

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, May 27, 2026, at 12:00 P.M**

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

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

Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

#### Item #1: Call to Order

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

**Item #2:** Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes April 29, 2026.....President

#### Item #3: Public Comment

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

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** on Recommendations from Nominating Committee.
  - 1. Selection of five (5) Persons for election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership.
  - 2. Selection of three (3) AT- Large Members to be elected to the 2026-2027 Board of Directors.
- B. **Ratification** of Executive Committee **ACTION** on Approving the purchase of Dell Pro Laptops and Docking Stations utilizing Disaster Funding Awarded as a result of the March 27, 2025, Harlingen Flood Event.

**B. Executive Director Reports**

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

**Item #5: Department Reports**

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

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Nomination of an Elected or Appointed official of a Non-Entitlement Community to be Considered of Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner.

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration
- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund
- Air Quality
- South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4)
- Solid Waste Management Program
- Water Quality Program
- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee
- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)
- Reservoir Levels

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

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Final Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Plan FFY 2027-2029 following the conclusion of the public comment period and incorporation of any edits received.

Program Status Reports

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

**C. Public Safety**

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an Interlocal Agreement between the LRGV Academy and the City of Donna Texas, for the surplus and donation of LRGV Academy police vehicles to the Donna police Department.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the addition of new policy to the LRGV Academy enrollment requirements for United States Military Veteran's.

Program Status Reports

- Officers Certified
- Courses Taught
- Contact Hours

**D. Transportation**

Valley Metro.....Sandra Carrizales  
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Rescind Prior Board Approval Authorizing Acceptance of Seven (7) MCI Coach Buses from Green Mountain Transit (GMT)

Program Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Program Status Reports

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

**Item#7: Adjourn**

**Next Meeting  
June 24, 2026**

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

**PUBLICINPUT POLICY:**

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

**ITEM #2**

**MEETING**

**MINUTES**

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

12:00PM Wednesday April 29, 2026

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

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:05 p.m. quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County  
Commissioner Nurieth Galonsky, City of Brownsville  
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg  
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen  
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco  
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  
Mayor Rosa Perez, City of La Villa  
Mayor Pro-Tem Rene Pena, City of Sullivan City  
Mayor Pro-Tem Ruben Saldana , City of Mercedes  
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos  
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen  
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville  
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito  
Mr. Richard Sanchez, UTRGV  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake  
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District  
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large  
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large  
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

**Absent:**

Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County  
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna  
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan  
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

**Item #2** Consideration and ACTION to approve meeting Minutes April 29, 2026. **Pete Garcia made a motion to approve the April 29, 2026, meeting minutes. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

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

**Item #4: Administration**

**1.** Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION on approving Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritized Lists for FY 2026-2027 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Application. **Jim Darling made a motion to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritized Lists for FY 2026-2027 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Application. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

**2.** Presentation and ACTION to Accept Quarterly Investment Report. **Mayor Sepulveda made a motion to accept Quarterly Investment Report. Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

**3.** Consideration and ACTION to Set Date & Format for 2026 Nominating Committee Meeting. Mr. Cruz stated next month is election month for the board, and all sections will be meeting virtually. A tentative schedule has been prepared. The nominating committee, consisting of the executive committee, will need to meet to review the five Members-at-Large nominations and take action prior to the May Board meeting on May 27. Final action to accept the nominations will take place during the May meeting. To stay on schedule, the committee should meet during the first week of May, traditionally on a Thursday. The floor was then opened for recommendations on the meeting date, time, and format. After a discussion of working around the members schedule everyone agreed that May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, would be the day for the Nominating Committee. **Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve May 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm for the Nominating Committee to meet, Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

As a reminder, emails will be sent regarding the additional meetings for the various disciplines, including small cities, educational institutions, and medium cities. A schedule has already been prepared, and all meetings will be conducted virtually. These meetings are considered caucus meetings and will provide each group the opportunity to meet and discuss their respective board representation. For example, within the small cities category, approximately 22 cities participate, with three representatives appointed to serve on the board. Please keep an eye out for the upcoming meeting notices and virtual meeting information.

**B. Executive Director Report –**

**2. Introduction of New Staff.** Mr. Cruz introduced all new staff which were all in packet provided to board. Mr. Cruz The next item is an update and recognition of Mr. Javier Dominguez for his participation in the 2025–2026 Emerging Leaders Training Program sponsored by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Mr. Dominguez was selected for this prestigious program in September 2025 and has since participated in a series of on-site workshops and web-based trainings throughout the EDA Austin Regional Office service area, including Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The Emerging Leaders Program is designed to provide Economic Development District staff members with the leadership skills and professional development necessary to lead high-performing organizations and support future regional and community development efforts. The program also offers participants the opportunity to learn best practices from other Economic Development Districts and establish valuable peer

networks that continue beyond the completion of the program. Mr. Dominguez's participation was largely funded through NADO, and through his visits and training experiences, he has gained knowledge and insight that can be applied within this region. Many past participants of this program have gone on to serve in leadership positions at regional, state, and federal levels. Congratulations were extended to Mr. Dominguez for this achievement and professional accomplishment.

**3. Updates on regional News, Funding Opportunities, training and Legislation.** The next item is not as exciting, but I did want to provide the Board with a brief update. If you recall, I previously brought up the retirement of the EDA Regional Director, Mr. Jorge Ayala. Last month, I also presented a letter of support to the Board, and the direction from the Board were to distribute it to all the cities.

I did have a few cities reach out, and two or three copied me on correspondence they sent to federal representatives regarding this matter. However, as of last week, there has still been no response and no indication that the Austin office position will be backfilled.

Current indications suggest that the six EDA regional offices may be consolidated into three regions. What that means for Texas and the other four states in our current region is that we may no longer have a dedicated regional director to oversee and help spearhead EDA projects and applications submitted by our region.

As you know, this administration tends to centralize and closely manage these processes, and it appears that applications may now require approval at the Secretary of Commerce level before moving forward. That could potentially create additional challenges for regions like ours when submitting EDA applications.

We have done our due diligence by reaching out to various federal representatives. At this point, however, we have not received any feedback. I am not aware if any cities or counties have received responses either. So, at this time, there are no updates, and it appears likely that the position will not be backfilled and that the six regions will instead be consolidated into three. Where those regions will ultimately be located remain unknown at this time.

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

**Community & Economic Development** – Ms. Melisa Gonzales Rosas had no action items on the Agenda but did have a couple of announcements.

**Program Status Reports** - Following up on Manuel's update regarding EDA, although we may not currently have a regional director, there is still significant funding available through EDA for Public Works and Disaster Supplemental programs. They are encouraging regions to submit as many applications as possible. If your community is interested, please let us know so we can help tie your project into our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and provide letters of support.

The Texas Water Development Board also has several funding opportunities currently open, including SWIFT, FIF, Drinking Water, Clean Water, and Texas Water Foundation programs. If you are interested, please reach out to us. Ms. Queta Caballero, based in Harlingen, is available to help guide local stakeholders through the application process. Ms. Melisa Gonzales Rosas also wanted to provide a quick update on our SWIFFT food composting program. We will be conducting our first site visit to Mission ISD next Friday to see the project in action. Additionally, there is a QR code in front of you for our South Texas Clean Cities Coalition five-year plan survey. If you have a couple of minutes, we would greatly appreciate your feedback regarding alternative fuels.

I also want to congratulate the City of Alton for becoming the first city in our region to adopt our Regional Solid Waste Plan. Because of efforts like this, I've declared 2026 the "Year of the Plans" for our Community and Economic Development Department. We will be reaching out to counties and cities throughout the region to encourage adoption of our regional plans and strengthen stakeholder engagement.

Finally, I have been presenting our regional plans throughout the region and will also be presenting them to the RGV City Secretaries' Association on May 21st. If your organization would like a presentation on any of our regional plans, please feel free to reach out.

Mr. Cruz wanted to add something that Ms. Melisa Gonzalez-Rosas forgot to mention, I would also like to add an announcement that was missed earlier, and it is actually a congratulations. We were able to secure an additional \$50,000 for the broadband project we submitted through the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC). Ms. Melisa Gonzalez Rosas shared that although the original award was \$107,000, because Starr County was included in the regional effort, TARC expanded the project scope and requested that we develop a regional broadband plan for Webb, Zapata, and Jim Hogg counties as well. As a result, they are awarded an additional \$50,000 per year for the three-year project, bringing additional funding to support planning efforts in those counties.

Ms. Gonzalez Rosas also shared her excitement about the expansion of the project and the opportunity to work beyond our four-county region. This effort will allow the team to examine broadband connectivity needs all along the border, from Brownsville to Zapata County, and continue building stronger regional broadband infrastructure plans. She also noted that the department recently brought on a new planning staff member and will continue providing updates as the project progresses. As she mentioned earlier, 2026 is truly becoming the "Year of the Plans," and the department will continue emphasizing the importance of demonstrating that regional planning efforts are producing results.

Mr. Cruz also extended congratulations to the City of Brownsville for recently receiving broadband funding. Ms. Gonzalez Rosas added that there are currently two broadband funding awardees in the Valley. The City of Pharr received approximately \$4.3 million and plans to implement workforce training programs for fiber optic linemen. The City of Brownsville received approximately \$21.9 million to support broadband infrastructure expansion efforts. It's called the Texas Mile Project. Through this initiative, approximately 134 miles of broadband fiber optic infrastructure will be installed throughout Cameron County, including Brownsville and extending into Laguna Vista. This represents a major investment in expanding broadband connectivity across our region.

In addition, the City of Pharr will be focusing on workforce development by providing training programs for future fiber optic technicians and broadband workforce professionals from our region. This is an exciting opportunity because it not only improves infrastructure but also helps prepare local residents for careers in this growing industry.

Broadband expansion continues to be a major priority for our region, especially as we see more funding opportunities becoming available. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted just how essential broadband access is for education, business, healthcare, and daily life. One of the groups most impacted during that time was students, many of whom struggled to access online learning due to limited connectivity. That is why our regional goal remains ensuring that all communities have access to reliable broadband services. We will continue pursuing additional funding opportunities and advocating for projects that help close connectivity gaps throughout the region.

**Health and Human Services** – Ms. Lopez began by stating, that she had a couple of items for your consideration today. You should have all received a packet containing pre-read materials and draft documents. Hopefully, you have an opportunity to review them, but if not, I will be discussing those items today. I will be presenting three action items, as well as providing a brief overview of the Q2 report and how it relates to the findings from our community assessment, which we used in developing the draft area plan that was also included in your packet. Additionally, I will provide updates regarding several concerns and questions we have received over the past month from Board members.

**1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal year from 10/1/2026-09/30/2027. *Jim Darling made a motion to approve the contractor Solicitation timeline for Fiscal year from 10/1/2026-9/30/2027. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Ms. Lopez explains that, so when we refer to contractors, we are talking about fee-for-service providers. These are the contractors who complete projects such as building ramps or converting standard restrooms into ADA-accessible restrooms. These services are funded through Title III of the Older Americans Act, as amended, along with State General Revenue funds. That is the funding source used to support these activities.

**2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the timeline for the request for Proposals (RFP) to Solicit Operating plans for services for the fiscal year from 10/1/2026-09/30/2027. *Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the timeline for request for proposals (RFP) to Solicit Operating plans for services for the fiscal year 10/1/2026-9/30/2027. Mayor Pro-Tem Rene Pena seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

This action refers to services funded through Title III of the Older Americans Act, as amended, as well as State General Revenue (SGR) funds. Specifically, this pertains to subrecipients, which are the organizations that receive grant funding from us to provide these services within the community.

**3. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Preliminary Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Area Agency on Aging Area Plan FY 2027-2029-(DRAFT). *Jim darling made a motion to approve the Preliminary Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Area Agency on Aging area Plan FY 207-2029 (DRAFT).Troy Allen seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Now I'd like to refer you back to the Quarter 2 status report I submitted this month. This report included some zero entries, and I want to clarify that during January through March 2026, we actually saw a growing interest list, along with continued transportation gaps and an increased demand for caregiver support services. As you review the report, you'll notice narrative explanations for the months with zero expenditures, which were largely due to limited fund availability. As you are aware, we have been working over the past year to manage ongoing funding reductions as effectively as possible.

At this time, the Older Americans Act has not yet been reauthorized. However, in the most recent budget blueprint, our programs were not reduced, although some areas remain under consideration. Overall, Older Americans Act services are still included in the proposed funding structure.

When we look at the findings from Quarter 2, they are consistent with what we identified through our community assessment under Action Item 3, which informed the area plan draft submitted for your review.

**Program Status Reports** – This is still a preliminary draft of the Area Plan. The version you received reflects the input gathered through our focus groups, which included service providers and individuals directly involved in service delivery. We worked collaboratively to review and analyze the community data to ensure the plan was community-driven and representative of regional needs.

Due to current funding uncertainties with HHS, we are being conservative with projections and anticipate only a 2.5% to 5% increase in projected outcomes over the next three years. Final revisions and outcome projections will be added after all public comments are received and reviewed. The plan is currently open for public comment and is available on the LRGVDC website under the HHS tab. Public comments will close on May 23rd, final approval is scheduled for May 27th, and submission to HHS will take place on May 28th.

To gather information for the plan, we conducted bilingual surveys, roundtable discussions, and listening sessions throughout Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. Stakeholder participation was instrumental in shaping this community-driven plan. The top priorities identified by the community included in-home services, caregiver support, nutrition services, transportation, case management, and benefits counseling. We also identified a growing need related to mental health and social isolation, which is addressed under Goal 3 of the Area Plan.

Additionally, I want to provide an update regarding the Harlingen satellite office relocation. The decision was made to close the current location due to limited broadband access, transportation challenges, low walk-in utilization, and overall accessibility concerns for older adults. We are currently negotiating a new location in Harlingen that will offer better visibility, accessibility, and access to public transportation. In the meantime, all services remain fully operational, and communications have been provided to stakeholders and clients.

Lastly, regarding staffing updates, four staff members recently transitioned out of the organization. These departures included retirements and professional advancement opportunities. As an internship and practicum site for UTRGV's Schools of Health and Social Work, we actively support workforce development, and we are proud to see staff advance in their careers. These transitions also provide us with an opportunity to strategically realign duties and adjust our budget to better meet current service demands amid ongoing funding changes.

## **Public Safety**

**C.1.A. Emergency Services, Criminal Justice & Homeland Security** – Mr. Cesar Merla stated that he had four action items related to Criminal Justice. He requested permission to present all four items together and receive approval at the end. The Board agreed, and Mr. Merla proceeded with his Action Items.

- 1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Edward Bryne memorial justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program Resolution, Rankings, and conditionally approved amounts.**
- 2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) fund (SF) Fund program Resolution, Rankings and Conditionally approved grants.**
- 3. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Truancy Prevention and Intervention Juvenile Justice & Youth Diversion (TP) Resolution, Rankings, and Conditionally approved amounts.**
- 4. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory committee (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grand Program (VA) Resolution, Rankings, and Conditionally approved amounts.**
- 5. Consideration and ACTION to approve Criminal Justice Advisory committee (CJAC) recommendation for FY 2026-2027 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) Resolution, Rankings, and Conditionally approved amounts.**

***Pepe Cabeza de Vaca approved all Action items from 1-5 for Criminal Justice, Mayor Norma Sepulveda seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.***

**Program Status Reports** - For Criminal Justice funding, a total of 47 projects were approved today and are being recommended for funding, representing more than \$4 million in recommended allocations moving forward. At this point, we are awaiting final determinations from the federal Criminal Justice division before funding decisions are finalized.

