any duplication of efforts and resources.

Staff met with two municipality consultants regarding EDA funding opportunities. For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

- Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

A virtual RSCC meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025, at 2:00 PM. Staff recently met with SPEER, a nonprofit organization that will be presenting to the small cities. We remain committed to continually exploring innovative ways to support our small communities.

Staff continue to disseminate vital information to small cities via email. If you have questions, you may contact Brenda Salinas [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org)

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

Staff are diligently carrying out the designated technical assistance activities for TxCDBG-eligible localities within our operating region to ensure program compliance. We continually disseminate program information to keep these communities informed, promote Fair Housing, support the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and host grant kick-off meetings for communities that have been awarded grants.

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.

#### UPCOMING TIRE EVENT

April 2025

- Solid Waste Management Program:



Following thorough discussions and evaluations by the CED staff, contracts have been awarded to Republic Services and Texas Land Reclamation, LLC. (UTW) for the upcoming Road to Recycling Tire Collection Events. Both vendors submitted Requests for Proposal (RFPs) that closely align with our event objectives—keeping collected scrap tires out of landfills by re-purposing them into materials such as crumb rubber and tire-derived fuel, thereby promoting environmental sustainability. LRGVDC staff will soon send out invitations with event details to cities and counties for their participation.

The Tire subcommittee meeting is on February 14, 2025, to discuss further feedback or ideas to add to the draft tire ordinance that is being created for the region. Once the details are finalized, the ordinance will be submitted to the LRGVDC Board for approval.

The next Virtual Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be on March 4, 2025, at 2:00 PM via Goto Meeting platform.

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).

- Air Quality Program

The Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality project has officially commenced and is currently in progress. The following next steps are being undertaken as part of the project: 1) Developing stationary source PM2.5 and PM2.5 precursor emission inventories for Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, 2) Analyzing available ambient air monitoring data in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties for current and historical PM2.5, 3) Developing a stationary source PM2.5 air dispersion modeling inventory for Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, 4) Preparing and submitting draft and final reports summarizing the work generated from the study.

Staff will maintain ongoing oversight of this project, actively collaborating with the consulting firm, ALL4 LLC. This partnership will ensure that all project requirements are consistently met as stipulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

- South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)

On February 11, 2025, the STC4 convened for the coalition's inaugural kick-off meeting. The agenda began with introductions and an overview of the coalition's purpose and objectives, setting the stage for collaborative efforts. In-depth discussions followed on the full designation application process, providing detailed insights into the necessary steps and requirements to achieve the coalition's goals. These discussions helped clarify the path forward, ensuring all members were aligned on the procedures and expectations.

Looking ahead, a workshop will be scheduled for March 2025 with STC4 to finalize the draft bylaws, membership, officers, and timeline. This workshop will be crucial in solidifying the coalition's structure and governance, ensuring that all foundational elements are in place to support its ongoing efforts and initiatives. The collaborative spirit and strategic planning exhibited during these initial meetings will undoubtedly pave the way for the coalition's future successes.

- Water Quality Program

Staff remain dedicated to facilitating meetings with water investors to support innovative water projects aimed at addressing the region's drought needs. We continue to conduct several introductory meetings to engage local stakeholders, including water board members, drainage and irrigation districts, and water producers, to explore potential projects and provide necessary outreach.

Through these continued efforts, the CED Department has become a key participating organization along with Future Edge Research, ITAC at UTRGV, and Southcentral Onsite Energy TAP for a Waste to CLEAN Fuels for Decarbonizing Transportation in the RGV (CLEAN-RGV) Project funded by D.O.E. Staff's contribution to this project will be to assist in project promotion (outreach) and provide use of the LRGVDC board room as needed for meetings. The project aims

to investigate the feasibility of capturing waste at Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTPs) in the RGV and converting it into renewable fuels such as biogas, renewable natural gas (RNG), and hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>). By focusing on the RGV's transportation systems, the project aligns with broader efforts to transition public transportation systems to sustainable energy sources, reducing emissions and promoting cleaner air for the community. By leveraging the waste generated at WWTPs, this project has the potential to create a replicable model for other energy communities facing similar challenges. The integration of waste-to energy (WTE) technologies with public transportation use cases presents a compelling opportunity to maximize the benefits of renewable energy production in the RGV. This approach will help the RGV reduce its carbon footprint, improve air quality, and foster workforce development opportunities in a disadvantaged community, making it a critical initiative in the fight against climate change.

Staff continue to actively educate the public on water quality issues through a variety of outreach initiatives. 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](#)

Beyond social media, our outreach efforts extend to in-person events. Staff members attend these events either independently or in collaboration with other LRGVDC departments and external organizations. These events offer excellent opportunities to promote the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) program and connect with the community. At these events, we distribute informational reading materials and promotional items related to water quality.

Staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (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 the importance of it to the region. Visit our Water Resource webpage at: <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

The next RWRAC hybrid meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2025, at 2:00 PM via GoToMeeting platform.

