# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



### **AGENDA**

# MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 12:00 P.M

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

Live-streaming at: <u>LRGVDC COG - YouTube</u>

Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

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# Item #1: Call to Order

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

**Item #2:** Consideration and **ACTION**to Approve May 28,2025, Meeting Minutes ......President

Item #3: Public Comment

 Item #4: Administration
 Manuel Cruz

 Executive Director

Executive Director

Rates & Regulatory Compliance Manager

- **B.** Executive Director Report
  - 1. Presentation by Weslaco Area Chamber of Commerce on Texas1015 Destination Initiative Project.......Barbara J. Garza

President & CEO

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

# **Item #5: Department Reports**

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Texas State University and the LRGVDC to create a Composting curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders under the SWIFR program.

# **Program Status Reports**

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

# **Program Status Reports**

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

C. Public Safety	Manuel Cruz
	<b>Executive Director</b>
Criminal Justice & Homeland Security	Cesar Merla
<b>y</b>	Assistant Director

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Recommendation for the refund of voluntary monetary contributions to jurisdictions from the Emergency Radio Communication Fund.

# **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.

Pol	ce Academy Program	
	Assistant Director	
1.	Consideration and ACTION to amend a previous Action item pertaining to the Purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado from Lake County Chevrolet in the amount of \$54,848. The LRGV Academy requests cancellation of the previous purchase order and seeks approval of a new purchase order for Caldwell County Chevrolet in the amount of \$52,407.	
	Program Status Reports	
	<ul> <li>Inservice Courses</li> <li>Officers Trained</li> <li>Contact Hours</li> </ul>	
Ric	Grande Valley Emergency Communication District	
	Program Status Reports  Assistant Director	
	<ul> <li>GIS Division</li> <li>9-1-1 Information Technology</li> <li>Community Engagement Division</li> </ul>	
D.	Transportation Valley Metro	
1.	Consideration and ACTION to approve updated LRGVDC- Valley Metro Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy.	
2.	Consideration and ACTION to approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Departments Americans with Disabilities Act "ADA" Policy and Procedures.	
3.	Consideration and ACTION to Approve Executive Directors, under LRGVDC Valley Metro, to initiate and submit funding applications to the RGVMPO call for Projects-Category 7 (STBG) & Category 10 (CRP).	
4.	Consideration and ACTION to Approve amendments to Federal Transit Administration grants TX-2023-101 and TX-2023-067 for LRGVDC to add Section 5339 federal funding to each grant.	
	<u>Valley Metro Status Reports</u>	
	• Ridership Report	
	Rio Grande Valley MPO Michael Medina Executive Director	
	RGVMPO Status Reports	

Item #6 New & Unfinished Business

Item #7 Adjourn

# **NO MEETING IN JULY**

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 27, 2025

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

### 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 posted agenda for the meeting. Members of the public may be recognized on the posted agenda items deemed appropriate by the Chair as these items are considered, and the same 3minutc

# ITEM #2 MEETING MINUTES

### **MINUTES**

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

12:00PM Wednesday May 28, 2025

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:12 pm a quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission

Judge Auerlio Guerra, Willacy County

Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville

Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg

Commissioner Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco

Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County

Mayor George Guadiana, City San Perlita

Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville

Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV Edinburg

Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College

Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC

Mr. Ron Mills, Willacy Co. Nav. Dist.

Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large

Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large

Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

## Absent:

Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County

Mayor JR Garza, City of Alamo

Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna

Mayor Alma Salinas, City of Sullivan

Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos

Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen

Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr

Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito

Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan

Mr. Tony Chavez, member-at-large

Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Item#2 for the Board of Directors Meeting.

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION for approval of April 30, 2025, meeting minutes. **Jim Darling made** a motion to approve Meeting Minutes for April 30, 2025. Lupita Sanchez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Item #3: Public Comment – Jorge Cruz Saenz

Mr. Jorge Cruz Saenz, a business owner from McAllen, Texas, provided public comments outlining several recommendations and concerns related to governance, transparency, and regulatory practices. He expressed a desire to see improvements in stakeholder engagement and accountability across various industries, citing concerns about inadequate professional counsel and negligent practices.

Mr. Saenz recommended that the Council consider modernizing its rules and increasing opportunities for citizen participation, particularly through training in the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. He emphasized the importance of including more concerned citizens in policy discussions and addressing the impact of technological advancements on public accountability.

He referenced recent federal developments, including the "Take It Down Act," and court rulings—specifically the April 21, 2023, remand order related to a liquefied natural gas project—to illustrate the need for improved environmental impact assessments and better adherence to federal standards such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Architectural Barriers Act.