**C.1.B. Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District** – Moving on to our 9-1-1 operations, as Mr. Cruz mentioned earlier, our Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) is fully operational and continues to provide valuable regional support.

I would like to highlight one major incident from this past month in March, when the MACC was deployed to the City of Elsa in response to an active gun situation. Multiple agencies coordinated efforts on-site, including Elsa Police Department, Weslaco Fire Department, additional law enforcement agencies, telecommunicators, and Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol Troopers. This incident demonstrated the value of the investment in the all-wheel-drive MACC unit, which allowed agencies to effectively coordinate operations, improve communication, and provide an added sense of security to the community during the incident.

Although our 9-1-1 staff may not always be visible in these operations, they played an essential role behind the scenes by supporting responders and ensuring communications remained operational throughout the event so emergency personnel could continue serving and protecting the community effectively.

Mr. Cruz also expressed his appreciation to the City of Weslaco for allowing the MACC unit to be housed at Fire Station No. 1 in one of the station's available bays. He specifically thanked the Commissioner, the Mayor, and the entire City Commission for providing the space and supporting the regional initiative. He concluded by again expressing his gratitude for the partnership and opportunity.

**C.2 LRGV Police Academy Program** – Mr. Javier Solis mentions that he only has 1 action item on the agenda today.

**1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Amendments to the LRGV Academy Adjunct Instructor Subcontractor Agreements for Special Instructional Services. *Rene Pena from Sullivan City made a motion to approve the Amendments to the LRGV Academy Adjunct Instructor Subcontractor Agreements for Special Instructional Services. Andres Chavez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Instructors will now be required to consent to a more comprehensive background investigation to ensure proper vetting of any past disciplinary incidents within their respective agencies.

Additionally, new language has been added to the contracts to provide the LRGV Academy with protections against potential conflicts of interest between subcontractors and their current agency employers. The updated contracts also include guidance regarding the new LRGV Academy Cadet Manual, instructor dress code requirements, deadlines for documentation and paperwork preparation, and an expanded subsection outlining conditions for contract termination by the LRGVDC.

These updates were included in your packets for review, and staff respectfully request the Board's consideration and approval of the amendments to the LRGV Academy adjunct instructor and subcontractor agreements for special instructional services.

**Program Status Reports** - We are currently conducting testing for both our upcoming Jailer Academy and Police Academy, including the upcoming Mission Police Academy. Several testing dates will be scheduled, and that information will be distributed soon.

We anticipate a very busy month and a half as we conduct entrance exams and begin selecting candidates for the upcoming academy classes. This will also mark the first time we offer the Jailer Academy, making it a new program and licensing course for the LRGV Academy.

One highlight I would like to share is that after achieving pass rates of 98%, 96%, and 98% over our last three academies, we have now returned to a 100% pass rate on the TCOLE licensing exam for our most recent academy class. For our monthly in-service training report, we conducted three courses, training a total of 32 officers and providing 736 contact hours.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Next item on Agenda.

**Valley Metro Transportation** Ms. Sandra Carrizales started off with her 3 action items on agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Resolution VM # 2026-08 Authorizing the LRGVDC Executive Director to execute a resolution appointing Dr, Sandra Carrizales, Interim Director for Valley Metro to the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve resolution VM # 2026-08 Authorizing the LRGVDC Executive Director to execute a resolution appointing Dr. Sandra Carrizales, Interim Director for Valley Metro to the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Board. Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the updated Section 5310 program management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro. ***Pete Garcia made a motion to approve the updated Section 5310 Program Management Plan for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Mayor rick Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and ACTION to approve revised LRGVDC regional Transit Service Department's Drug 7 Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in Compliance to FTA's Drug & Alcohol Compliance Auditing Program. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Drug & Alcohol- Free Workplace Policy in compliance to FTA's Drug & Alcohol Compliance Auditing Program. Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

**Program Status Reports** - Lastly, I have a few status report updates. This month, we experienced an overall ridership increase of 18.75%. We have seen continued increases over the past two months, including a 27% increase in ridership from UTRGV students and a 65% increase from STC students. These trends appear to align with fluctuating gas prices, and we are pleased to see increased utilization while continuing to ensure reliable transportation services throughout the region.

Our next update involves the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan. Stakeholder interviews are currently being conducted with KFH and will continue through the end of May. We anticipate receiving early themes and findings within the next four to six weeks.

Additionally, during the recent RTAP meeting, the committee reviewed and approved a bylaw amendment establishing updated attendance requirements. While many members participate virtually, the committee would like to encourage more in-person participation. The amendment now requires members to attend at least two of the six annual meetings in person.

Finally, this month we conducted seven planning outreach activities. We encourage all cities to share information about upcoming events so we can continue promoting and showcasing the transportation services available within your communities.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Next item on Agenda.

## **Rio Grande Valley MPO**

**Program Status Reports** - I would like to welcome Dr. Sandra Carrizales to our Policy Board and also take a moment to clarify roles to ensure transparency in how Section 5310 is administered in our region.

RGVMPO staff are here to support Valley Metro, with our role limited to planning and support functions. This includes outreach and coordination, providing technical assistance to applicants, managing the call for projects, and coordinating project evaluation through our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

These activities are authorized under the RGVMPO Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is a federally required planning and funding document. The UPWP has been approved by both the MPO Policy Board and our federal partners. If the Board has any questions regarding the call for projects or Subtask 3.5 of the FY 2026–2027 UPWP, our Transportation Manager, Rudy Zamora, is available to address any technical questions.

Nurith Golansky stated that she represents the City of Brownsville and asked whether the information provided would impact the action recently taken on the related item.

Claudia Salinas responded that it would not affect the prior action, as the information was provided for informational purposes only.

Mr. Cruz asked about the upcoming call for projects and whether an announcement regarding funding availability and amounts would be forthcoming.

Claudia Salinas responded that the funding is currently identified in the FY 2026–2027 UPWP. She added that the FY 2028–2029 UPWP is currently being updated in coordination with partners, incorporating ongoing data and communications, and further details will be provided as that process moves forward.

**Item #6 New & Unfinished Business** – Mr. Cruz mentions that Just to provide a brief recap, these items are promotional materials for RGV One District. As you know, this past month in April included Telecommunicators Week, and earlier in the week we had the opportunity to recognize and show appreciation for our telecommunicators.

Each year, we provide a small token of appreciation to our telecommunicators in recognition of the 24/7, year-round services they provide to our communities. They truly serve as the “first responders to the first responders,” and we are grateful for their dedication and commitment. While they did receive a slightly enhanced token of appreciation, it reflects the critical nature of their work in supporting emergency response efforts.

If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to visit your local telecommunicators or PSAP/9-1-1 centers to thank them for their service. Their role is vital and can often be the difference in life-or-death situations for our residents. or clarification, our district covers Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Cameron County operates under its own separate district.

**Item #7 Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm**

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

ATTEST:

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

**ITEM #3**

**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT**

# **ITEM #4.A**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Annual Election

Wednesday May 27, 2026

Discuss Recommendations for Annual Board Appointments ..... Chair

- A. Recommend Five (5) Citizen Members-at-Large to the LRGVDC General Membership **to be Elected by the General Membership** at its Annual Election Meeting Scheduled for May 27, 2026

\* *Excerpt from Bylaws, page 4, Article VI, REPRESENTATION, Section 2.*

*Citizen members-at-large shall be citizens of the region selected to represent special interest groups, economic and ethnic interests of the region, and the poor and underprivileged people. Five (5) members-at-large shall be elected by the General Membership at its Annual Election meeting; five (5) members-at-large shall be elected by the Board at its first meeting following the Annual Election meeting. Individuals shall be elected to serve a term of one (1) year.*

**Those now serving for the 2025/2026 term are:**

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr. Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Mr. David Pinoli	McAllen	Hidalgo
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

**Nominees for the 2026/2027 term:**

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr. Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Mr. David Penoli	McAllen	Hidalgo
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Andres Chavez	Ravmondville	Willacy

ACTION ITEM



**ITEM #4.B.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday , May 27, 2026

Item #4: Administration

Program Action Item

1. **RATIFICATION** of Executive Committee **ACTION** on the purchase of Dell Pro Laptops and Docking Stations utilizing Disaster Funding awarded as a result of the March 27, 2025 Harlingen Flood Event.

The Executive Committee, during its meeting of May 19, 2026, approved the purchase of 24 Dell Pro Laptops totaling \$37,060.56 and 24 Dell Pro Dock WD25Z totaling \$4,439.76, for a combined total investment of \$41,500.32, utilizing Disaster Funding awarded as a result of the March 27, 2025 Harlingen Flood. These laptops and docking stations will support daily program operations while also serving as a critical component of the department's emergency management efforts, enabling staff to work remotely and ensuring continuity of program service delivery during future disaster or emergency events.

## Marisol Vega

---

**From:** Margarita Lopez  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 4:57 PM  
**To:** Marisol Vega  
**Subject:** Fw: Texas Disaster Assistance Funding Follow-Up  
**Attachments:** Lower Rio Grande Valley AAA- HCBS Texas Disaster Assistance Budget\_OAAA Approved 12.9.25.xlsx

Please keep attachment and email reflecting approval for the PO process.

Best,

Margarita

Margarita Lopez, MSW, C.P.C  
Director II  
Health and Human Services  
Area Agency on Aging (Lower Rio Grande Valley)  
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
301 W. Railroad Street (Building D)  
Weslaco, Texas 78596  
956-682-3481 Ext. 158 Cell: 956-532-2689 Fax: 956-682-8852  
[www.lrgvdc.org](http://www.lrgvdc.org)



**From:** Cortez, Trina (HHSC) <Trina.Cortez@hhs.texas.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 10, 2025 12:57 PM  
**To:** Margarita Lopez <mlopez@lrgvdc.org>  
**Cc:** Crystal Balboa <cbalboa@lrgvdc.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Texas Disaster Assistance Funding Follow-Up

Good afternoon, Margarita,

OAAA reviewed and approved Lower Rio Grande Valley AAA HCBS budget. Please use the attached budget to request reimbursement. OAAA is working on the contract amendment and will issue the purchase order as well.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,  
Trina Cortez  
Program and Policy Manager  
Office of Area Agencies on Aging

Local Access & Support | Community Services  
Texas Health and Human Services Commission  
Work Cell: 210-542-8061  
Email: [trina.cortez@hhs.texas.gov](mailto:trina.cortez@hhs.texas.gov)

**Texas Disaster Assistance Budget  
LRGVC-Agency On Aging  
Budget Request Period: 7/06/2025 to 7/05/2026**

**Personnel**

Position Info	% of Effort	Monthly Salary	Monthly Longevity Enter \$0 if N/A	Monthly Benefit Replacement Pay (BRP) Enter \$0 if N/A	# of Months	Total
1. Title: Last, First Name: Position Activity Description:	0%	\$	-	-		\$ -
2. Title: Last, First Name: Position Activity Description:	0%	\$	-	-		\$ -
3. Title: Last, First Name: Position Activity Description:	0%	\$	-	-		\$ -
4. Title: Last, First Name: Position Activity Description:	0%	\$	-	-		\$ -
5. Title: Last, First Name: Position Activity Description:	0%	\$	-	-		\$ -
6. Title: Last, First Name: Position Activity Description:	0%	\$	-	-		\$ -

7.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
8.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
9.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
10.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
11.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
12.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
13.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									
Position Activity Description:									
14.		0%		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Title:									
Last, First Name:									



1. Travel description:			
Mileage:	1 trips x 1 persons x 0 miles r/t @ \$.70/mile	\$	-
Airfare:	# persons @ \$ r/t	\$	-
Ground Transportation:	# persons @ \$	\$	-
Lodging:	1 nights @ \$0/night x 1 persons x 1 trips	\$	-
Per Diem:	1 days @ \$0/day x 1 persons x 1 trips	\$	-
Travel Fees:	# persons @ \$12.00 x # trips	\$	-
Baggage Fees-determined by carrier:	# persons @ \$	\$	-

2. Travel description:			
Mileage:	1 trips x 1 persons x 0 miles r/t @ \$.70/mile	\$	-
Airfare:	# persons @ \$ r/t	\$	-
Ground Transportation:	# persons @ \$	\$	-
Lodging:	# nights @ \$ /night x # persons x # trips		
Per Diem:	# days @ \$ /day x # persons x # trips		
Travel Fees:	# persons @ \$12.00 x # trips	\$	-
Baggage Fees-determined by carrier:	# persons @ \$		

\$

**Out-of-State**

1. Travel description:			
Mileage:	# trips x # persons x # miles r/t @ \$.70/mile	\$	-
Airfare:	# persons @ \$ r/t	\$	-
Ground Transportation:	# persons @ \$	\$	-
Lodging:	# nights @ \$ /night x # persons x # trips	\$	-
Per Diem:	# days @ \$ /day x # persons x # trips	\$	-
Travel Fees:	# persons @ \$12.00 x # trips	\$	-
Baggage Fees-determined by carrier:	# persons @ \$	\$	-

2. Travel description:			
Mileage:	# trips x # persons x # miles r/t @ \$.70/mile	\$	-
Airfare:	# persons @ \$ r/t	\$	-

**Equipment**

\$41,520

Item Requested	Qty	Unit Cost	Amount
1. Dell Latitude 5540 Laptops	24	1,450.00	\$ 34,800.00
2. Dell Docking Stations	24	280.00	\$ 6,720.00
3.			\$ -
4.			\$ -
5.			\$ -
6.			\$ -
7.			\$ -
8.			\$ -
9.			\$ -
10.			\$ -

**Supplies**

\$25,590

Item Requested	Qty	Unit Cost	Amount
1. 4-drawer file cabinet	15	340.00	\$ 5,100.00
2. Mesh Work Stools	12	240.00	\$ 2,880.00
3. Video Sonic Monitors	24	219.00	\$ 5,256.00
4. Classic office L Desk	12	875.00	\$ 10,500.00
5. Halo vault ultima 2 (power bank)	12	150.00	\$ 1,800.00
6. Extension cords	6	9.00	\$ 54.00
7.			\$ -
8.			\$ -
9.			\$ -



A quote for your consideration.

To retrieve this eQuote online, log in to your [Dell Premier Page](#) and search for your eQuote number under “Quotes” in the top menu bar.