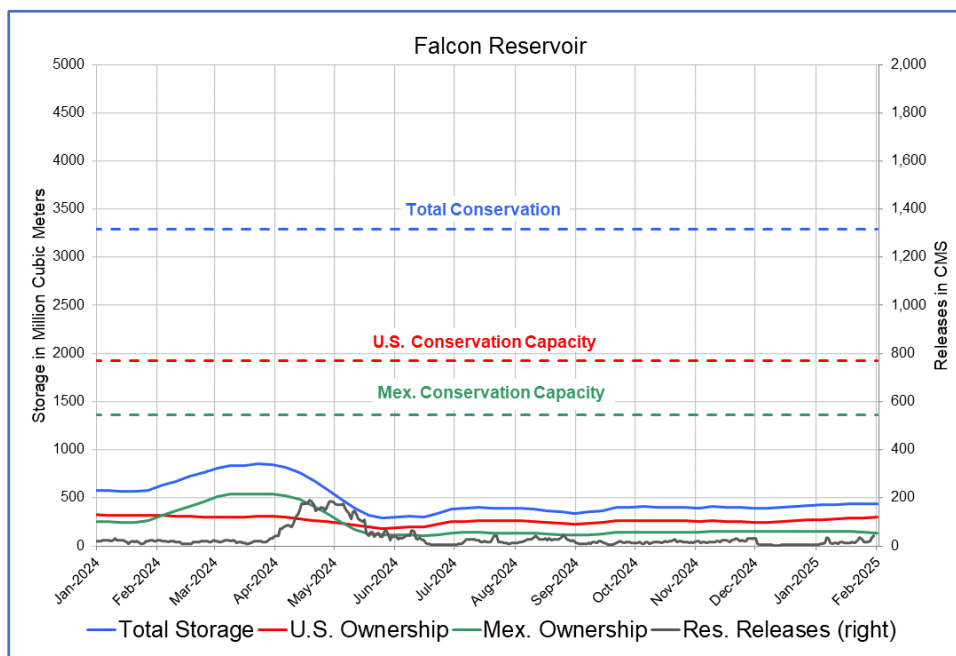
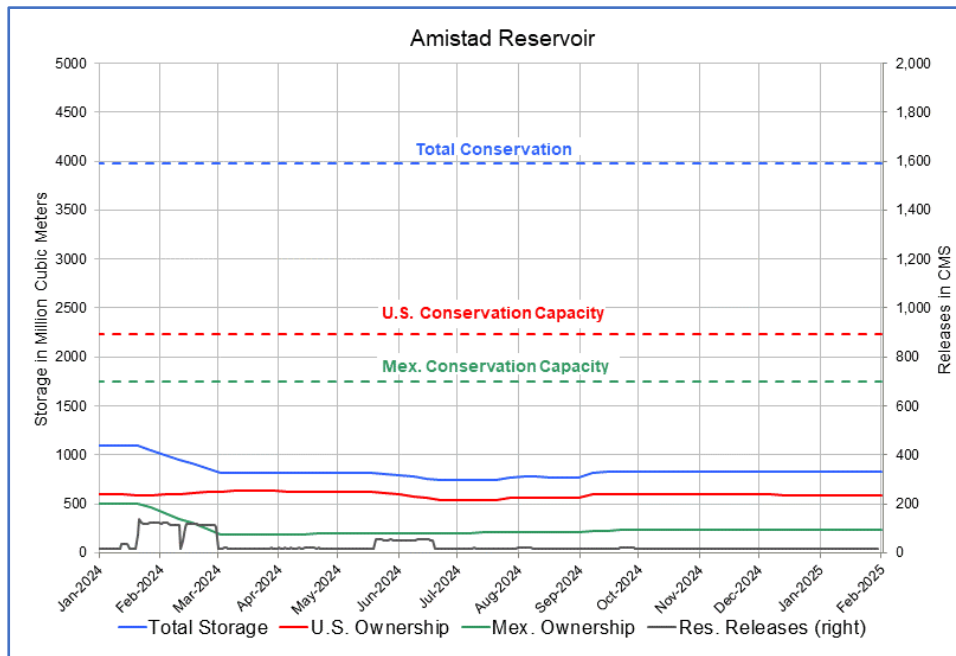
Staff continue to work with Hidalgo & Cameron Counties for the Flood infrastructure Funds (FIF), TWDB Project No. 40038. The counties will undertake Task 2.2 (Drainage Characterization) and Task 2.3 (Project Assessments) of the TWDB Project No. 40038. The FIF project requires the development, processing, and contracting for characterizing drainage pathways, identifying flood control projects, and assessing the feasibility of those projects; and procures qualified engineering firms and staff to conduct engineering and drainage projects regularly. The project has been approved by TWDB for a no-cost time extension until August 31, 2027. Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The Region M met on February 5, 2025, at 9:30 am. There was much discussion from the consultant and the planning group regarding the progress and information gathered to date for the 2026 Regional Water Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2025. Meeting continues to be held hybrid at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room and via GoToMeeting.

For any Region M meeting information, please visit website: <http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

- Reservoir Levels as of February 13, 2025 ([www.IBWC.gov](http://www.IBWC.gov))



**ITEM #5. B.**

**HEALTH  
&  
HUMAN SERVICES**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Department Reports

#### 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 2025, encompassing data for January 2025.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination January 2025**
  - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 218 new clients.
  - A total of 710 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Care Coordination Services</b>	218	710
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	81	87
<b>Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	63	187
<b>Transportation Services</b> Assistance with transportation services to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.	7	10
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	42	42



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support January 2025**

- The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 74 new clients.
- A total of 282 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Caregiver Support Services</b>	74	282
<b>Respite In-Home Services</b> Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.	58	138
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	15	15

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant January 2025**

- The CDBG Program serviced a total of 7 new clients who assisted with health maintenance services.
- A total of 8 individuals assisted with health maintenance services under the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- The CDBG Program serviced a total of 1 new client for minor modifications under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	7	8
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	1	1

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List January 2025**
  - As of February 7th, 2025, 1,260 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging. The increased demand is attributed to ongoing outreach and collaborative efforts across the Rio Grande Valley.

<b>Direct Consumer Services Interest List</b>	
Health Maintenance Services	87
Homemaker Services	407
Residential Repair Services	634
Transportation Services	14
Respite In-Home Services	118
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,260</b>

- **Nutrition Program Report: January 2025**
  - The program successfully enrolled 11 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program and delivered 28,493 meals.
  - Successfully enrolled 99 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
  - Successfully served 21,363 Congregate meals.

<b>Meals Program</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Home Delivered Meals	11	28,493
Congregate Meals	99	21,363

- **Senior Center Operations Report – January 2025**
  - Program successfully enrolled 67 new clients.
  - Senior Centers conducted 20,814 activities with their clients.

<b>Senior Center Operations</b>	
Total New Clients	67
Activities	20,814

## Special Services Report

- **Benefit Counselors Program – January 2025**

- Achieved the enrollment of 145 new clients and established 206.5 contacts.

Benefit Counselors	Total New Clients	Total Contacts
HICAP Awareness	29	4
HICAP Assistance	24	55.75
MIPPA	56	63.25
Legal Awareness	0	0
Legal Assistance	36	83.5

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

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

## Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – January 2025

- During January, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 83 new clients.
- They made 323 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

CTI Coaches	Total New Clients	Total Contacts
January 2025	83	323

\*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, and Mission Regional Medical Center

- **Ombudsman Program Report – January 2025**

- The Ombudsman handled 88 complaints.
- They dedicated 113.3 activity hours and recorded 360 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 21 in-kind hours.

Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints
January 2025	21	113.3	360	88

## **Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

### **Information Referral Assistance Report – January 2025**

- The intake team had a total of 472 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- Engaged with 444 individuals, 432 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 12 individuals were 59 years of age and below, 403 are individuals with a disability and 22 are veterans.
- The top five services requested were Homemaker Services, Benefit Counseling, Residential Repairs, Health Maintenance, and Respite Services,

<b>IR&amp;A Interactions</b>	
1-800 AAA	19
1-855 ADRC	0
(956) 682-3481	163
(956) 412-0958	60
Walk-ins	6
E-mails	194
Fax	2
Follow ups	28
Total Interactions	472

<b>Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	432
Consumer 59 and below	12
Total Consumers	444

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	403
Veterans	22

<b>Top Call Topics</b>	
Homemaker Services	64
Benefit Counseling	60
Residential Repairs	49
Health Maintenance	46
Respite Services	44

- **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – January 2025**
  - Successfully enrolled 3 new clients and made a total of 6 contacts.
  - Actively participated in 2 events reaching a total of 36 individuals, 4 were 60 years of age and above, 32 individuals were 59 years of age and below.

<b>BRI</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
January 2025	3	6

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

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	4
Consumers 59 and below	32
Total Consumers	36

- **ADRC Benefits Counseling Report – January 2025**

- Assisted 3 consumers with MIPPA information.
- Engaged with 67 individuals, 1 individual was 60 years of age and above, 87 individuals were 67 years of age and below.
- During outreach activities interacted with 1 individual with a disability and 1 individual with a Caregiver.

<b>Consumers Assisted</b>	
Consumers Assisted	3

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Events Attended	6

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	1
Consumers 59 and below	67
Total Consumers	68

<b>Outreach Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	1
Veterans	0
Consumer with a Caregiver	1

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – January 2025**

- Assisted 6 consumers with housing inquiries.
- Actively participated in 4 events, meetings, and coalitions engaging with 66 individuals, 16 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 52 individuals were 59 years of age and below.

<b>Housing Intakes Total</b>	
Cameron County	1
Hidalgo County	5
Willacy County	0
Total Housing Intakes:	6

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Outreach Events	4

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	16
Consumers 59 and below	52
Total Consumers	66

- **ADRC Respite Services Report – January 2025**

- Assisted with 3 new consumers for respite services
- Attended 8 events, meetings, and coalitions.
- During outreach activities interacted with 122 individuals, 3 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 119 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- During outreach activities interacted with 2 individuals with a disability and 2 individuals with a Caregiver.

<b>Consumers Assisted</b>	
Consumers Assisted	3

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Outreach Events:	8

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	3
Consumers 59 and below	119
Total Consumers	122

<b>Outreach Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	2
Veterans	0
Consumer with a Caregiver	2



## Outreach Events – January 2025

### 1-25-25 Disability Transition Connection Fair

Staff tabled at the McAllen ISD Disability Transition Connection Fair. They were able to connect with students, families, and professionals to share about the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center programs.



### 1-29-25 IDEA Weslaco Career Day

Staff presented at IDEA Weslaco Career Day where they shared with students the services the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center offers and how the work done makes a difference in the community.



**ITEM #5.C**

**PUBLIC**

**SAFETY**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

#### C. Public Safety

Program Action Item ..... Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

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

Due to the retirement of Michael Kester, a replacement member is needed for the HSAC Member jurisdiction, City of Harlingen. In Accordance with the HSAC Bylaws the Appointment of Alfredo Alvear, Harlingen **Deputy** Police Chief has been made by the City Manager. In accordance with HSAC Bylaws, Policies and Procedures for full appointment, this item requires Board Approval.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety.....Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

#### Homeland Security Program

- Staff participated and received training on February 4-5, 2025, from Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) regarding the Crowd Management Sports and Special Events TEEX MGT 475 Course.
- Staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) Training for the Homeland Security updates on program on February 5-7, 2025, in Austin, TX at the Cambria Hotel.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on February 6, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff attended the webinar BDO Local Government Monthly Roundtable on February 6, 2025.
- Staff participated in the TARC Preparedness call on February 13, 2025, to increase knowledge on the Governor's Public Safety Office grant cycle information and safety.
- Staff hosted on February 19, 2025, Special Meeting for the Rio Grande Valley Regional Response Group (RGRRG) in the LRGVDC Small Boardroom option of hybrid setting.
- Staff participated on February 19, 2025, Coastal Bend Hurricane Tabletop Virtual Exercise hosted by the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- Staff participated on February 19, 2025 in a Regional Communications Collaboration Call hosted by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.
- Staff participated and received training on February 20, 2025, from Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) regarding Senior Officials Workshop for All-Hazards Preparedness MGT-312 at the LRGVDC Board Room.
- Staff participated in the Rio Grande Valley Disaster Ready Expo 2025 on February 21, 2025, South Texas College, Weslaco, TX

- Staff attended on February 27, 2025, Hidalgo County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting in McAllen Fire Department Station.

#### Criminal Justice Program

- Staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) Training for the Criminal Justice updates on program on February 5-7, 2025, in Austin, TX at the Cambria Hotel.
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on February 12, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended the Teen Dating Violence Awareness event hosted by the Weslaco Police Department and Weslaco High School on February 13, 2025.

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The Texas Governor’s Public Safety Office (PSO) is delighted to extend an invitation to agencies wanting to participate in an eGrants Training session hosted by Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the City of Pharr Office of Emergency Management . This training aims to equip grant officials with the knowledge and skills essential to navigating the eGrants system when carrying out grant-related operations.

The PSO will host three, one-day eGrants Training sessions, each open to any grant official that will utilize the eGrants system, at no cost. The information for each session as well as a description is provided below.

Location	Address	Date	Class Time
Pharr One Center	<a href="#">1121 E Nolana Loop, Pharr, TX 78577</a>	March 4, 2025	8 A.M. - 5 P.M. (includes 1-hour lunch break)
		March 5, 2025	
		March 6, 2025	

NOTE: You ***MUST*** bring your own Wi-Fi enabled laptop to access a web browser.

**CLASS DESCRIPTION:**

- **Morning Session** – Overview and in-depth walkthrough of the eGrants system
- **Afternoon Session** – Hands-on practice creating and submitting grant adjustments and financial status reports (FSRs)

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)**

Please reach out to our office with any questions regarding registration and session information.

Thank you,



**Public Safety Office**  
**Office of Texas Governor Greg Abbott**  
[Website](#) | [Help Desk](#) | [Contact Us](#)

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Department Reports

Public Safety ..... Javier Solis Jr Assistant Director

#### Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

- As of February 1, 2025, the LRGV Academy has **43** cadets enrolled in the Basic Peace Officer Course. Mission 228<sup>th</sup> Academy (**24**) and Weslaco 229<sup>th</sup> Academy (**19**)
- The LRGV Academy has completed the selection process for the historic commencement of the first ever police academy hosted in Starr County by the Rio Grande City Police Department. We have reached the maximum capacity of (**30**) cadets. The academy is set to begin April 4, 2025.
- On January 31, 2025, the LRGV Academy trained and certified (**11**) Texas Peace Officers representing multiple agencies within the region as certified TCOLE Instructors.
- Currently the LRGV Academy is training and certifying (**20**) Texas Peace Officers from within our region to become certified TCOLE Firearm Instructors.
- LRGV Academy in-service training is underway with various advanced courses being offered to our certified law enforcement officers within our region. Course curriculums include Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigations, Advanced Vehicle Compartment Detection, High Risk Narcotic Operation Planning, and Mental Health Crisis Recognition.
- The LRGV Academy continues to provide mandated ALERRT Active Shooter Training. We currently have (**4**) course dates in March scheduled for ALERRT Active Shooter Training.
- The LRGV Academy is making final preparations for the 2025 South Texas All Hazards Conference. The LRGV Academy was selected to be the law enforcement educational provider for this year's conference.
- The LRGV Academy is conducting research to implement a pilot program to track the effectiveness of heart rate variability training and its impact on mental health in Texas Peace Officers.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