**Quote No.:** 3000202532889.1  
**Total (USD):** \$41,500.32  
**eQuote Name:** Admin Laptops  
**eQuote Creator:** flopez@lrgvdc.org  
**Quoted On:** May. 12, 2026  
**Expires By:** Jun. 11, 2026

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**Company Name:** LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEV  
**Customer Number:** 530015156496  
**Phone:** 9566823481  
**Premier Page Name:** Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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**Contract Name:** State of Texas Department of Information Resources  
**Contract Code:** C000001269299  
**Customer Agreement Number:** DIR-CPO-5792

**Billing Address:**  
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEV  
FINANCE LRGVDC  
301 W RAILROAD ST  
WESLACO , TX 78596-5104

### Pricing Summary

	Qty	Unit Price	Discounted Unit Price	Subtotal
<b>1. Dell Pro 16 Laptop</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$3,088.38</b>	<b>\$1,544.19</b>	<b>\$37,060.56</b>
Premier discount		- \$1,544.19		
<b>2. Dell Pro Dock - WD25Z</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>\$249.99</b>	<b>\$184.99</b>	<b>\$4,439.76</b>
Premier discount		- \$65.00		
			<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$41,500.32</b>
			<b>Shipping:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
			<b>Estimated Tax:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
			<b>Total (USD):</b>	<b>\$41,500.32</b>

**Shipping Address:**

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEV  
 Lopez Felipe  
 301 W Railroad St  
 Weslaco , TX 78596-5104

**Shipping Method:**

FREE Standard Delivery

**Product Details**

		Qty	Unit Price	Subtotal
1.	 <b>Dell Pro 16 Laptop (210-BQHB)</b> Order Code: bts106_pc16250_usrfs	24	\$1,544.19	\$37,060.56

Module	Description	Product Code	SKU	Qty
Base	Dell Pro 16 (PC16250) BTX Base	GMRAL5V	210-BQHB	1
Processor	Intel® Core™ Ultra 5 235U vPro® (12 TOPS NPU, 12 cores, up to 4.9 GHz)	G2TL6X0	379-BGGV	1
Operating System	Windows 11 Pro	G0VA5W2	619-BBQD	1
Chassis Options	Platinum silver color, metallic finish	GCUT2XY	354-BBKC	1
Memory	32 GB: 1 x 32 GB, DDR5, 5600 MT/s (5200 MT/s with Intel® Core™ processors)	GKQ3XWS	370-BDCV	1
Base Options	Integrated Intel® graphics for Intel® Core™ Ultra 5 235U vPro® processor	GYG3XD9	338-CSJP	1
Storage	512 GB, SSD	GZNG3WB	400-BSKR	1
Operating System	English, French, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese	GALH68M	619-BBPD	1
Language Pack				
Display	16", Non-Touch, FHD+, IPS, 300 nits, 45% NTSC, Anti-Glare, FHD+IR Cam	GYP1M78	391-BJXM	1
PalmRest	No Fingerprint Reader, vPro	G9LB12V	346-BLMP	1
Camera	FHD RGB HDR + IR Camera, 1080p at 30 fps, Presence Detection, TNR, Camera Shutter, Microphone	GVATBU9	319-BBKH	1
Keyboard	English US backlit Copilot key keyboard with numeric keypad	GG30EK	583-BMQF	1
Mouse	No Mouse	G8043UZ	570-AADK	1
Wireless Driver	Intel® AX211 WLAN Driver	G1TWDAU	555-BMFD	1
Wireless	Intel® Wi-Fi 6E AX211, Qualified against Bluetooth® Core 5.4 wireless Card	GTAQB25	555-BLLQ	1
Mobile Broadband	No Mobile Broadband Card	GR957IY	556-BBCD	1
Primary Battery	3-cell, 55 Wh, ExpressCharge™ Capable, ExpressCharge™ Boost Capable	GN0UXD5	451-BDKX	1
Power Supply	65W USB-C AC adapter	GA2KE8W	492-BDTG	1
Power Cord	E4 Power Cord 1M for US	GC90V4B	537-BBDO	1
Placemat	Quick Start Guide	G4FNJQC	340-DTVQ	1
Documentation	Documentation	GUX97AW	340-DNBV	1
ENERGY STAR	ENERGY STAR Qualified	G6J34SM	387-BBLW	1
FGA Module	PC16250_ARL_106/US/BTS	FG0011	998-HMLY	1
Shipping Material	Dell Pro 16 Min Packaging Type-C	GZ3DPB5	340-DTZR	1
Transportation from ODM to region	Smart Selection Shipment (S)	G7V9AUK	800-BBQI	1
EAN POD Label	POD Label	GAX83SM	389-EDJB	1
EPEAT	EPEAT Gold with Climate+	GBU8CHM	379-BDZB	1

Hard Drive Software	Intel® Rapid Storage Technology Driver	GQEKI2J	409-BCYT	1
Systems Management	Intel vPro Enterprise Management Enabled	G6015GA	631-BCDM	1
Processor Label	Intel® Core™ Ultra 5 vPro Processor Label	G2LX5CW	389-FJMH	1
ICPS	Intel® Connectivity Performance Suite	GJ9CG51	640-BBTF	1
Standard Hardware Support Service	3Y Basic Onsite Service after remote diagnosis with Hardware-Only Support	GSE8T3M	714-0169,714-0179,714-0313,975-3461	1
Windows AutoPilot	No AutoPilot	GYEO2AP	340-CKSZ	1
Microsoft Office	Activate Your Microsoft 365 For A 30 Day Trial	GHKU96A	630-ABBT	1
Non-Microsoft Application Software	Dell Additional Software - Dell Pro Laptop	G3PHAG2	658-BFVB	1
Home and Small Business Security: Identity and Anti-Virus	None	GD4K19S	650-AAAM	1
Operating System Recovery Options	OS-Windows Media Not Included	GLA9OQ1	620-AALW	1

		Qty	Unit Price	Subtotal
2.	<b>Dell Pro Dock - WD25Z (210-BTMQ)</b> Order Code: wd25zsap	24	\$184.99	\$4,439.76

Module	Description	Product Code	SKU	Qty
Dell Pro Dock WD25Z	Dell Pro Dock - WD25Z	G0UQ29Z	210-BTMQ	1
Service	3Y Basic Hardware Service with Advance Exchange after remote diagnosis	G076PDU	718-1628,718-1629	1

## Need Help?



We're here to answer any of your Order Support questions. [Contact Us.](#)

CONNECT WITH DELL:



## Terms of Sale

This Quote will, if Customer issues a purchase order for the quoted items that is accepted by Supplier, constitute a contract between the entity issuing this Quote ("Supplier") and the entity to whom this Quote was issued ("Customer"). Unless otherwise stated herein, pricing is valid for Fourteen days from the date of this Quote. All products, pricing, and other information are based on the latest information available and are subject to change for any reason, including but not limited to tariffs imposed by government authorities, shortages in materials or resources, increase in the cost of manufacturing or other factors beyond Supplier's reasonable control. If such changes occur, pricing may be adjusted or purchase orders may be cancelled by Supplier, even after an order has been placed. Supplier also reserves the right to cancel this Quote and Customer purchase orders arising from pricing errors and/or customer changes to Supplier's planned delivery date. Taxes and/or freight charges listed on this Quote are only estimates. The final amounts shall be stated on the relevant invoice. Additional freight charges will be applied if Customer requests expedited shipping. Please indicate any tax exemption status on your purchase order and send your tax exemption certificate to [Tax\\_Department@dell.com](mailto:Tax_Department@dell.com) or [ARSalesTax@emc.com](mailto:ARSalesTax@emc.com), as applicable.

**Governing Terms:** This Quote is subject to: (a) a separate written agreement between Customer or Customer's affiliate and Supplier or a Supplier's affiliate to the extent that it expressly applies to the products and/or services in this Quote or, to the extent there is no such agreement, to the applicable set of Dell's Terms of Sale (available at [www.dell.com/terms](http://www.dell.com/terms) or [www.dell.com/oemterms](http://www.dell.com/oemterms)), or for cloud/as-a-Service offerings, the applicable cloud terms of service (identified on the Offer Specific Terms referenced below); and (b) the terms referenced herein (collectively, the "Governing Terms"). Different Governing Terms may apply to different products and services on this Quote. The Governing Terms apply to the exclusion of all terms and conditions incorporated in or referred to in any documentation submitted by Customer to Supplier.

**Supplier Software Licenses and Services Descriptions:** Customer's use of any Supplier software is subject to the license terms accompanying the software, or in the absence of accompanying terms, the applicable terms posted on [www.Dell.com/eula](http://www.Dell.com/eula). Descriptions and terms for Supplier-branded standard services are stated at [www.dell.com/servicecontracts/global](http://www.dell.com/servicecontracts/global) or for certain infrastructure products at [www.dellemc.com/en-us/customer-services/product-warranty-and-service-descriptions.htm](http://www.dellemc.com/en-us/customer-services/product-warranty-and-service-descriptions.htm).

**Offer-Specific, Third Party and Program Specific Terms:** Customer's use of third-party software is subject to the license terms that accompany the software. Certain Supplier-branded and third-party products and services listed on this Quote are subject to additional, specific terms stated on [www.dell.com/offeringspecificterms](http://www.dell.com/offeringspecificterms) ("Offer Specific Terms").

**In case of Resale only:** Should Customer procure any products or services for resale, whether on standalone basis or as part of a solution, Customer shall include the applicable software license terms, services terms, and/or offer-specific terms in a written agreement with the end-user and provide written evidence of doing so upon receipt of request from Supplier.

**In case of Financing only:** If Customer intends to enter into a financing arrangement ("Financing Agreement") for the products and/or services on this Quote with Dell Financial Services LLC or other funding source pre-approved by Supplier ("FS"), Customer may issue its purchase order to Supplier or to FS. If issued to FS, Supplier will fulfill and invoice FS upon confirmation that: (a) FS intends to enter into a Financing Agreement with Customer for this order; and (b) FS agrees to procure these items from Supplier. Notwithstanding the Financing Agreement, Customer's use (and Customer's resale of and the end-user's use) of these items in the order is subject to the applicable governing agreement between Customer and Supplier, except that title shall transfer from Supplier to FS instead of to Customer. If FS notifies Supplier after shipment that Customer is no longer pursuing a Financing Agreement for these items, or if Customer fails to enter into such Financing Agreement within 120 days after shipment by Supplier, Customer shall promptly pay the Supplier invoice amounts directly to Supplier.

Customer represents that this transaction does not involve: (a) use of U.S. Government funds; (b) use by or resale to the U.S. Government; or (c) maintenance and support of the product(s) listed in this document within classified spaces. Customer further represents that this transaction does not require Supplier's compliance with any statute, regulation or information technology standard applicable to a U.S. Government procurement.

For certain products shipped to end users in California, a State Environmental Fee will be applied to Customer's invoice. Supplier encourages customers to dispose of electronic equipment properly.

Electronically linked terms and descriptions are available in hard copy upon request.

**ITEM #4.B**  
**ADMINISTRATION**  
**EXECUTIVE**  
**REPORT**

# **ADMINISTRATION**

## **NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS**

# New Hires

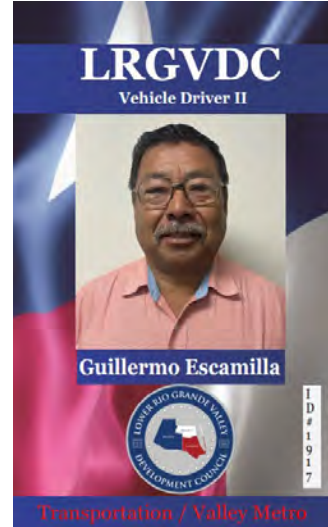
New Hire Start Date: April 27, 2026

Rodrigo Davilla  
Program Specialist II  
Community & Economic Development



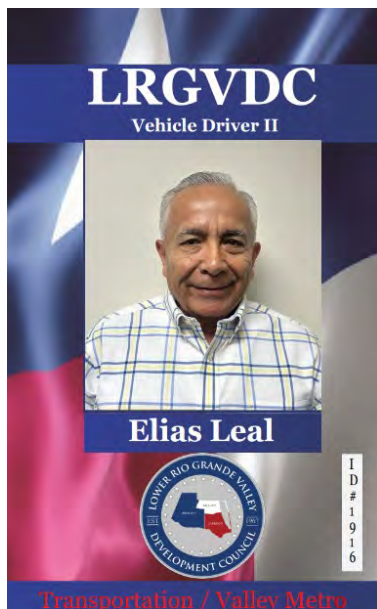
New Hire Start Date: May 11, 2026

Guillermo Escamilla  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation – Valley Metro



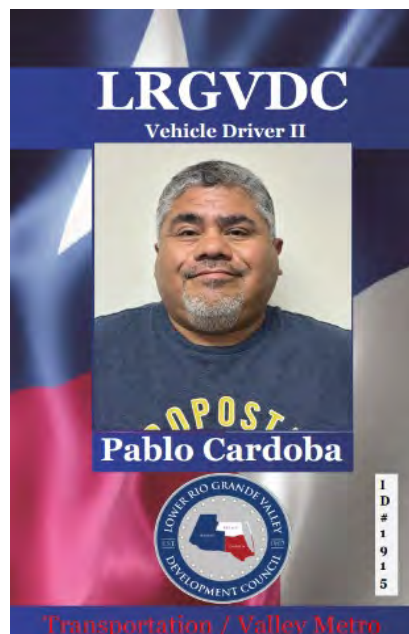
New Hire Start Date: May 11, 2026

Elias Leal  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation Valley Metro



New Hire Start Date: May 11, 2026

Pablo Cordoba  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation Valley Metro



# New Hires

New Hire Start Date: May 11, 2026

Margarita Atkins  
Program Specialist I  
Transportation - Valley Metro



**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Nomination of an Elected or Appointed Official of a Non-Entitlement Community to be Considered for Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner.

The Unified Scoring Committee (USC) is responsible for determining objective scoring factors for all regions in accordance with the requirements of this section and the current TxCDBG Action Plan. The USC must establish the numerical value of points assigned to each scoring factor as described in the Committee Guidelines provided by the department.

At the May 12, 2026, RSCC meeting, the committee recommended the following members for the following positions:

USC Representative: Ben Medina, City of Rio Hondo  
USC Alternate: Jared Hockema, City of Port Isabel

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- **Economic Development Administration**

The Community & Economic Development (C&ED) Director continues to deliver presentations on the Economic Recovery & Resiliency (ERR) Plan. On May 21, she presented the plan at both the City Secretary's Meeting and the 28th Annual LRGV Stormwater Conference. These presentations are part of an ongoing effort to inform regional stakeholders about the ERR Plan and other departmental planning documents, ensuring these resources remain at the forefront for stakeholders to reference and utilize. The intent is to encourage stakeholders to apply these plans when proposing projects, addressing community needs, and aligning efforts with broader regional priorities. During the presentations, the Director emphasized the significance of the LRGVDC's designation as an Economic Development District (EDD), noting how this status strengthens the region's ability to secure federal funding, support strategic planning, and advance initiatives that promote economic resilience, recovery, and long-term competitiveness across the Valley. The ERR Plan, along with other departmental plans, serves as a comprehensive framework and coordinated roadmap for addressing shared challenges, prioritizing regional investments, and ensuring that economic development efforts remain aligned, resilient, and responsive to the evolving needs of communities throughout the Valley.

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

The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (1) 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).

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

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

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

- **Texas Regional Broadband Program**

The Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) and the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) have established the Texas Regional Broadband Program (TRBP) to strengthen the capacity of COGs to lead regional broadband planning and digital opportunity initiatives. Through this partnership, TARC will provide funding that supports dedicated broadband staff for three years, enabling COGs to advance local planning, broadband expansion, and digital inclusion efforts. To support this work, Mr. Rigo Davila, Program Specialist, has now been hired and has begun coordinating initial tasks, including regional outreach, data gathering, and organizing foundational planning activities for the program. The TRBP's overarching goal is to build strong regional collaboration and long-term partnerships that position communities to secure funding, deploy broadband solutions, and address persistent digital access barriers in alignment with statewide priorities.

Additionally, the LRGVDC received supplemental funding to assist the South Texas Development Council in developing broadband and digital opportunity plans for Jim Hogg, Webb, and Zapata counties. Starr County is already included in the existing RGV Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan, supporting a unified regional approach to expanding digital connectivity across South Texas.

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

On May 12, 2026, the quarterly RSCC meeting was held. C&ED continues to its commitment to supporting small communities by providing resources, technical assistance, and strategic guidance that foster economic growth, build local capacity, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents. Texas Gas Service delivered the featured presentation, offering an overview of current building energy code considerations in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The RGV Building Codes Presentation highlighted how proposed updates to energy codes may affect customer energy choice, system reliability, and regional housing affordability. It also outlined Texas Gas Service's role in serving more than 64,000 customers across Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties and emphasized the company's support for energy codes that promote efficiency while preserving consumer access to natural gas options. Key focus areas included Customer Energy Choice, System Reliability, Housing Affordability Impacts, and State and National Code Developments. Overall, the presentation aimed to inform

regional stakeholders about the evolving energy code landscape and its implications for local development, housing, and long-term energy reliability in the Rio Grande Valley.

Staff recently reached out to all small cities to determine whether they have an existing strategic plan or capital improvement plan. Our goal is to identify potential funding opportunities that could assist these communities in developing such plans. In addition, once the gaps are fully assessed, we are considering preparing a grant application to help secure the necessary resources to support this effort.

The next RSCC meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2026, at the Ken Jones Board Room at 9:00 AM. All RSCC meeting information and GoToMeeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, or reach out to Brenda Salinas, [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org).

- **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

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

**Texas Department of Agriculture Funding Opportunities:  
Community Development Fund (2027-2028)**

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

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

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

- **Air Quality Program**

The Scope of Work (SOW) for FY26-27 funding was submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) by the required deadline. TCEQ has since returned the document with follow-up questions and comments. Staff and the consultant are now working collaboratively to address these items to ensure the SOW meets all program and compliance requirements. Once these revisions are finalized, staff will continue coordinating with the contractor, ALL4, to advance the project. Following TCEQ's approval of the SOW, the team will begin development of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which must also be submitted to TCEQ for approval before the project can formally proceed.

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

STC4 met on April 30, 2026, to review regional Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) survey results. Survey findings showed broad participation across South Texas, with the strongest input from Hidalgo and Nueces counties and a high presence of public agencies and educational institutions. However, AFV ownership and hands-on experience remain limited, and misconceptions persist regarding charging times, maintenance, and driving range. Respondents cited high purchase costs, limited fueling infrastructure, and concerns about battery lifespan as major barriers, while also indicating that educational resources—such as webinars, workshops, and short videos—would significantly influence adoption.

During discussions, participants emphasized ongoing regional challenges related to maintenance capacity, technician shortages, and inconsistent charging standards, noting strong alignment with national EV trends. Workforce development partnerships and prioritizing fleet operators were highlighted as essential strategies, particularly to support low-income communities that face greater affordability barriers. Stakeholders also raised concerns about the full AFV lifecycle, including battery disposal and grid reliability, and encouraged integrating sustainability and planning into long-term goals. Using the data collected, STC4 was asked to provide input by selecting one goal they believe is most feasible for inclusion in our 5-year strategic plan, based on the AFV survey results and accompanying presentation.

In addition, a survey was recently sent to STC4 for input on providing valuable data to support our efforts. With the information collected so far, we will be taking a step back to identifying the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) related to alternative fuels within your counties.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The first two contracts for the 2026–2027 Solid Waste Grant Program have been sent out to the City of Mission and City of Weslaco. Once the contract is executed, they will have one year to complete the project. As for the other two projects, they are scheduled to begin commencing on September 1, 2026. Project activities may officially begin once all contracts have been fully executed.

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

On May 5, 2026, Cameron County invited Ms. Melisa Gonzalez Rosas to their County Commission meeting following the county's adoption of the Tire Resolution. This action demonstrates the county's strong leadership and proactive dedication to advancing environmental and public health initiatives throughout the region. By adopting the resolution early, Cameron County sets a commendable example for neighboring counties and contributes meaningfully to broader regional efforts aimed at enhancing quality of life and promoting responsible environmental stewardship.

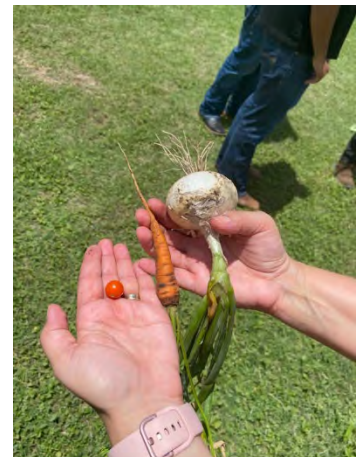
Staff continue to provide technical assistance, outreach, and monitoring for all Solid Waste Projects. Information about the Solid Waste program is available at [www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html](http://www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html).

- ***Solid Waste Infrastructure of Recycling (SWIFR) Program***

Under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, the CED Department went to Mission ISD high school to see the progress of this project.

The students showed tremendous passion for the SWIFR program. They understand that diverting food scraps from the landfill directly benefits their gardens. They are deeply engaged in observing how the worms break down compost and transform it into rich, usable soil. This hands-on experience has allowed them to see real results in their school garden and climate specific growing practices to produce food that includes tomatoes, carrots, parsley, basil, and green onions, in addition to growing native plants. Their excitement and curiosity continue to grow as they witness the full cycle of composting and cultivation in action.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Mission ISD educators and students, Mayor Norie Garza from Mission, our Executive Director Mr. Manuel Cruz, and Allen Williams from Region One Service Center for taking the time to witness the results of their hard work on this project.







- **Water Quality Program**

Throughout May 2026, staff continued to advance water quality outreach and public education by actively participating in both community and regional events. These efforts are centered on promoting pollution prevention, reducing litter, encouraging proper recycling habits, and fostering broader environmental stewardship. Staff engaged directly with residents across the Lower Rio Grande Valley, distributing educational materials and reinforcing the importance of protecting local water resources.

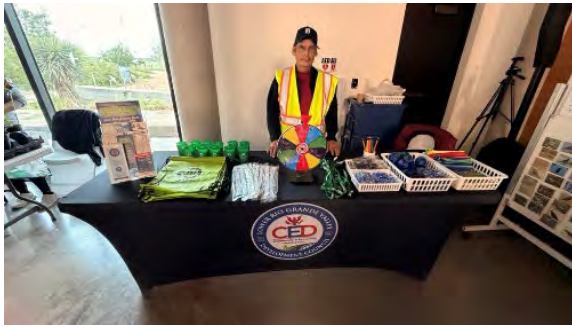
**Outreach Events Attended – May 2026**

- **Market Day – Laguna Vista (May 2, 2026)**

**Location:** South Texas Ecotourism Center, 501 W. Highway 100, Laguna Vista, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in Market Day hosted by the South Texas Ecotourism Center in Laguna Vista. The community event featured native plant sales, fresh produce vendors, live music, educational booths, and environmental outreach opportunities. Outreach staff engaged with residents and visitors by sharing information related to environmental awareness, sustainability, water conservation, and regional community resources while supporting local vendors and educational initiatives.





- Hurricane Preparedness Workshop – Pharr (May 5, 2026)**  
**Location:** Jose “Pepe” Salinas Recreation Center, 1011 W. Kelly Ave., Pharr, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator attended the City of Pharr Hurricane Preparedness Workshop focused on educating Rio Grande Valley residents and businesses on emergency preparedness and disaster response. The event featured presentations from meteorologists, emergency management officials, and community leaders covering hurricane planning, emergency response strategies, and recovery resources. Outreach efforts supported public awareness on preparedness, safety, and resilience ahead of hurricane season.



- Arroyo Colorado Watershed Demonstration - Monte Alto Elementary (May 6, 2026)**  
**Location:** 25149 1st St, Monte Alto, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator and Program Specialist I – Water Quality joined the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator for a presentation and hands-on demonstration of water quality, watershed flow patterns, and environmental pollution with students at Monte Alto Elementary.





- **Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership Meeting - Weslaco (May 12, 2026)**  
**Location:** 3301 S International Blvd FM 1015, Weslaco, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator and Program Specialist I – Water Quality joined the Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator for a presentation and community discussion with local residents about ongoing projects with the Arroyo Colorado. Community members and irrigation & drainage district representatives discussed topics of watersheds in classrooms, detention ponds, current water infrastructure projects, alternative water sources, and data center developments in the Rio Grande Valley.

- **4th Annual Mind Matters Health Fair – Pharr (May 15, 2026)**

**Location:** Pharr One – French Garden, 1121 E. Nolana Loop, Pharr, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the 4th Annual Mind Matters Health Fair hosted by the Pharr Police Department Mental Health Unit in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. The event promoted mental wellness, community support, and access to local services through informational booths, family activities, and community engagement opportunities. Outreach staff shared educational materials and resources while supporting awareness efforts focused on healthy and connected communities.

- **McAllen Public Works Block Party – McAllen (May 16, 2026)** **Location:** 4201 N. Bentsen Rd., McAllen, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the McAllen Public Works Block Party in celebration of Public Works Week. The free community event featured educational booths, equipment displays, giveaways, food, and family-friendly activities designed to educate residents about public works operations and environmental services. Outreach efforts focused on promoting water quality, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.



- **Huskies Career Fair – Alamo (May 18, 2026)**

**Location:** Marcia R. Garza Elementary School, 810 E. El Gato Rd., Alamo, TX

The C&ED Water Specialist delivered a presentation to students highlighting the wide range of career opportunities available within the STEM field. The session aimed to inspire interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by providing real-world examples of how STEM professionals contribute to water quality management, environmental protection, and community resilience. Through this outreach, students gained insight into potential career pathways, the educational preparation required, and the critical role STEM careers play in supporting sustainable community development.

In addition, the C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the event and provided students with the opportunity to learn about careers, education pathways, and community professions through interactive engagement with local organizations and professionals. Outreach staff shared information regarding community outreach services, environmental awareness, and public sector career opportunities to help inspire and educate students about future career paths.

- **Touch-A-Truck – Weslaco (May 19, 2026)**

**Location:** Weslaco City Hall Parking Lot, 255 S. Kansas Ave.,  
Weslaco, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the City of Weslaco Touch-A-Truck event celebrating Public Works Week. Families and children had the opportunity to explore heavy equipment and public service vehicles while learning about the importance of public works services in the community. Outreach staff provided educational information related to water quality, solid waste awareness, and environmental responsibility while engaging with residents and local families.

- **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Stormwater Conference – South Padre Island (May 20-22, 2026)**

**Location:** 310 Padre Blvd. South Padre Island, TX

The Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Management Task Force is hosting their annual conference to bring together leaders, stakeholders, and municipalities all across the Rio Grande Valley to educate and improve how cities and civil engineers plan for stormwater management. The C&ED Water Specialist – Water Quality will be representing at the High School Track to connect with students about engineering and environmental science career pathways in the Rio Grande Valley.

- **4th Annual Fun Run & Health Fair – Lyford (May 23, 2026)**

**Location:** Lyford High School, Lyford, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the 4th Annual Fun Run & Health Fair hosted by Lyford CISD. The community event promoted physical wellness, healthy lifestyles, and public health awareness through informational booths, wellness activities, and community participation. Outreach efforts included sharing educational materials and connecting residents with environmental and community resources while supporting regional health initiatives.

- **Mental Health Fair/Walk – Brownsville (May 28, 2026)**

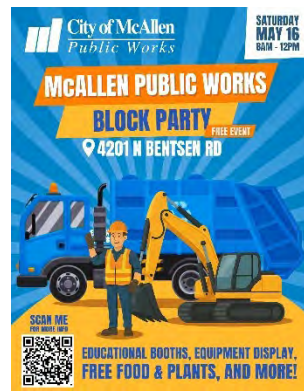
**Location:** Brownsville Events Center, 1 Event Drive, Brownsville, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the Mental Health Fair/Walk in Brownsville in support of Mental Health Awareness Month. The event focused on promoting hope, healing, wellness, and community support through mental health screenings, wellness activities, educational resources, and family engagement opportunities. Outreach staff supported community awareness efforts and provided educational information related to public health and community resources.

- **Mental Health Awareness Community Event – Harlingen (May 29, 2026)**

**Location:** 103 N. Loop 499, Harlingen, TX

The C&ED Outreach Coordinator participated in the Tropical Texas Behavioral Health community event promoting Mental Health Awareness Month. The family-friendly event featured games, arts and crafts, music, health fair activities, and educational outreach designed to encourage positive mental health awareness and community engagement. Outreach staff connected residents with available community resources and promoted public awareness initiatives.



• **Outreach Planning and Coordination Activities**

In addition to event participation, C&ED staff dedicated time throughout May 2026 to outreach coordination and preparation activities, including communicating with regional partners, schools, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and local jurisdictions, confirming participation in upcoming community events, preparing and organizing educational materials, and maintaining outreach supplies and informational resources. These activities support continued public education efforts related to water quality protection, floodwater safety, litter prevention, recycling awareness, emergency preparedness, mental health awareness, and environmental stewardship throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV). These initiatives strengthen partnerships and generate additional outreach opportunities that highlight the importance of protecting community health, safety, and environmental resources across the region. In addition, staff continued regular communication and coordination with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding regional environmental and water quality initiatives.

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

Community & Economic Development  
May 3 at 8:00 AM

May is National Drinking Water Week!  
Safe drinking water is essential to our health, environment, and community. Let's work together to protect, conserve, and value every drop. See less

**May NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK**  
MARCH 3-9, 2026

**WATER IS ESSENTIAL.**  
From our homes to our workplaces, schools, and businesses, reliable drinking water supports every part of our daily lives. Let's value it. Protect it. Conserve it.

- APPRECIATE**  
Tap water is one of the most regulated and tested in the world. Be thankful for the quality you count on every day.
- PROTECT**  
Our water sources need our care. Properly dispose of waste and keep pollutants out of drains and streams.
- CONSERVE**  
Small actions make a big difference. Use water wisely and help ensure there's enough for everyone, every day.
- COMMUNITY**  
Strong communities start with safe, reliable water. Together, we can build a sustainable future.

**WATER connects us all.**  
THANK YOU to the water professionals who work around the clock to deliver clean, safe drinking water to our community.

**LEARN MORE.**  
Get tips, resources, and event information in your community and celebrate with us!  
[www.awwa.org/drinktap](http://www.awwa.org/drinktap)

SAFE WATER TODAY. SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW. EVERY DROP COUNTS.

Community & Economic Development  
May 11 at 8:00 AM

Floodwater is more dangerous than it looks. Never drive through flooded roads—just 12 inches of moving water can carry away a vehicle. Floodwater may contain harmful bacteria... See more

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS FLOODWATER SAFETY**  
DON'T RISK IT. DON'T DRIVE IT.