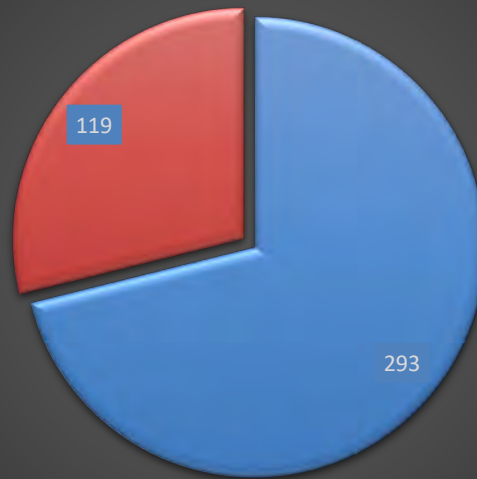
#### C. Public Safety

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

- GIS Division

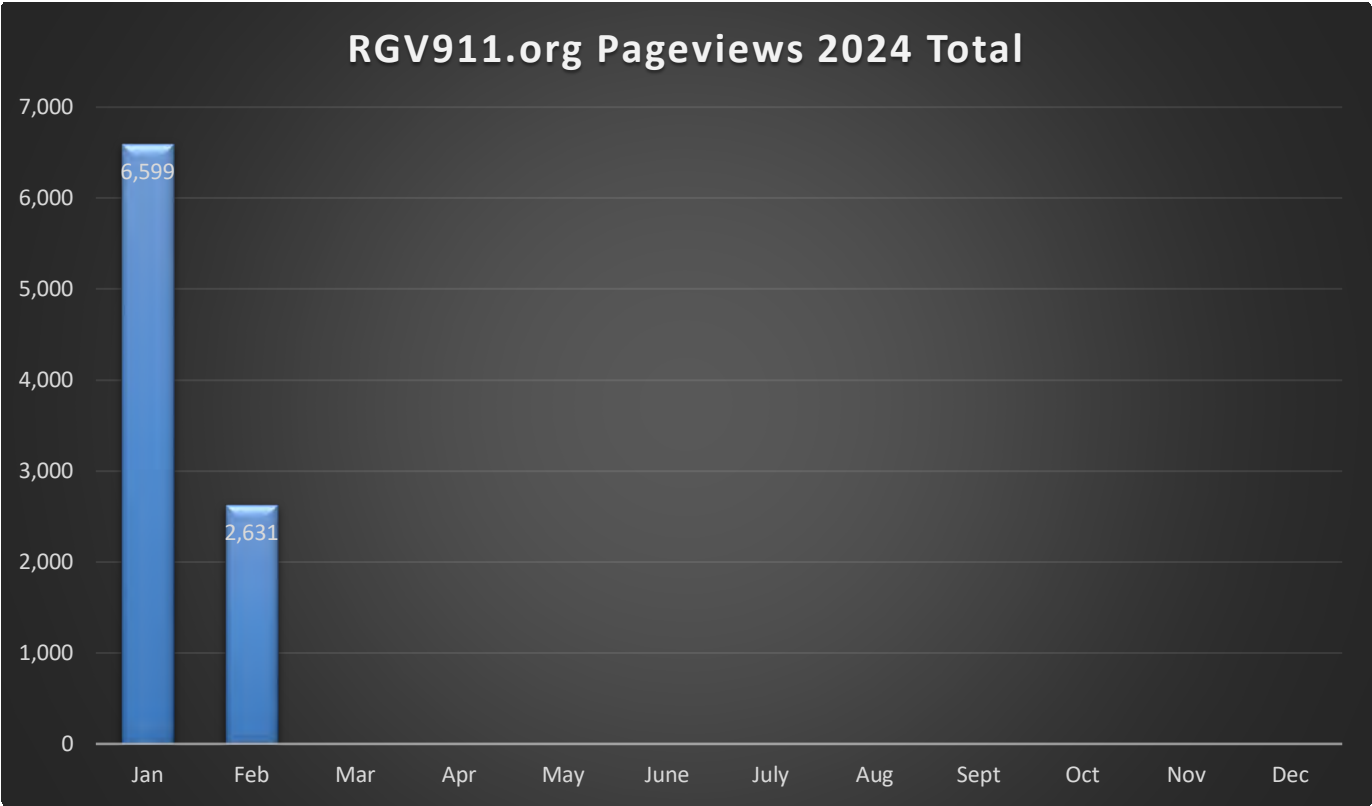
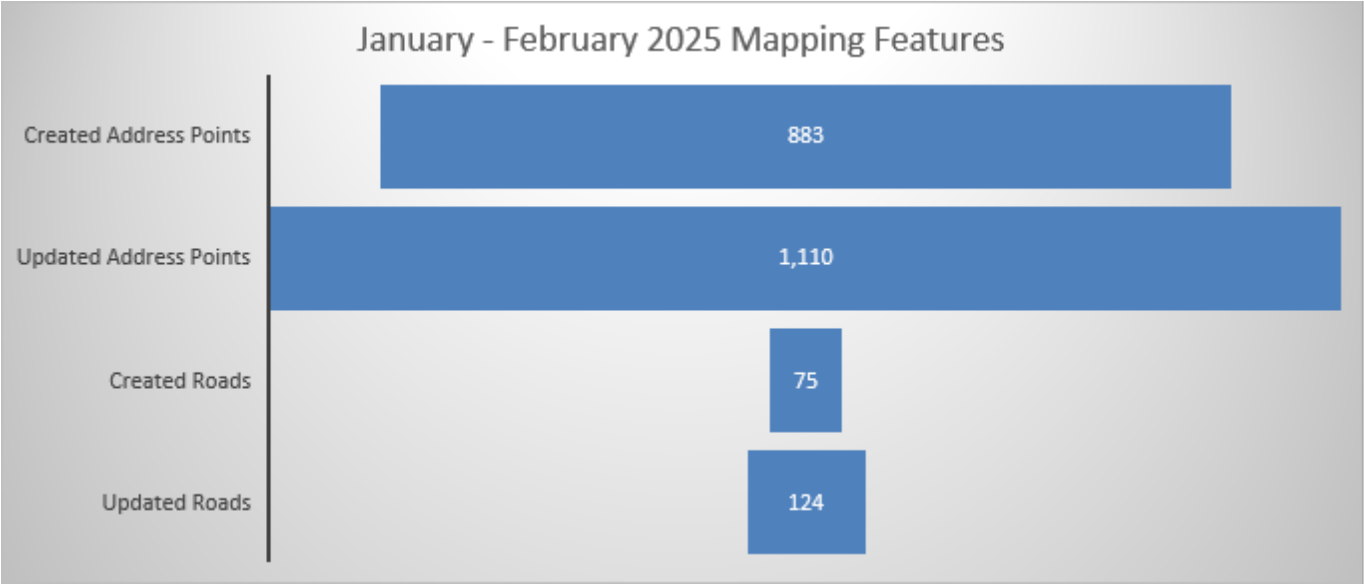
The GIS Data Hub has transitioned to [www.rgv911.org](http://www.rgv911.org), providing improved access to downloadable maps and streamlined data request handling. ArcGIS Enterprise 11.3.1 update Project is running on schedule, using a cross-department team, we have set up a virtual replica of our production environment where we will test how an upgrade will affect our current system. Testing is scheduled to last until late March, and project completion is expected in early to Mid-April.