**DON'T DRIVE THROUGH FLOODWATER.**  
IT'S NOT JUST WATER. IT'S CONTAMINATED AND DANGEROUS.

**WHAT'S IN FLOODWATER?**  
Floodwater can look harmless, but it may contain hidden dangers you can't see.

- BACTERIA & GERMS**  
Floodwater can carry bacteria, viruses, and sewage from overflowing sewer drains, septic systems, and wastewater facilities that can cause serious illness.
- DEBRIS & HAZARDS**  
Hides debris like tires, shards, metal, glass, and damaged power lines can damage your vehicle and put your life in danger.

**JUST 12 INCHES OF MOVING WATER CAN:**  
Carry away most cars, trucks, and SUVs.  
Knock you off your feet and sweep you away.  
Hide dangers you can't see.

**WHEN IN DOUBT, TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN.**

**PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR COMMUNITY**

- PLAN AHEAD**  
Know your evacuation routes and have an emergency plan.
- STAY INFORMED**  
Monitor local weather alerts and follow official instructions.
- AVOID FLOODWATER**  
Stay away from flooded roads, even if they look shallow.
- WASH UP**  
Only drink treated tap water. When in doubt, throw it out!
- SAFE WATER**  
If you've been in contact with floodwater, wash with soap and clean water as soon as possible.

**BE PREPARED. BE SAFE. STAY INFORMED.**

**Remember:**  
Never drive through floodwater.  
Protect your health.  
Protect your community.

**For more information:**  
[www.tceq.texas.gov](http://www.tceq.texas.gov)  
Ready.gov  
Local emergency management office

**YOUR SAFETY TODAY. A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOMORROW.**

Community & Economic Development  
May 18 at 8:00 AM

Old tires can become NEW opportunities!  
This May, let's work together to keep our communities cleaner, safer, and healthier by promoting innovative tire reuse and recycling. From garden planters and playground equipment to road construction and erosion control, recycled tires can have a second life that benefits everyone.

Improperly discarded tires can collect standing water, attract mosquitoes, create fire hazards, and harm our environment. Small actions today can help protect future generations tomorrow.

- Reuse old tires creatively.
- Recycle tires responsibly.
- Help reduce mosquito breeding.
- Keep our neighborhoods clean.

Together, we can turn waste into possibilities!

#TireReuse #TireRecycling #KeepOurCommunitiesClean #EnvironmentalAwareness #MosquitoPrevention #Sustainability #LRGVDC #CED #CleanCommunities #ProtectOurEnvironment See less

**MAY INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR TIRES REUSE & RECYCLING**  
Turn Old Tires into New Possibilities!

**KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES CLEAN** **REDUCE MOSQUITO BREEDING** **PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

**DISCARDED TIRES CAN:**  
Collect standing water and attract mosquitoes.  
Create fire hazards.  
Attract the mosquitoes whose changed biology.

**CREATIVE WAYS TO REUSE OLD TIRES**

- GARDEN PLANTERS**  
Use tires to create colorful flower beds or vegetable gardens.
- PLAYGROUNDS & OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT**  
Use tires to create fun, durable playground equipment and play areas.
- OUTDOOR FURNITURE**  
Create benches, tables, and compost bins.
- EROSION CONTROL**  
Recycled tire materials can be used for erosion control and landscaping.
- RUBBER SURFACES**  
Old tires can be transformed into playground safety mats, dog runs, and more.
- ROAD CONSTRUCTION**  
Old tires can be used to make high-quality, long-lasting road materials.

**WHY RECYCLE TIRES?**  
Reduce landfill waste.  
Prevent mosquito breeding.  
Eliminate fire hazards.  
Support clean communities.  
Improve sustainability and innovation.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**  
Dispose of tires properly.  
Participate in local cleanup events.  
Reuse tires creatively at home.  
Support tire recycling programs.  
Educate others about responsible disposal.

**SMALL ACTIONS CREATE A BIG CHANGE**

**REUSE TODAY FOR A CLEANER TOMORROW**

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

Staff continue to distribute TWDB newsletters to regional stakeholders to ensure they remain informed about upcoming funding opportunities. This ongoing outreach helps communities stay aware of available resources, important program updates, and potential avenues for pursuing financial support for local projects. By proactively sharing this information, staff aim to strengthen regional capacity and encourage timely participation in state and federal funding initiatives.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Mrs. Melisa Gonzales-Rosas, or Ms. Enriqueta Caballero, TWDB Outreach Specialist and Program Administrator, at [enriqueta.caballero@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:enriqueta.caballero@twdb.texas.gov) or by phone at 512-435-9071.

**💡 TWDB Funding Opportunities:**

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

The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2026, at 2:00 PM, with an in-person and virtual option. All RWRAC meeting information and GoToMeeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, or reach out to Sydney Ribera, [sribera@lrgvdc.org](mailto:sribera@lrgvdc.org).

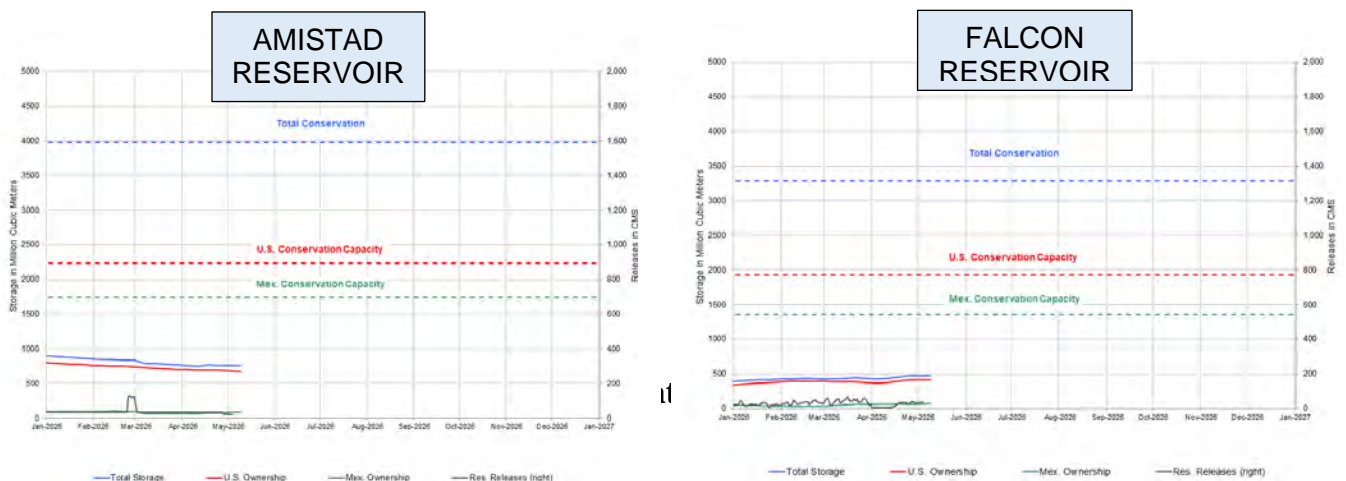
Information about water resources is available at, <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

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

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

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

- Reservoir Levels as of May 15, 2026 (www.IBWC.gov).



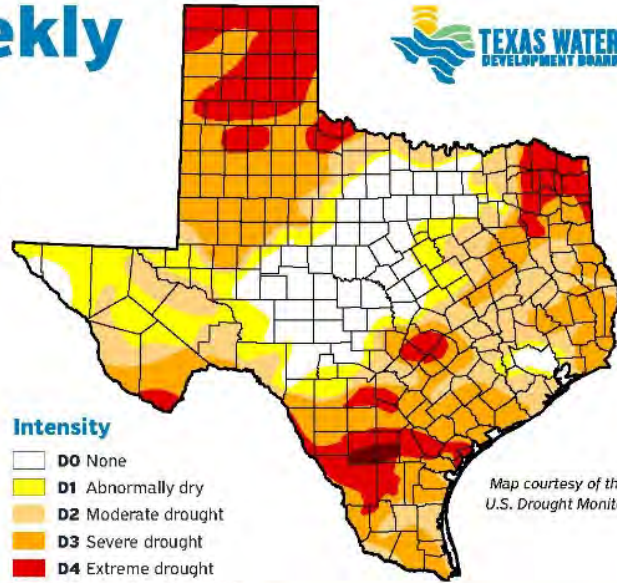
# Water Weekly

For the week of **05/11/26**



## Water conditions

The latest map for conditions as of May 5 shows the fifth consecutive weekly decrease in drought area across the state—and this most recent weekly decline was the largest of the five. Drought area in the state has dropped to its lowest value in three months.



Map courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor

## Drought conditions

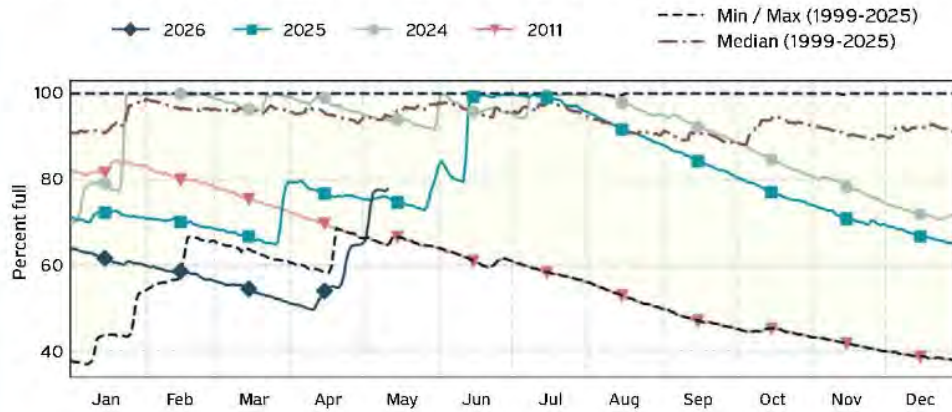
- 69%** now
- 75%** a week ago
- 69%** three months ago
- 46%** a year ago

## Intensity

- D0** None
- D1** Abnormally dry
- D2** Moderate drought
- D3** Severe drought
- D4** Extreme drought
- D5** Exceptional drought

## Lake Texana storage

Since mid-February 2026, Lake Texana held record low volumes for the time of year. Thankfully, since mid-April, volume increased by almost 30 percentage points. That still leaves this important South Texas water supply about 16 percentage points below normal for this time of year.



TWDB chart

By Dr. Mark Wentzel, Hydrologist, Office of Water Science and Conservation  
 Jonathan Mathers, Government Relations | [Jonathan.Mathers@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:Jonathan.Mathers@twdb.texas.gov) | 512-463-7848  
 Media Relations | [MediaRelations@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:MediaRelations@twdb.texas.gov) | 512-463-5129

[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)



**ITEM # 5. B.**

**HEALTH &  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Final Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Plan FFY 2027-2029 following the conclusion of the public comment period and incorporation of any edits received.

The Area Agency on Aging conducted a public comment period providing stakeholders and community members the opportunity to submit feedback on the Area Plan. The public comment period has since closed, and all comments received have been reviewed and incorporated as applicable. The Area Agency on Aging recommends approval of the final Area Plan as amended.

\*For your reference, the Final Area Plan for the Area Agency on Aging was shared through a link included in the packet distributed previously.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday May 27, 2026

**⚠ CRITICAL PROGRAM UPDATE**

**Money Follows the Person (MFP) Grant — Federal Budget Cuts**

**Effective No Later Than May 31, 2026**

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On May 7, 2026, the ADRC received formal notification from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has required budget cuts to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant year 2026 funding. As a result, HHSC has directed that certain MFP-funded activities be discontinued effective no later than May 31, 2026. The following two programs are directly impacted and must be closed out:

- **Housing Navigator Program** — Financial Impact: \$40,401
- **Local Contact Agency (LCA) Project** — Financial Impact: \$13,637

**Total Funding Reduction: \$54,038**

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Upon receiving this notification, the ADRC moved swiftly to develop and implement a program closeout plan in compliance with HHSC directives. Alternative funding sources and community resources have been identified to ensure continued support to the individuals and families previously served under these programs. It is important to note that this closeout has resulted in no employee reductions.

The ADRC remains committed to its mission and will continue to provide services and support to the community through all available funding streams and partnerships.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday May 27, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

**B. Health & Human Services**

**Area Agency on Aging Program Status Report**

The following document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's report for April 2026.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report –Care Coordination April 2026**
  - The Care Coordination Program served a total of 43 new clients.
  - A total of 918.51 hours of case management assistance was provided.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Hours Provided</b>
<b>Care Coordination Services</b>	43	918.54
<b>Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	8	5,606.94
<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Units Provided</b>
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	27	29
<b>Transportation Services</b> Assistance with transportation services to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.	1	2
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	30	30

- **Caregiver Support Services April 2026**

- The Caregiver Coordination Program served a total of 16 new clients.
- A total of 351.71 hours of case management assistance was provided.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Hours Provided</b>
<b>Caregiver Support Coordination Services</b>	16	351.71
<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.	37	1,763
<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Units Provided</b>
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	22	24

- **Community Development Block Grant April 2026**

- The CDBG Program serviced a total of 39 new clients.
- A total of 35 individuals were assisted with health maintenance services under the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- A total of 805.09 hours of Homemaker Services was provided.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Units Provided</b>
<b>Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	35	35
<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Hours Provided</b>
<b>Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	4	805.09

- **Interest List April 2026**

- As of April 2026, 398 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>	
Care Coordination Services	398
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>398</b>

- **Nutrition Program Report: April 2026**

- The program successfully enrolled 88 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program and delivered 20,843 meals.
- Successfully enrolled 83 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Successfully served 33,763 Congregate meals.

<b>Home Delivered Meals</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Amigos Del Valle	88	20,843
<b>Congregate Meals</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Amigos Del Valle	71	12,794
Bright Nutrition	12	20,969

- Senior Center Operations Report – April 2026
- Program successfully 56 enrolled new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 14,074 activities with their clients.

	<b>Senior Center Operations</b>	
<b>Site</b>	<b>New Clients</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Los Fresnos	5	2,681
Primera	0	721
Mission Housing Authority	0	218
WellMed Charitable Foundation	51	10454
Total(s)	56	14,074

**Special Services Report**

- **Benefit Counselors Program – April 2026**
- For the month of April, the Benefits Counseling Program provided support through individualized one-on-one assistance and outreach efforts. During this period, a total of 160 clients were served, including 129 new clients.

<b>Benefit Counselors</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
HICAP Awareness	20	20
HICAP Assistance	33	41
MIPPA	32	44
Legal Awareness	0	0
Legal Assistance	44	55

\***HICAP:** Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program  
 \***MIPPA:** Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act

- Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – April 2026
  - The program is currently navigating a staffing transition that has temporarily interrupted data collection and reporting activities. In response, leadership has moved swiftly to initiate the recruitment process, positions have been posted and interviews are scheduled for the coming weeks. Upon hiring, new staff will complete the required hospital-based training and credentialing process before fully resuming program activities. The program remains committed to restoring full-service delivery and reporting capacity as efficiently as possible.
- **Ombudsman Program Report – April 2026**
  - The Ombudsman handled 14 complaints.
  - They dedicated 184.22 activity hours and recorded 166 activity totals.
  - The volunteers collectively contributed 11 in-kind hours.

<b>Ombudsman</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Total Activity Hours</b>	<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>Total Investigated Complaints</b>
<b>April 2026</b>	11	184.22	166	14

**Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – April 2026**
  - The intake team had a total of 413 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
  - Engaged with 269 individuals, 261 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 8 individuals were 59 years of age and below, 266 are individuals with a disability and 9 are veterans.

<b>IR&amp;A Interactions</b>			
1-800 AAA	15	Walk-ins	6
1-855 ADRC	20	E-mails	56
(956) 682-3481	128	Fax	2
(956) 412-0958	42	Follow ups	144
<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>413</b>		
<b>Consumer Age Group</b>			
<b>Consumers 60+</b>		<b>261</b>	
<b>Consumer 59 and below</b>		<b>8</b>	
<b>Total Consumers</b>		<b>269</b>	

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	266
Veterans	9
<b>Top Call Topics</b>	
Health Maintenance	44
Homemaker Services	66
Benefits Counseling	85
Respite Services	44
Residential Repairs	19

- **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – April 2026**

- The program is currently navigating a staffing transition that has temporarily interrupted data collection and reporting activities. Leadership has moved swiftly to initiate recruitment, positions have been posted and interviews are scheduled for the coming weeks. Given the specialized qualifications required for this role, including a bachelor's degree and preferred bilingual capacity, the selection process is necessarily thorough to ensure candidates meet the program's standards. Once hired, new staff will undergo a structured training and onboarding process before resuming full program responsibilities. The program remains committed to restoring full-service delivery and reporting capacity in a timely and effective manner.

- **ADRC Respite Care Services – April 2026**

- Following the purchase and distribution of emergency caregiver packets, the program identified additional available funding. In response, the program is currently in the process of procuring fans for community distribution in preparation for the upcoming summer months. The program remains committed to meeting the practical needs of caregivers and the individuals they serve.

- **ADRC Benefits Counseling Report – April 2026**

- The program is currently engaged in a strategic reassessment of existing funding streams and their allowable to ensure service delivery is appropriately aligned with available resources. During this realignment period, data collection and reporting activities were temporarily impacted. Leadership is actively working through this process and anticipates providing updates and reportable data in the upcoming reporting period. The program remains committed to transparency and to delivering services that reflect the intent and requirements of all funding sources

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – April 2026**

- In 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services notified the Texas Health and Human Services Commission of required budget cuts to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant year 2026 funding. As a result, HHSC moved to discontinue certain MFP-funded activities, specifically requiring that the ADRC Housing Navigator and Local Contact Agency projects end no later than May 31, 2026.

The discontinuation of these projects represents a combined funding loss of \$54,038. \$40,401 under the Housing Navigator project and \$13,637 under the Local Contact Agency project. While the amounts reflect a portion of the overall program budget, the impact to the community is significant, as these funds directly supported efforts to transition individuals from institutional settings into community-based living.

In response, the program developed and is actively executing a structured closeout plan in full compliance with HHSC guidance and timelines. No staff terminations were necessary. The Housing Navigator position is being reclassified to align with ADRC funding, ensuring the employee continues to contribute to the program and that community support remains uninterrupted where possible. The program remains committed to supporting Texans in accessing long-term services and support in community settings.

<b>Housing Intakes Total</b>	
Total Consumers Assisted	3
<b>Outreach Consumer Interactions</b>	
Consumer Interactions	51
<b>Outreach Consumer Interactions – Demographics</b>	
Veterans	1
Consumer is a Caregiver	2

**ITEM # 5. C.**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

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

**EMERGENCY  
SERVICES  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE &  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

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

**Wednesday, May 27, 2026**

**Item #5: Department Reports**

**C. Public Safety- Criminal Justice & Homeland Security**

**Criminal Justice Program**

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Executive Meeting Virtual on May 4, 2026.
- Staff participated in the RGV Public Safety and Emergency Communication Conference Coordination Meeting on May 6, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, Tx.

**Homeland Security Program**

- Staff members participated in the webinar on May 7, 2026, Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO) Local Government Monthly Roundtable.
- Staff members participated in the webinar on May 7, 2026, Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) Beyond the Headlines.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee Meeting (HSAC) on May 7, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on May 13, 2026, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) eLearning: Prepared, Connected, Protected: Emergency Resources for Older Americans.
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on May 13, 2026, for the Rio Grande Valley Hospital Preparedness Program.
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on May 14, 2026, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Homeland Security staff member participated in meeting on May 4, 2026, on the Emergency Management Coordinator Cameron County.
- Staff participated in the webinar on May 15 and May 18 for the Intro to eGrants Training from the Public Safety Office (PSO) in Austin, Tx
- Staff member presented Emergency Preparedness information during a TARC eLearning virtual session-Tools That Protect: Helping Older Adults Stay Alert and Safe on May 18, 2026
- Staff attended the 16th Annual RGV Emergency Management Partners Hurricane Workshop hosted by the National Weather Service-Brownsville on May 20, 2026
- Staff attended the City of Brownsville "One City information and All-Hazards Preparedness Fair" on May 21, 2026, at Brownsville Event Center.
- Staff attended Cameron County Hurricane Preparedness Kickoff on May 22, 2026, Brownsville Event Center.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

## Item #5: Department Reports

### C. Public Safety

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

- 9-1-1 | Geographic Information System (GIS) Division

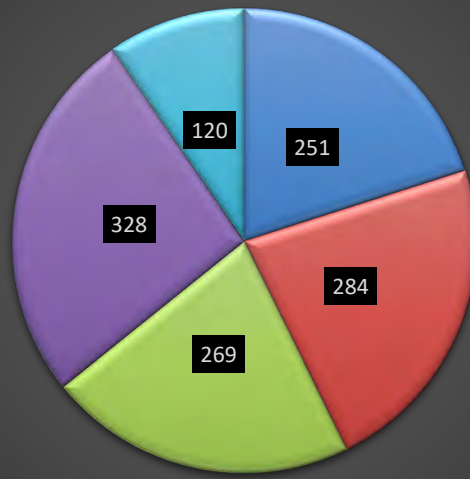
The GIS Division has continued to expand its capabilities and support regional 9-1-1 operations. GIS Specialist Jacob Salinas completed key components of the Intrado Spatial Command and Control (SCC) Mapping Project through close collaboration with the IT Division and project partners. This work helped streamline the integration of regional GIS data into the updated mapping platform utilized by PSAPs, supporting more accurate, consistent, and effective mapping resources for 9-1-1 call takers across the region.

On May 8, the GIS Division met with representatives from the newly created Emergency Services District (ESD) 5 and ESD 6 to coordinate updates to the District's 9-1-1 GIS data for their respective coverage areas. Emergency Services Districts are special-purpose local government entities in Texas that support emergency services in areas such as rural, unincorporated, and fast-growing communities where full city-based fire or EMS coverage may not be available. These districts play an important role in strengthening public safety infrastructure by supporting fire protection, emergency medical services, rescue operations, first responder services, and related emergency response programs. As part of this coordination, PSAP maps were updated to reflect the new coverage areas and the agreement with Med-Care EMS, a major private emergency medical service provider. These updates help ensure that emergency response boundaries, agency information, and service area data remain accurate and current within the 9-1-1 mapping system, allowing telecommunicators to properly identify the appropriate response agencies and support timely emergency dispatch operations.

GIS Specialist Jacob Salinas designed and developed the RGV Public Safety & Emergency Communication Conference (PSECC) 2026 Conference website to serve as the official digital platform for the conference scheduled for October 14–16, 2026, at the South Padre Island Convention Center. The website provides a modern, professional, and user-friendly resource for public safety professionals across the Rio Grande Valley and beyond, including law enforcement, 9-1-1 telecommunicators, EMS, fire services, criminal justice, behavioral health, and homeland security personnel. The platform features conference information, agendas, speakers, sponsorship opportunities, award programs, venue details, and registration resources in a clean and accessible format. It also includes an integrated online registration and secure payment processing system, along with backend registration management and on-site check-in tools to improve operational efficiency and enhance the attendee experience. The website reflects the mission and professionalism of the Rio Grande

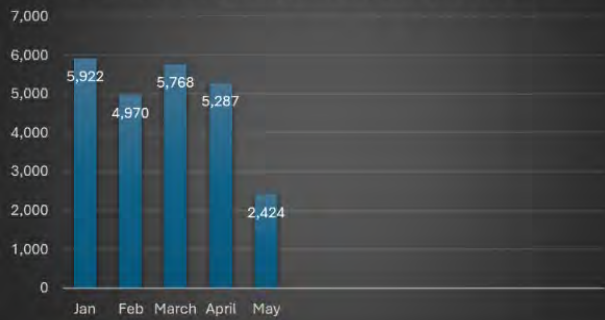
Valley Emergency Communication District while supporting the conference theme, "Preventing Burnout and Continuing the Mission."

### 2026 Jan-April Address Tickets Totals



Jan Feb March April May

### RGV911.org Pageviews 2026 Total

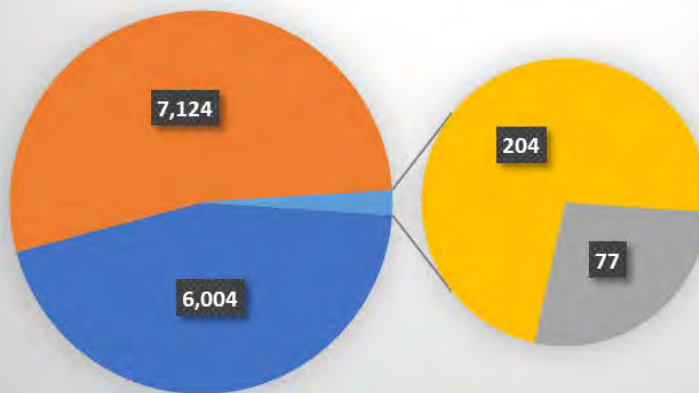


### 2026 Total Production : GIS



Created Address Points Updated Address Points Created Roads Updated Roads

### April - May 2026 Mapping Features



Created Address Points  
Updated Address Points  
Created Roads  
Updated Roads

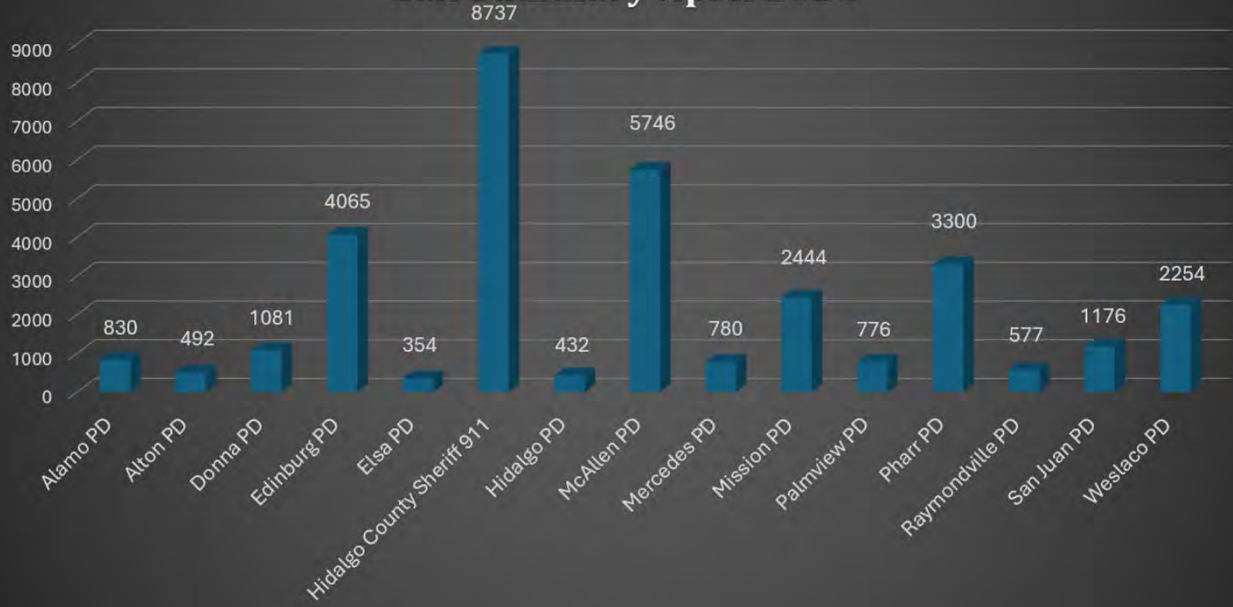
- 9-1-1 | Information Technology (IT) Division

Staff continued coordinating the transition to an additional network provider for the PSAP 9-1-1 network. This effort is designed to improve network reliability, strengthen redundancy, and reduce the risk of service disruptions during outages or other connectivity issues. Once implemented, the new provider is expected to replace the current provider Spectrum at a significantly lower cost, estimated at approximately one-fourth of the current expense. The initial build-out phase is anticipated to take approximately 12 to 16 weeks and will support a more resilient and cost-effective long-term network solution for the RGV911 District.

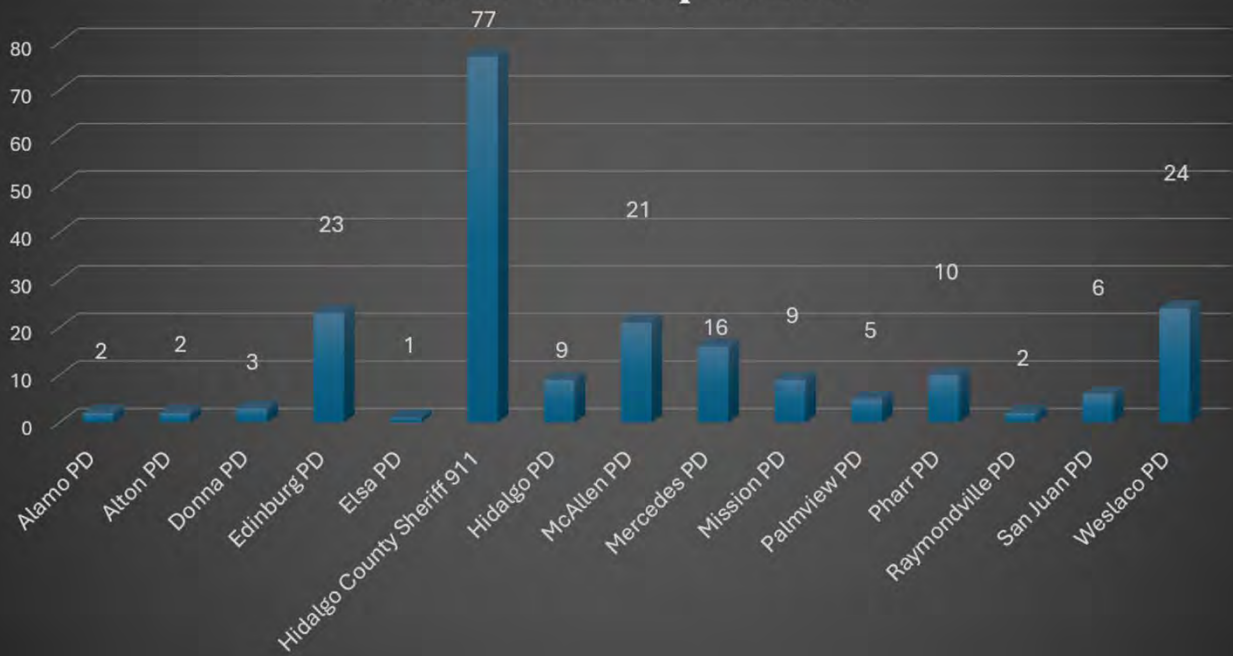
The Intrado Spatial Command and Control Mapping Project, a collaborative effort between the GIS and IT Divisions, was completed across all district PSAPs on May 8, 2026. As part of the project, the GIS Division completed the necessary map updates, while the IT Division supported the upload, deployment, and installation of the updated Spatial Command & Control Mapping application on PSAP workstations. The updated platform enhances the mapping capabilities available to 9-1-1 call takers by providing tools beyond standard aerial imagery, streets, and address points, including topographical mapping, elevation data, multiple aerial imagery options, and expanded search capabilities within and outside local jurisdictions, extending beyond Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Staff also participated in Spatial Command & Control Mapping Train-the-Trainer courses alongside personnel from the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office, McAllen Police Department, Edinburg Police Department, and Pharr Police Department to support regional training efforts. Following installation, the IT Team provided hands-on training, technical support, and operational guidance to telecommunicators and supervisory staff to ensure a smooth transition and effective use of the updated system. These enhancements provide call takers with greater situational awareness during emergency calls, helping them better identify locations, understand surrounding terrain, and support emergency response efforts throughout the region.