### 2025 Address Tickets Totals



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



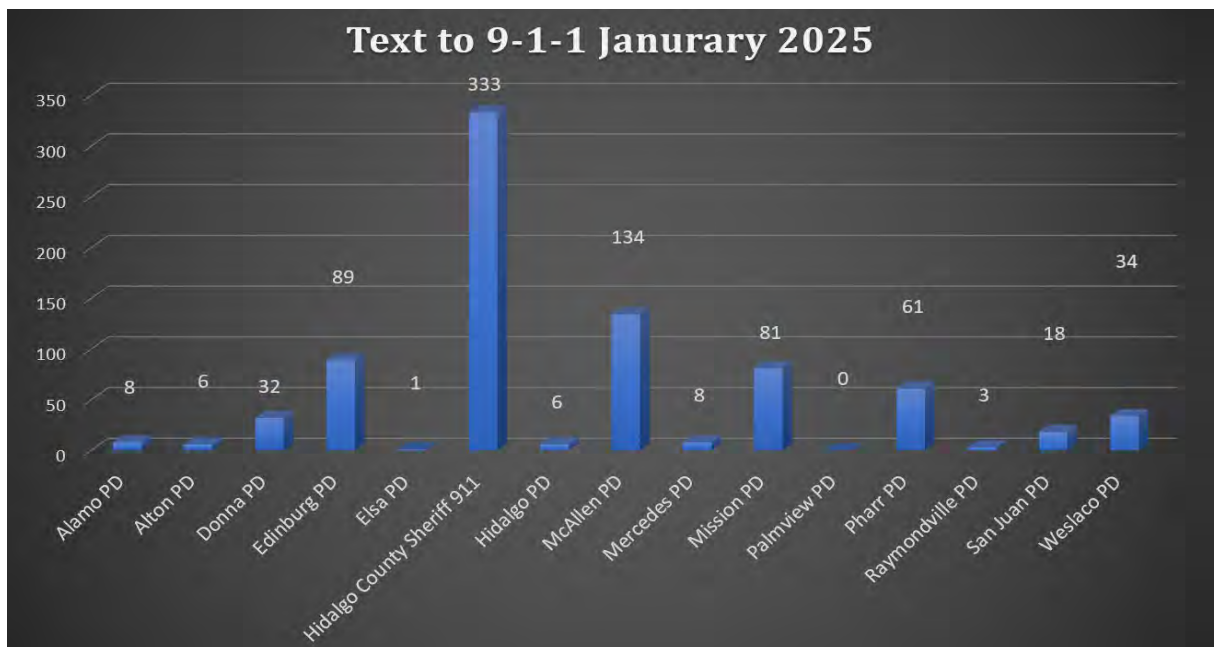


- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The 9-1-1 | Information Technology Department kicked off the year with our Quarterly Generator Inspections. The team has successfully completed 11 inspections, ensuring our generators remain in optimal working conditions for emergency readiness.

Additionally, the team is coordinating with PSAPs to conduct in-house MapFlex and Power911 training. This hands-on training provides both new and current dispatchers with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with Power911's call-handling system.

Our ongoing commitment is to maintain 99.9% operational efficiency, ensuring seamless integration between our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping technologies. By doing so, we continue to support our public safety partners and the community with reliable emergency communication services.



- Community Engagement Division

As we move through 2025, our public education team is more active and dedicated than ever. During the month of January, we continue to strengthen our efforts, prioritizing the education of our community. Our mission is to ensure that the residents of Hidalgo and Willacy counties stay informed and prepared. We are passionate about our work and take great pride in what we do. Serving these communities inspires us to thrive each day.

**Willacy County District Attorney's Office 6th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day Event, January 10, 2025.** This impactful event brought together law enforcement, public safety, and the community to stand against human trafficking and support survivors. We shared vital information on how 911 plays a critical role in reporting and responding to emergencies.

**Rio Grande Emergency Communication District-RGV911 Board of Members, January 15, 2025.** We had the pleasure of welcoming Cell Phone Sally and Kid Friendly Keith! They stopped by to introduce themselves and share their mission of educating the community about the proper use of 9-1-1. Their dedication to teaching children and families how to stay safe and use 9-1-1 responsibly is inspiring. Thank you for the important work you do.

**Texas 911 Trainers/ 911 Public Educators of Texas Quarter Meeting January 16 -17, 2025. In San Antonio.** What a great way to start the year! Our Public Education Team joined the first 2025 TNT Texas 911 Trainers quarterly meeting. Networking and collaborating with such dedicated professionals remind us that, together, we make a meaningful difference in supporting our incredible 9-1-1 Telecommunicators. Here's to a fantastic year of growth, learning, and making an impact.

**RGV911 Gives Back, January 28, 2025.** We visited amazing organizations serving the communities of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, and it brought us so much joy to donate water bottles and backpacks to help out. Their hard work and dedication inspire us to continue supporting those who make a difference every day. Together, we're building stronger, safer communities for everyone. Thank you for letting us be a part of your mission. We visited the Mission Boys and Girls Club, the Mission Housing Authority, the Children's Advocacy in Raymondville, and the Willacy Co. Family Crisis Center.

# Community Engagement



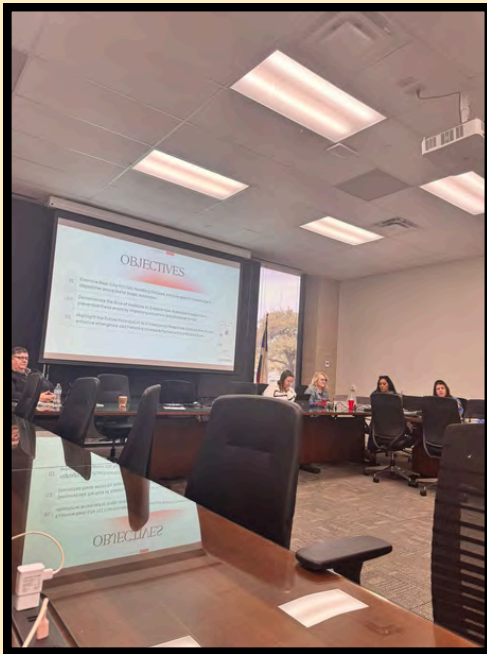
Willacy County District Attorney's Office 6th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Day Event, January 10, 2025



RGV 9-1-1 Board of Managers meet Cell Phone Sally and Kid Friendly Keith







Texas 911 Trainers/ 911 Public Educators of Texas Quarter Meeting  
January 16 -17, 2025.



**ITEM #5. D.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

### Item #5: Department Reports

#### D. Transportation Action Item #1

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Executive Director to Initiate and enter into an Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and Edinburg Economic Development Corporation, along with the procurement procedures.  
Staff is seeking the Board's approval for the Executive Director to initiate and enter into an Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and Edinburg Economic Development Corporation for the completion of Edinburg Transit Terminal Phase III .

Federal Grant funding:

	Source	Grant #	Award Balance
1.	FTA	TX-2016-008	\$11,781.96
2.	FTA	TX-2019-005	\$800,000.00
3.	EEDC	Local Match	\$202,945.49

- Funds will go toward the completion of the Edinburg Transit Terminal, including engineering, construction, furniture, hardware and related activities.

Funding for the completion of the Edinburg Transit Terminal is essential to ensure the project's success. These funds will cover critical aspects of the project, including engineering, construction, furniture, hardware, and related activities, all of which contribute to creating a fully functional and efficient extension of the transit terminal. The completion of this terminal will improve connectivity and support economic growth in the region. Investing in this infrastructure project is vital for the community's long-term development and sustainability.

#### **Benefits and Impact:**

- Easier access to essential services and regional connections
- Creation of job opportunities
- Boost to the local economy through employment
- Attraction of new businesses and investments
- Fostering of economic growth and development
- Improved quality of life for residents
- Support for economic prosperity and sustainability

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Action Item #2

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Executive Director to initiate and submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation “TXDOT”.

Staff is seeking the Board's approval for the Executive Director to initiate and submit a grant application to the Texas Department of Transportation “TXDOT” for the award of Federal Section 5311 funding for Rural Transit in the amount of **\$368,380**.

The **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)** administers the **Section 5311 funding program**, which is part of the Federal Transit Act. This program provides **funding to eligible rural transit districts** to support public transportation in rural areas.

Funding will be used towards Valley Metro’s Rural Operations, Preventive Maintenance, Administration, Planning and related Capital expenses.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday February 26, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Action Item #3

1. Discussion and **ACTION** on approval of Resolution # 2025-02, Authorizing the Executive Director to execute A Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration

Staff is seeking the Board's approval for authorization of the Executive Director to execute Resolution #2025-02 authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the United States Department of Transportation, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53; title 23, United States Code, or other federal statutes administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

1. Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Resolution No. 2025-02

Resolution No. ~~20~~25-02

Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the United States Department of Transportation, for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53; title 23, United States Code, or other federal statutes administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administrator has been delegated authority to award federal financial assistance for a transportation project;

WHEREAS, the grant or cooperative agreement for federal financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, and may require the applicant to provide the local share of the project cost;

WHEREAS, the applicant has or will provide all annual certifications and assurances to the Federal Transit Administration required for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

1. That Manuel Cruz, Executive Director is authorized to execute and file an application for federal assistance on behalf of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council with the Federal Transit Administration for federal assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, title 23, United States Code, or other federal statutes authorizing a project administered by the Federal Transit Administration. (If the applicant is requesting Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5307, either alone or in addition to other federal assistance administered by the Federal Transit Administration, the resolution should state whether the applicant is the designated recipient as defined by 49 U.S.C. 5307(a)(2), or whether the applicant has received authority from the designated recipient to apply for Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance.)
2. That Manuel Cruz, Executive Director is authorized to execute and file with its applications the annual certifications and assurances and other documents the Federal Transportation Administration requires before awarding a federal assistance grant or cooperative agreement.
3. That Manuel Cruz, Executive Director is authorized to execute grant and cooperative agreements with the Federal Transit Administration on behalf of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified Executive Director, acting on behalf of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council held on February 26, 2025.

[If the Applicant has an official seal, impress here.]

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Manuel Cruz, Executive Director

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Executive Director,

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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(Date)

2. LRGVDC OPINION OF COUNSEL.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
301 W. Railroad,  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Ms. Gail Lyssy:

This communication will serve as the requisite opinion of counsel to be filed with the Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation, in connection with the application of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, designated recipient for federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53; title 23, United States Code; and other federal statutes authorizing activities administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

(If the applicant intends to use this opinion to qualify for Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. 5307, the opinion must state whether the applicant is the designated recipient as defined at 49 U.S.C. 5307(a)(2) or whether the applicant has received authority from the designated recipient to apply for and receive Urbanized Area Formula Program assistance).

Citations to laws, regulations, etc. establishing the legal authority of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to carry out transportation projects for which federal assistance is sought is set forth below:

1. Manuel Cruz, Executive Director, is authorized by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council "LRGVDC" to provide and assist transportation services under the LRGVDC Valley Metro, Regional Transportation System.

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2. I have reviewed the pertinent federal, state, and local laws, and I have concluded that there is no legal impediment to your filing an application for the project for which the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council seeks assistance. Furthermore, as a result of my examination, I find that there is no pending or threatened litigation or other action which might in any way adversely affect the proposed project or the capability of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to carry out the project.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Counsel

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

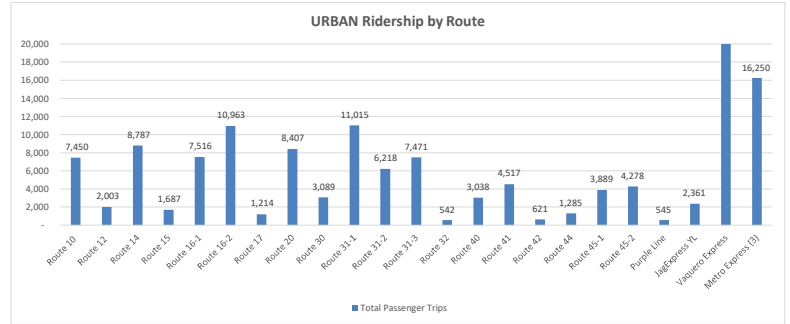
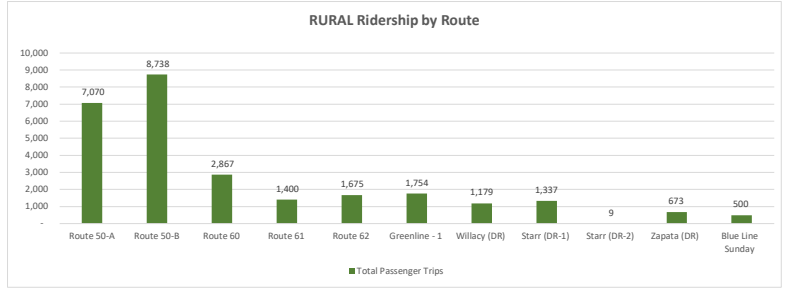