These enhancements provide call takers with greater situational awareness during 9-1-1 calls, allowing them to better support emergency response efforts and serve the community more effectively.

## Call Summary April 2026



## Text to 9-1-1 April 2026



- **Community Engagement Division**

During the months of April and May, the RGV911 Public Education Team demonstrated strong commitment and continued impact through a variety of outreach efforts across Hidalgo and Willacy counties. The team actively participated in community events, school presentations, and public awareness campaigns focused on educating residents about the importance of 9-1-1, when to call, and how to use the service properly and effectively.

**National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 13 – 17, 2026.**

The RGV911 District proudly celebrated National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week by visiting 15 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across Hidalgo and Willacy counties. As part of this annual recognition, tokens of appreciation were distributed to honor the incredible dedication, professionalism, and service of our 9-1-1 telecommunicators. It was a privilege to personally thank and recognize these everyday heroes for the vital role they play in keeping our communities safe.

**City of Palmview Council Meeting, April 21, 2026.**

Ms. Maribel Alonzo, Community Engagement Coordinator, attended the City of Palmview Council Meeting, where the RGV911 District was formally recognized for its efforts in supporting and enhancing the observance of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This recognition honored the dedication, professionalism, and vital role of 9-1-1 telecommunicators, whose commitment to public safety continues to be deeply valued and appreciated.

**Crime Victims' Rights Awareness, City of Mission, April 22, 2026.**

Hosted by the Mission Police Department as part of its annual event, the RGV911 Public Education Team participated in support of the community's efforts to recognize and stand with victims and their families. Their participation reflected RGV911's continued commitment to promoting awareness, compassion, and public safety education. Events such as this serve as an important reminder that 9-1-1 is always available to provide immediate assistance during emergencies.

**Crime Victims' Resource Fair, City of Raymondville, April 23, 2026.**

Hosted by the Raymondville Police Department, the RGV911 Public Education Team in support of the Listen Act Proclamation, which promotes the protection and support of crime victims. The proclamation highlighted the continued commitment to supporting survivors, promoting trauma-informed care, and ensuring that every victim's rights are upheld. During the event, the team also shared information on the importance of 9-1-1 and Text-to-911 services, emphasizing how these resources provide quick and accessible assistance during emergency situations.

**ARISE Adelante Dia del Nino 2026, City of Alamo, April 25, 2026.**

Hosted by Arise Adelante, in the City of Alamo, the RGV911 Public Education Team had the opportunity to talk to the children about the importance of knowing the difference between a real 911 emergency call and when it is not an emergency. They also emphasized how important it is to stay calm during an emergency so they can clearly communicate what is happening. In addition, they taught them the importance of knowing their location so help can be sent quickly and accurately.

**National Infant Immunization Day Celebration, City of McAllen, April 25, 2026.**

Hosted by the Hidalgo County Health & Human Services in the City of McAllen, the RGV911 Public Education Team attended the event to share valuable information about 9-1-1 services with the community. They focused on educating attendees on when to call, what to say, and how to stay calm during an emergency. It was a valuable opportunity to promote awareness and help ensure everyone is better prepared to respond in critical situations.

**Parent and Family Engagement World Cup Summit: One Team One Goal, City of Edinburg, April 29, 2026.**

Hosted by Region One ESC in the City of Edinburg, the RGV911 Public Education Team shared the importance of always knowing your exact location when contacting 911, as it helps responders get to you faster during an emergency. They also highlighted when and how to use Text-to-911, especially in situations where calling may not be safe or possible. In addition, the team explained the different languages supported through Text-to-911, helping ensure more members of the community can communicate effectively in a time of need.

**Community Access Day with STJDA, City of Weslaco, May 2, 2026.**

Hosted by South Texas Juvenile Diabetes Association (STJDA), in the City of Weslaco, the RGV911 Public Education Team participated in a community event focused on health screenings and public awareness. During the event, the team provided attendees with important 9-1-1 education, including simple steps on how and when to call or text 9-1-1. The team also emphasized the importance of knowing one's location and nearby landmarks to help ensure a faster, more accurate emergency response.

**Property Tax Exemption Clinics, City of Weslaco, May 4, 2026.**

Hosted by the Hidalgo County Appraisal District and Precinct One in the City of Weslaco, the RGV911 Public Education Team had the opportunity to connect with rural communities across Hidalgo County, sharing the importance of registering your address with the 911 District. This information helps ensure that emergency responders can quickly and accurately locate those in need, bringing valuable resources directly to the community.

**Family Financial Summit-Paying for College with Confidence, City of Edinburg, May 8, 2026.**

Hosted by Junior GEAR UP program in the City of Edinburg, the RGV911 Public Education Team had the opportunity to speak with families about the importance of emergency preparedness and how being prepared can help keep your loved ones safe during an emergency.

**Property Tax Exemption Clinic, City of Mission, May 11, 2026.**

Hosted by the Hidalgo County Appraisal District and Precinct Three in the City of Mission, the RGV911 GIS Team shared how updated and accurate mapping information helps emergency personnel respond faster and more efficiently, improving safety for families and the entire community.

**2026 Employee Health Fair, City of Weslaco, May 13, 2026.**

Hosted by the City of Weslaco as part of its annual event for city staff, the RGV911 Public Education Team spoke with families about when to call 9-1-1, how to

communicate clearly during an emergency, and the importance of knowing their address to help first responders locate them quickly.

**Mid-Valley Resource Fair, City of Weslaco, May 15, 2026.**

Hosted by Nuestra Clinica Del Valle and the Total Care Advocate Group, the RGV911 Public Education Team spoke with the community about the importance of knowing the difference between a 911 emergency and a non-emergency situation. Residents were encouraged to use 911 for emergencies that require immediate assistance from police, fire, or EMS, helping keep emergency lines available for those in urgent need. The team also discussed the importance of being prepared during emergencies by having essential information ready and creating a family emergency plan.



City of Palmview Council Meeting



Crime Victims' Rights Awareness  
Event  
City of Mission



2026 Crime Victims' Resource Fair  
City of Raymondville







Property Tax Exemption Clinic  
City of Mission



City of Weslaco 2026  
Employee Health Fair



Nuestra Clinica Del Valle  
and Total Care Advocate Group

#PSECC

PRESENTED BY



# You're Invited RGV PSECC

## PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CONFERENCE

*"Preventing Burnout and Continuing the Mission"*

We invite you to join public safety professionals in a shared experience of training, recognition, and resilience.



October 14-16, 2026



8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



**SPI Convention Center**

7355 Padre Blvd, South Padre Island, TX

**TRAINING**

**PREPAREDNESS**

**NETWORKING**

TCOLE Credit Available  
By LRGV Police Academy

Expert Keynote Speakers

Behavioral Health CEUs Available

Telecommunicator Award Ceremony



**SCAN TO  
REGISTER**



**VIEW  
AGENDA**

**ITEM # 5.C.2**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

**LOWER RIO  
GRANDE  
VALLEY  
ACADEMY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday May 27, 2026

C. Department Reports

Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement between the LRGV Academy and the City of Donna, Texas for the surplus and donation of LRGV Academy police vehicles to the Donna Police Department.

The LRGV Academy no longer has a need to use the police academy vehicles listed in Exhibit A. The vehicles no longer serve a training purpose for the LRGV Academy. Their high mileage, wear and tear, and mechanical failure do not make it feasible for these vehicles to be auctioned. The Donna Police Department, through its police training facility, has a need for vehicles to conduct police officer training. These vehicles will serve as training props for local officers from all throughout the region for the implementation of tactical law enforcement training programs.

The vehicles will also be utilized to demonstrate the proper use of vehicle cover and concealment from the various types of ballistic projectiles encountered by law enforcement. Donating these vehicles to the Donna Police Department will help enhance the training programs for officers within the region.



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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

## Exhibit A

### BOARD MEMBERS

Adrian Gonzalez  
 Mayor, Weslaco

Joey Lopez  
 Commissioner, Cameron County

Ellie Torres  
 Commissioner, Hidalgo County

Pablo Morales  
 Mayor, Lyford

David Moreno  
 Mayor, Donna

Sylvia Castillo  
 Mayor, Sullivan City

Oscar Montoya  
 Mayor, Mercedes

Javier Villalobos  
 Mayor, McAllen

Patrick McNulty  
 Mayor, SPI

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernández  
 Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales  
 Commissioner, Raymondville

Pete Galvan  
 Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas  
 Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales  
 UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez  
 South Texas College

Luke Lucio  
 Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen  
 Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ernesto "Lefty" Cavazos  
 Willacy County Navigation Dis.

Jim Darling  
 Member-at-Large

Oscar Garcia  
 Member-at-Large

Andres Chavez  
 Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez  
 Grassroots Organizations

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

### LRGV ACADEMY LIST OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

- |    |                          |                       |
|----|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 2011 Ford Crown Victoria | VIN 2FABP7BV4BX127779 |
| 2. | 2016 Ford Explorer       | VIN 1FM5K8AR8GGA19047 |
| 3. | 2016 Dodge Ram           | VIN 1C6RR7XTXGS137202 |

**INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
&  
CITY OF DONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
REGARDING THE DONATION OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT**

This Interlocal Agreement (the “Agreement”) is entered into by and between the **LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL** (“LRGVDC”), a Regional Council of Government and political subdivision of the State and the **CITY OF DONNA, TEXAS**, (“City”), a home rule municipality, by and through the **DONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT** (LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY) regarding the donation of surplus equipment under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791, Texas Government Code, to be effective as of the date on which the last Party signs this Agreement (the “Effective Date”). The City and the LRGVDC are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties” and are each a “Party”.

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS** the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council is defined as a council of government under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 391 and formed and organized under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS** the City of Donna is defined as a municipality and defined as a “political subdivision” under the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code;

**WHEREAS** the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code allows authorization for a local government to contract with one or more local governments to perform governmental functions and services under the terms of the Act;

**WHEREAS** the commission of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council has been granted power to dispose of property owned by the LRGVDC under the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 391;

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC has deemed the property items listed in “Exhibit A” as surplus property which serve no purpose or use for the LRGVDC;

**WHEREAS** the items listed in “Exhibit A” may still be utilized for law enforcement training purposes which will prepare police officers to better serve and uphold public safety for all constituents within the region;

**WHEREAS** the LRGVDC has identified a need for the City of Donna by and through the Donna Police Department for said items listed in “Exhibit A” to be utilized in law enforcement training by regional police officers for maintaining public safety programs in the region; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, for good and sufficient consideration, PARTIES hereby agree as follows:

1. The LRGVDC hereby declares the items listed in "Exhibit A" as surplus property.
2. The LRGVDC hereby finds the transfer of the surplus items as identified in "Exhibit A" to the Donna Police Department as serving a public purpose.
3. The LRGVDC hereby transfers the surplus items listed in "Exhibit A" to the Donna Police Department.
4. Donna Police Department hereby accepts the transfer of the surplus items listed in "Exhibit A"
5. Donna Police Department accepts the transferred items listed in "Exhibit A" in "as-is" condition and acknowledges the LRGVDC makes no warranty in any manner as to the working condition for any purpose.
6. In consideration for the transfer of the items identified in "Exhibit A", the Donna Police Department agrees that the LRGVDC shall have no further financial responsibility for any relocation, transportation, repair, maintenance or upkeep expenses related to said items being transferred.
7. The Donna Police Department will be responsible for obtaining any title transfer, registration, and/or insurance on equipment being transferred.
8. This Agreement is not intended to extend the liability of the Parties beyond that provided by law. Neither the LRGVDC or the Donna Police Department, or the City of Donna waive, or shall be deemed to have hereby waived, any immunity or defense that would otherwise be available to it against claims arising from third parties.
9. This Agreement represents the entire agreement between LRGVDC and the Donna Police Department, and the City of Donna and this agreement supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral between the Parties.
10. The validity of this Agreement and of any of its terms or provisions, as well as the rights and duties of the Parties, shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
11. If any portion of this Agreement shall be found to be contrary to law, it is the intent of the Parties that the remaining portions of this Agreement shall remain valid and in full force and effect to the extent possible.
12. The undersigned officer or agent is the properly authorized official who has the necessary authority to execute this Agreement, and each party hereby certifies to the other that any necessary resolutions extending said authority have been duly passed and are now in full force and effect.

### **General Terms**

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

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

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

Gilbert Guerrero Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Police  
Donna Police Department

Dr. Jesus R. Reyna Date : \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager  
Donna, Texas

David Moreno Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Mayor  
Donna, Texas

Manuel "Manny" Cruz Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director  
LRGVDC

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday May 27, 2026

C. Department Reports

Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

Program Action Item

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the addition of a new policy to the LRGV Academy enrollment requirements for United States Military Veterans.

The United States Office of Veteran Affairs now requires any institution who receives tuition payment under veteran benefits to adopt a policy which stipulates veterans cannot be penalized or denied entry into any institution of learning for late or pending Veteran Affairs tuition payments. Veterans cannot be penalized with a late fee or asked to produce another form of payment for entry into the institution of learning. Furthermore, military veterans cannot be denied access to any resources under the control of the institution while payment is being finalized.

The new policy presented by the LRGV Academy satisfies the requirements for compliance under Title 38 United States Government Code 3679.

## VA Chapter 31 and Chapter 33

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679 subsection (e), *the **LRGV Academy*** adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post 9/11 GI Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the LRGVDC is pending from the VA.

*The **LRGV Academy*** will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution

However, to qualify for this provision, such students are required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) or Form 28-1905 by the Last Day to Add/Drop class (per Academic Calendar)
- Submit a request to be certified or have a conversation with the college's SCO
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other school policies

*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/index.asp>*

**ITEM #1**

**TRANSPORTATION**

**VALLEY METRO**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday May 27, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation- Valley Metro

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Rescind Prior Board Approval Authorizing Acceptance of Seven (7) MCI Coach Buses from Green Mountain Transit (GMT)

Valley Metro is seeking the Board's approval to formally rescind the prior authorization approved in March 2025 regarding the transfer and acceptance of seven (7) MCI D4500 commuter coach buses from Green Mountain Transit (GMT).