EXHIBIT A  
AWARD OF FEDERAL \$5311 FUNDS TO RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS

<b>Rural Transit District</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Alamo Area Council of Governments	\$598,261
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	\$306,913
Aspermont Small Business Development Center, Inc.	\$120,127
Brazos Transit District	\$1,035,746
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)	\$577,194
Central Texas Rural Transit District	\$360,907
Cleburne, city of	\$129,525
Colorado Valley Transit, Inc.	\$198,415
Community Services, Inc.	\$172,350
Concho Valley Transit District	\$228,358
Del Rio, city of	\$93,679
East Texas Council of Governments	\$761,235
El Paso, county of	\$303,223
Fort Bend County	\$49,026
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission	\$280,539
Gulf Coast Transit District	\$146,213
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	\$180,396
Hill Country Transit District	\$266,494
Kleberg County Human Services	\$62,488
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	\$368,380
McLennan County Rural Transit District	\$86,992
Panhandle Community Services	\$528,812
Public Transit Services	\$193,390
Rolling Plains Management Corporation	\$217,137
Rural Economic Assistance League, Inc.	\$342,152
Senior Center Resources and Public Transit, Inc.	\$137,983
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	\$209,667
South Padre Island, city of	\$18,030
South Plains Community Action Association, Inc.	\$387,928
Southwest Area Regional Transit District	\$200,941
SPAN, Inc.	\$107,709
STAR Transit	\$176,078
Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc.	\$290,328
The Transit System, Inc.	\$83,390
Webb County Community Action Agency	\$63,804
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.	\$716,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>

**RIDERSHIP COUNT**  
**YEAR TO DATE FY 2025 (January)**

	Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
1	Route 50-A	7,070	2% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
2	Route 50-B	8,738	2% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
3	Route 60	2,867	1% Roma, Rio Grande City	
4	Route 61	1,400	0% Rio Grande City	
5	Route 62	1,675	0% Rio Grande City	
30	Greenline - 1	1,754	0% Rio Grande City	
7	Willacy (DR)	1,179	0% Willacy County	
8	Starr (DR-1)	1,337	0% Starr County	
9	Starr (DR-2)	9	0% Starr County	
10	Zapata (DR)	673	0% Zapata County	
11	Blue Line Sunday	500	0% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
12	Route 10	7,450	2% Edinburg	
13	Route 12	2,003	1% Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg	
14	Route 14	8,787	2% Edinburg	
15	Route 15	1,687	0% Edinburg	
16	Route 16-1	7,516	2% Courthouse Circulator	
17	Route 16-2	10,963	3% Courthouse Circulator	
18	Route 17	1,214	0% Edinburg T-line	
19	Route 20	8,407	2% Mission	
20	Route 30	3,089	1% Pharr, San Juan	
21	Route 31-1	11,015	3% Hidalgo-Cameron	
6	Route 31-2	6,218	2% Cameron-Hidalgo	
22	Route 31-3	7,471	2% Hidalgo-Cameron	
23	Route 32	542	0% Donna	
24	Route 40	3,038	1% Harlingen	
25	Route 41	4,517	1% Harlingen	
26	Route 42	621	0% San Benito	
27	Route 44	1,285	0% Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa	
28	Route 45-1	3,889	1% Cameron County	
29	Route 45-2	4,278	1% Cameron County	
31	Purple Line	545	0% Weslaco, Pharr	
32	JagExpress YL	2,361	1% Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen	
35	Vaquero Express	249,692	64% Edinburg	
	Metro Express (3)	16,250	4% Rio Grande Valley	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390,040</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized</b>

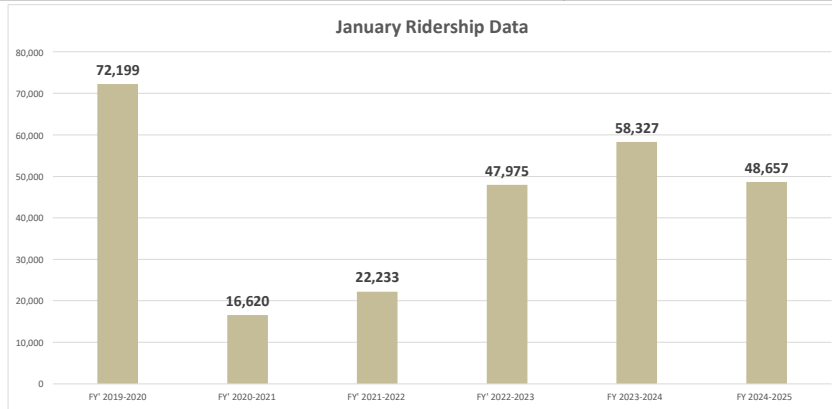


Active Routes	Rural	Urban	Total
<b>Flex Routes</b>	7	21	28
<b>Demand Response</b>	4	0	4
	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>

Year to Date - January 2025	Year to date January 2024	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
<b>390,040</b>	318,741	<b>71,299</b>	<b>22%</b>

\* Rural service - service in rural low -population areas outside of urbanized areas

\* Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas



Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	Difference	%Change
FY 2019-2020	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY 2020-2021	17,149	19,332	16,190	16,072	16,620	14,611	19,300	18,169	18,080	19,842	19,774	31,381	226,520	-608,386	-73%
FY 2021-2022	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	35,091	24,384	430,484	203,964	90%
FY 2022-2023	69,699	71,269	58,154	33,800	47,975	66,785	62,828	63,687	36,978	34,870	33,997	50,988	631,030	200,546	47%
FY 2023-2024	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	89,262	42,003	38,917	40,945	55,357	796,939	165,909	26%
FY 2024-2025	99,608	113,146	85,334	43,295	48,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	390,040	-406,899	-51%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	29,909	41,877	27,180	9,495	682	-66,785	-62,828	-63,687	-36,978	-34,870	-33,997	-50,988	-240,990	-607,445	-1
Percent Change	43%	59%	47%	28%	1%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-38%	-303%	-210%