At the time of the original Board action, Valley Metro was working within active coordination timelines associated with GMT's request for acknowledgement of interest in the assets, and the full onsite operational assessment had not yet been completed.

Following additional operational, maintenance, infrastructure, and fiscal review conducted by Valley Metro staff, concerns were identified regarding the long-term operational compatibility, rehabilitation investment, facility limitations, and overall financial sustainability associated with the proposed fleet transfer.

Because the original transfer received formal Board approval, staff are returning this item to the Board to formally rescind the prior action and allow Valley Metro to coordinate any necessary closeout and notification procedures with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region 6.

Supporting reassessment documentation has been included within the Board packet for reference.



## Valley Metro – Green Mountain Bus Transfer Reassessment

### Executive Summary

Under previous leadership, Valley Metro pursued the transfer of seven (7) MCI D4500 commuter coach buses from Green Mountain Transit for potential use within the regional transit system. The original intent was to utilize the units for Metro Express and potential emergency or high-capacity service needs.

Following additional operational, maintenance, planning, and fiscal review, Valley Metro staff is recommending rescission of the prior board approval associated with the transfer.

The reassessment identified significant concerns related to:

- Transportation costs
- Rehabilitation investment
- Operational compatibility
- Facility limitations
- Long-term maintenance exposure
- Overall fiscal sustainability

### Why This Item is Returning to Board

The transfer request was previously presented and approved by the Board in March 2025 under prior leadership. Because the acceptance of the buses received formal board action, Valley Metro must return to the Board to formally rescind the approval prior to closing out the transfer process with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Valley Metro has also initiated coordination with FTA Region 6 to ensure all required notifications and compliance steps are properly addressed before moving forward with rescission.

### Transportation Cost Escalation

Initial transportation estimates to relocate the buses from Vermont to the Rio Grande Valley were approximately **\$69,995**. During project coordination, updated transportation quotes increased to approximately **\$100,795** due to:

- Increased fuel costs
- Additional loading requirements
- Inoperable vehicle conditions requiring specialized transport equipment

Even after Green Mountain Transit agreed to absorb a larger share of the increase, Valley Metro was still projected to contribute approximately:

- **\$59,995–\$68,395** toward transportation costs alone

Additional concerns identified during transport coordination included:

- Multiple buses potentially unable to start
- Additional loading and recovery equipment requirements
- Continuing transport cost escalation and storage-related costs accumulating overtime

### Operational & Route Limitations

The MCI coach buses were designed for long-distance commuter operations rather than Valley Metro's urban fixed-route environment.

Key concerns include:

- Slower passenger boarding and unloading
- Increased ADA stop times due to high-floor lift configuration
- Reduced operational flexibility
- Longer stop times affecting route reliability
- Limited suitability for high-frequency stop-and-go service

Operational assessments identified maneuverability and safety concerns at several major Valley Metro service points, including:

- Brownsville Terminal
- Metro McAllen Terminal
- Mercedes Outlets
- CIC / UTRGV Weslaco

Staff determined the 45-foot coach configuration would create:

- Tight turning conflicts, parking and staging limitations
- Potential pedestrian and traffic safety concerns
- Lane obstruction risks at terminals already operating near capacity



## Valley Metro – Green Mountain Bus Transfer Reassessment

Even on Valley Metro’s least stop-and-go routes, such as Metro Express, these concerns would still remain due to infrastructure constraints at major transfer and terminal locations.

### Maintenance & Rehabilitation Costs

While the buses themselves would have been transferred at little to no acquisition cost, substantial rehabilitation and operational investment would still be required before deployment.

### Estimated Rehabilitation Costs Per Bus

<u>Rehabilitation Level</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Basic Roadworthy Refresh	\$10K–\$25K
Mid-Life Mechanical Rehabilitation	\$30K–\$80K
Full Commercial Rebuild	\$150K–\$400K+

### Potential rehabilitation work includes:

- Engine and transmission overhauls
- ADA lift refurbishment
- HVAC replacement
- Electrical and multiplex repairs
- Suspension and steering rebuilds
- Corrosion remediation associated with northern climate exposure

### Additional long-term operational costs may also include:

- Specialized tooling and technician training
- Increased fuel consumption
- Deadhead mileage
- Facility modifications
- Extended downtime due to parts availability

### Facility Compatibility Concerns

Valley Metro’s existing infrastructure was not designed for 45-foot commuter coach operations.

Staff identified potential limitations involving:

- Maintenance bay sizing
- Wash lane clearance
- Fueling access restrictions
- Yard storage capacity
- Terminal circulation and bus staging areas

Accommodating the fleet could require additional infrastructure investment beyond rehabilitation costs.

### Fiscal Stewardship Consideration

As part of Valley Metro’s long-term fleet planning efforts, staff believes available funding should remain focused on:

- Reliable operational fleet replacement
- Vehicles compatible with current regional service demands
- Investments that maximize operational efficiency and accessibility
- Reducing long-term maintenance and infrastructure costs

While the transfer initially appeared financially advantageous, the reassessment determined that the total long-term investment required to rehabilitate, modify, and operate the units would outweigh the operational benefit to the agency.

### Staff Recommendation

Based on the completed operational, maintenance, planning, and fiscal assessment, staff recommends:

- Rescinding the prior board approval authorizing acceptance of the seven MCI coach buses
- Coordinating with FTA Region 6 regarding any required closeout or notification procedures
- Continuing fleet replacement planning around Valley Metro’s existing low-floor transit fleet strategy

Staff believes this approach remains the most operationally efficient, fiscally responsible, and sustainable option for Valley Metro’s current and future transit operations.

Dr. Sandra Carrizales

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# VALLEY METRO

## April 2026 Ridership Snapshot

### System Overview

Metric	April 2026	April 2025	YoY % Change
<b>Total Passenger Trips</b>	<b>99,519</b>	<b>69,170</b>	<b>+35%</b>
McAllen Express	89,571	58,146	+54%
Harlingen – San Benito	4435	5070	-12.5%
Willacy & Zapata Express	359	102	+252%
LRGVDC Motor Bus	4,463	4969	-3.15%
LRGVDC – Demand Response	673	883	-23.8%

### Executive Summary

Valley Metro experienced continued ridership growth during April 2026, with overall passenger trips increasing by 35% compared to April 2025. Growth remained strongest along the McAllen Express routes connector, UTRGV corridor, Commuter routes, and regional connector services serving employment and educational destinations. YTD overall ridership 339,315 a 36% increase from last FY.

### Ridership Trend

Month	FY 24-25	FY 25-26
January	47,768	56,964
February	68,657	96,270
March	63,554	86,562
April	69,170	99,519
YTD Ridership	249,149	339,315

- April represented the highest ridership month of the fiscal year to date
- System growth continues to outpace prior fiscal year trends

### Top Performing Routes

Route	April Ridership	YOY Change
Route 10 – Edinburg – Weslaco – La Villa – Elsa -McAllen	1832	+11%
Route 14 – UTRGV VABL (Visual Arts Building) -Edinburg	3616	+33%
Route 16.1 & 16.2 Courthouse Circulator - Edinburg	5157	Combined +50%
Route 31.3 Bus 83 – Harlingen - La Feria – Mercedes – Weslaco – Donna – Alamo – Pharr- McAllen	1601	+1.9%
Purple Line- STC – Weslaco – Pharr	300	+80%
Route 31.2 Bus 83 - Harlingen - La Feria – Mercedes – Weslaco – Donna – Alamo – Pharr- McAllen	1298	+34%
Route 42- San Benito - Harlingen	243	+69%
Route 60 – STC – Rio Grande City – Escobares - Roma	629	+52%
Willacy Express – Harlingen – Sebastian – Lyford - Raymondville & Zapata Express – Zapata -Say Ygnacio - Laredo	359	Combined +252%

### Key Highlights

- UTRGV-related trips continue to generate the system’s highest passenger activity
- Regional connectivity routes remain critical to cross-county mobility and access to employment centers

- No significant service interruptions impacted monthly ridership performance

### **Next Month Focus Areas**

- Summer service planning adjustments
  - UTRGV Spring Semester last day May 14,2026 to resume June 8,2026
  - STC Spring Semester last day May 14,2026 to resume June 1,2026.
- Continued monitoring of high-growth corridors
- Evaluation of route productivity and stop-level activity
- Expansion of rider communication tools and real-time service notifications

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

## **RTAP Subcommittee Meeting Recap** **Virtual Meeting – April 23, 2026, | 10:00 AM**

The RTAP Subcommittee met virtually to discuss regional transit coordination efforts, technology upgrades, service expansion, and ongoing capital projects among Valley Metro, Metro McAllen, UTRGV Transportation, Brownsville Metro, Island Metro, and South Texas College (STC).

**System Modernization:** Agencies provided updates on system modernization initiatives. Valley Metro discussed AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) modernization and a potential Verkada camera pilot, while Metro McAllen reported progress on onboard technology upgrades with ETA Transit and funding transitions from Section 5310 to 5307. UTRGV is replacing its real-time software platform and exploring integrated systems for trip planning, APCs, NTD reporting, and digital signage. STC shared implementation updates on the TripShot platform using tablet-based hardware.

**Service expansion & Planning:** UTRGV is evaluating new routes, including weekend Edinburg service, a Hidalgo Bridge-to-Edinburg connection, and a Brownsville campus route. Coordination with Brownsville Metro continues regarding a possible Edinburg-to-Downtown Brownsville connection. STC also reported continued requests for service to the Cosmetology Campus and UTRGV Edinburg, while Valley Metro reviews Route 20 for potential alignment opportunities.

**Microtransit Growth:** Brownsville Metro highlighted strong growth in its microtransit services, including BTX Connect and the Uber-operated Route 30, which increased ridership significantly after conversion. Expanded service hours have also improved employment access. A regional microtransit study is currently underway and will be presented at the next RTAP meeting.

**Infrastructure & Capital Projects:** Island Metro shared updates on pending TxDOT Rural Discretionary Grant funding for infrastructure improvements, including solar shelter lighting and facility rehabilitation projects. The agency also reported progress on its Tesla charging project and stable Spring Break ridership levels.

**Regional Coordination:** Claudia Olmedo emphasized continued regional coordination efforts focused on modernization, ADA accessibility, schedule coordination, regional connectivity, and rider experience improvements. Agencies were encouraged to continue collaboration and explore partnerships with Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to support supplemental transit options in underserved areas.

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

KFH (Knapp, Fravel, and Hosen) Consulting Group advanced key components of the project by submitting draft versions of the Communications Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, developing initial survey templates for community, riders, and providers, and beginning the review of previous regional coordination studies.

The project continues to make steady progress in community outreach efforts. The consultant is coordinating the launch of surveys targeting community members, riders, and providers, and is in the process of scheduling interviews with key regional transportation agencies.

## **Project Coordination & Status Update**

LRGVDC Planning staff met with the consultant team to discuss project progress, schedule recovery efforts, stakeholder engagement activities, and upcoming deliverables.

## **Key Discussion Points**

- Additional staff resources will be assigned to the project to help improve coordination, QA/QC efforts, and overall project momentum.
- Todd will transition into the primary Project Manager role and serve as the main point of contact moving forward.
- The consultant team will develop an updated project schedule and recovery timeline to address missed milestones and support upcoming deliverables.
- Both teams emphasized the importance of maintaining communication and providing regular updates to support TxDOT monthly and quarterly reporting requirements.
- Biweekly coordination meetings will be established in the short term to improve project tracking and accountability.
- Upcoming regional stakeholder engagement activities will continue as planned, including rider outreach, community meetings, and stakeholder interviews.
- The digital community survey link, QR code, and outreach materials are being finalized for distribution to partner agencies and the public.

# Valley Metro Planning Activities

## Planning Outreach Report

### Route 20 Ride along Mission– McAllen

Valley Metro conducted a ride-along on Route 20 in response to concerns raised about the current route alignment.

The purpose of the ride-along was to observe

- real-time conditions,
- evaluate rider experience, and
- better understand the specific issues affecting service along the corridor.

Insights gathered during the review will help inform potential adjustments and ensure the route continues to meet the needs of the community effectively.

**Fares / Tarifas**

Adult (Regular Fare) / Adulto (Tarifa Regular)	\$3.00
Student (6-12) / Estudiante (6-12)	\$1.50
Senior (65+) / Senior (65+)	\$1.50
Transfer / Transferencia	\$1.00
Child (3-5) / Niño (3-5)	\$1.00
Infant (2 and under) / Menor (2 años y menor)	FREE
24-hour transfer / Transferencia 24 horas	\$2.00
24-hour transfer (1) / Transferencia 24 horas (1)	\$2.00
24-hour transfer (2) / Transferencia 24 horas (2)	\$4.00

**20-Ride Pass**

Adult (Regular Fare) / Adulto (Tarifa Regular)	\$30.00
Child (6-12) / Estudiante (6-12)	\$15.00
Senior (65+) / Senior (65+)	\$15.00
Transfer / Transferencia	\$10.00
Child (3-5) / Niño (3-5)	\$10.00
Infant (2 and under) / Menor (2 años y menor)	FREE

**Route / Ruta**  
**20**  
**Mission - McAllen**  
**Monday - Saturday**  
**Lunes - Sábado**

**Serving / Serviendo**

- Walworth at Mile 2
- Health & Human Services (HHSS)
- WSS School Store
- Mission Regional Medical Center
- Mission Hearing Phones
- Worforce Solutions
- Holiday Inn Express
- Target on Shero Rd
- HEB on Shero Rd
- Worforce Solutions (Miss Office)
- McAllen Central Station

**Scheduled Stops / Paradas Programadas**

- Walworth at Mile 1
- WSS School Store
- Mission Regional Medical Center
- Worforce Solutions
- Holiday Inn Express
- McAllen Central Station

1-800-574-8322  
valleymetro.org@gmail.com

## Aging & Disability Resource Center: Veterans Benefits & CAM Awareness Clinic

Valley Metro proudly participated in the ADRC Veterans Benefits and CAM Awareness Clinic, engaging directly with veterans, caregivers, and community members to share vital information about accessible transportation options.

This presence helped connect attendees with resources that support independence, mobility, and overall well-being.

By collaborating with the ADRC and other service providers, Valley Metro reinforced its commitment to ensuring veterans and their families have the tools they need to navigate benefits, access essential services, and stay connected to their community.

**RIO-Net Resource Center**  
A Division of the American Red Cross

**THE LRGVDC AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS:**  
**NAVIGATING VETERANS BENEFITS & CAM AWARENESS CLINIC**

Join us for an informative training focused on helping veterans and their families better understand available benefits, services, and support systems. This session will highlight the unique challenges veterans face and provide practical guidance for accessing resources. Open to the public, this training is ideal for veterans, family members, caregivers, professionals, and anyone committed to supporting those who have served.

**TRAINING TOPICS INCLUDED:**

- Overview of VA Benefits
- Mental Health & Wellness Resources
- Support for Veteran Families
- Navigating the VA System

**SCAN ME**

**APRIL 30TH @ 9:30 AM-12:00 PM**  
**TROPICAL TEXAS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**2215 W. BUSINESS 83 WESLACO, TX 78598**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ACCOMMODATIONS**  
Please contact Marisol Vega via email at [mvega@lrgvdc.org](mailto:mvega@lrgvdc.org)  
or (956) 682-3481 ext. 148

**ITEM #5.D.2**

**RGVMPO**