FY 2025 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT													
RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION													
CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Edinburg	8,531	9,234	7,009	4,849	5,702	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35,325
UTRGV Edinburg	70,277	79,188	56,576	18,094	25,557	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	249,692
Pharr	1,111	1,740	1,089	1,070	720	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,730
Mission	980	1,052	876	810	660	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,378
McAllen	4,205	4,782	4,565	4,586	3,970	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,108
San Carlos	16	20	18	14	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
La Blanca	3	7	4	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Elsa	92	100	96	44	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	378
Edcouch	34	40	30	18	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	135
La Villa	46	36	37	21	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	158
San Juan	344	468	353	368	288	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,821
Alamo	413	455	367	400	308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,943
Donna	484	623	614	632	454	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,807
Weslaco	1,406	1,749	1,187	932	797	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,071
Mercedes	367	418	484	406	394	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,069
La Feria	253	371	306	312	294	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,536
Harlingen	2,417	3,021	3,296	2,644	2,358	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,736
San Benito	314	382	337	326	245	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,604
Santa Rosa	54	73	78	79	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320
Primera	12	15	19	29	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86
Laguna Vista	139	223	195	194	147	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	898
Laguna Heights	211	267	247	176	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,039
Port Isabel	1,246	1,437	1,211	1,168	1,001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,063
Willacy County	134	262	232	265	286	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,179
Starr County	256	264	231	290	305	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,346
Zapata County	158	182	139	112	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	673
Total	99,608	113,146	85,334	43,295	48,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	390,040
RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM													
Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	28,526	32,847	28,157	24,893	22,756	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	137,179
UTRGV	70,277	79,188	56,576	18,094	25,557	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	249,692
STC	692	969	466	199	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,518
TSTC	113	142	135	109	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	651
Total	99,608	113,146	85,334	43,295	48,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	390,040
RURAL AND URBAN COUNT													
AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Rural	5,837	6,672	5,366	4,948	4,379	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27,202
Urban	93,771	106,474	79,968	38,347	44,278	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	362,838
Total	99,608	113,146	85,334	43,295	48,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	390,040
RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY													
COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	88,309	99,912	73,305	32,251	38,947	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	332,724
Cameron County	8,757	10,472	9,989	9,209	7,995	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46,422
Willacy County	134	262	232	265	286	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,179
Starr County	2,250	2,318	1,669	1,458	1,347	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,042
Zapata County	158	182	139	112	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	673
Total	99,608	113,146	85,334	43,295	48,657	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	390,040
RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS													
PRECINCT	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Precinct 1	5,124	6,227	5,678	5,558	4,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27,249
Precinct 2	8,334	10,494	8,969	8,553	7,300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43,650
Precinct 3	1,711	2,090	1,608	1,585	1,413	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,407
Precinct 4	85,406	96,374	70,681	29,930	37,131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	319,522
Harlingen MPO Area	3,417	4,280	4,520	3,796	3,338	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,351



## Valley Metro - South Texas College - FY 2024-2025 Y-T-D Student Passenger Counts

Routes	10	12	14	20	31-1	31-2	31-3	32	Purple Line	GL-1	60	61	62	DR-1	Zapata	Total
September	5	26	0	14	16	20	39	0	143	457	619	24	17	0	14	1394
October	2	20	0	16	37	21	64	0	135	484	517	9	4	1	9	1319
November	7	32	0	14	17	15	37	0	101	333	328	11	13	0	3	911
December	3	3	0	10	24	12	46	1	62	161	188	5	7	2	1	525
January	4	1	0	9	18	6	25	0	25	117	151	6	5	0	0	367
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
Total	21	82	0	63	112	74	211	1	466	1552	1803	55	46	3	54	4543

### STC RIDERSHIP COUNT (Non Valley Metro Routes)

Routes	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Total
Yellowline 1 & 2	692	812	466	199	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2361
Park & Ride													0
Total	692	812	466	199	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2361
Grand Total	2086	2131	1377	724	559	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	6904



## South Texas College - Mid Valley JagExpress STC Student Passenger Counts Comparison FY 2024-2025 MONTH TO DATE RECAP

### Direct Service Routes

Routes	STC	UTRGV	General Public	Total
Route 12 Edcouch/Elsa-Edinburg	82	999	1921	2003
Route 31-1 Business 83	112	142	10903	11015
Route 31-2 Business 83	74	18	6144	6218
Route 31-3 Business 83	211	18	7260	7471
Yellow Line	2361	0	0	2361
Purple Line	466	43	79	545
Green Line	1552	0	202	1754
Route 60 Greenline Roma	1803	0	1064	2867
Route 61 RGC West	55	0	1345	1400
Route 62 RGC East	46	0	1629	1675
DR-1 RGC	3	0	1334	1337
DR-2 RGC	3	0	6	9
Zapata	54	0	619	673
Vaquero Express	0	70277	249692	249692
Total	6,822	71,497	289,020	289,020

Routes	Connecti	STC	UTRGV	General Public	Total
Route 10 Edinburg - McAllen	12, 31	21	965	6,464	7,450
Route 14 UTRGV VABL	12	0	8,314	473	8,787
Route 15 Edinburg	12	1	210	1,265	1,476
Route 20 Mission - McAllen	31	63	828	7,516	8,407
Route 30 Pharr San Juan - Edinburg	31	0	46	3,043	3,089
Route 32 Donna International Bridge	31	1	0	541	542
Route 40 Harlingen Medical	31	0	25	2,988	3,013
Route 41 Harlingen Retail	31	7	8	4,487	4,502
Route 42 San Benito Harlingen	31	5	121	369	495
Route 44 La Feria/Santa Rosa/Primera	31	6	130	1,013	1,149
Route 45-1 Cameron Career Connection	31	33	246	3,610	3,889
Route 45-2 Cameron Career Connection	31	15	354	3,894	4,263
Total		152	11,247	46,910	47,062

### Total Service

Total Service				
	STC		General Public	Total
Grand Total	6,974	82,744	335,930	425,648





## FY 2024-2025 Valley Metro

### TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	31-3	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	7	2	18	0	30	7	0	5	3	2	0	0	17	22	114
October	0	7	21	0	42	1	0	12	14	1	0	0	30	14	147
November	0	3	12	1	38	20	0	15	4	0	0	0	26	16	135
December	8	2	17	0	26	9	0	6	4	0	0	0	19	18	109
January	10	9	8	0	27	17	0	17	11	1	0	0	20	32	152
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	25	23	76	1	163	54	0	55	36	4	0	0	112	102	658
FY 2024-2025	4	9	9	0	1	0	0	29	1	0	0	0	18	91	162
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	9	1	162	54	0	26	35	4	0	0	94	11	496

	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	39	44	161	42	37	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	375
Indirect Routes	74	98	98	93	72	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	535
Monthly Total	113	142	259	135	109	152	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	910

### 2024 - 2025 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count