Mr. Saenz urged the Council to evaluate how administrative and legislative processes can be enhanced to support transparency, public participation, and fair business practices. He advocated for improved emergency response training, environmental staff development, and research planning that incorporates economic impact analysis and robust public engagement strategies.

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

### Item #4: Administration

4.A. Mr. Cruz then moved on to the first action item for Administration. Consideration and ACTION on Recommendations from Nominations Committee.

1. Selection of (5) Persons for election as Members-at-large to General Membership. Mr. Cruz stated that the following were selected for 2025-2026 term:

NAME:	CITY:	COUNTY:
Helen Ramirez	Brownsville	Cameron
Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hidalgo
Sergio Contrerras	Mission	Hidalgo
Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy
Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron

Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the following nominations for 2025-2026 term; Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Three (3) At-Large members to be selected to the 2025-2026 Board of Directors.

NAME:	CITY:	COUNTY:
Oscar Garcia	Harlingen	Cameron
Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Andres Chavez	Raymondville	Willacy

Commissioner Ellie Torres Approved the At-Large members, Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

- 4.B. Consideration of the RATIFICATION of Executive committee ACTION on the following item.
- 1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Overhaul of Vehicles under TXDOT Section 5539-Rural Bus and Bus Facilities Program and approved Grant 5539-R-2024 LRGVDC-00029 for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the Overhaul of Vehicles under TXDOT Section 5539-Rural Bus and Bus Facilities program and approved Grant 5539-R-2024 LRGVDC-00029 for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Luke Lucio seconded the motion and upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

Before moving on to Action item 4.C Mayor Sepulveda wanted to give a few words. Following the approval of elections and nominations, the outgoing President briefly addressed the membership to express gratitude for the opportunity to serve. She acknowledged that her term was extended due to filling an unexpired term and shared that it had been a pleasure to serve in the role. She thanked the staff—particularly Manny—and commended the organization's region-wide impact and the dedication of everyone involved.

Although stepping down as President, she noted she will continue to serve as Treasurer and looks forward to remaining engaged. She concluded by expressing confidence in incoming President Mayor Norie and formally passed the gavel. Mr. Cruz then states. Before formally introducing incoming President Mayor Norie Garza, a parting gift of a plaque of service was presented and letter of appreciation was presented to outgoing President, The Honorable Mayor Norma Sepulveda.

On behalf of the LRGVDC Board of Directors and staff, Mayor Sepulveda was thanked for her year and a half of dedicated leadership. It was noted that she assumed the presidency mid-term and stepped up to lead with grace, seriousness, and a strong commitment to advancing the Council's goals and regional impact.

In recognition of her faithful participation, loyal dedication, and outstanding service, a token of appreciation was presented. The Board and staff expressed sincere gratitude for her guidance, leadership, and contributions in helping the organization move forward. Mayor Sepulveda was commended for a job well done.

4.C. Consideration and ACTION to approve Agreement between AARP Foundation Senior Community Service Employment Program and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, allowing the LRGVDC to become a Host Agency for the program. Mayor Norma Sepulveda approved the Agreement between AARP Foundation Senior Community Service Employment Program and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, allowing the LRGVDC to become a Host Agency for the program. Jim Darling seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Jose Luis Gonzalez, director for AARP Foundation, stated that the representative from the AARP Back to Work Program provided an overview of the initiative, which serves individuals aged 55 and older. The program currently operates in partnership with several Rio Grande Valley cities—including Edinburg, McAllen, Pharr, and Mission—as well as various nonprofit organizations. It is part of a nationwide network of 100 offices.

The Back to Work Program supports older adults who are actively seeking employment by covering their wages while they gain experience through placements with local governments and nonprofits. This helps participants enhance their job skills while continuing their job search. Program participants are covered under AARP's workers' compensation, and there is no cost to host agencies.

Participants are typically reassigned every six months to encourage continued job-seeking efforts. While host agencies are not obligated to hire individuals, the program provides valuable support at no financial cost. Additional partnerships are being explored, including with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's School of Social Work.

The program was described as a "win-win" for both senior job seekers and partnering organizations.

4.D Consideration and ACTION to review, Discuss, and Approve to accept the Request from Mr. Jim Darling, General Manager/President of Rio Grande Regional water Authority (RGRWA) to Transfer the RGRWA, upon meeting Compliance Standards to the LRGVDC as its Fiscal Agent and Execute any Applicable Management Agreement. Jim Darling provided background and updates regarding the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA). He explained that the board is primarily composed of agricultural representatives. Several years ago, following a lawsuit filed by agricultural stakeholders against the State of Texas—related to TCEQ allowing Mexico to partially repay its water debt through the San Juan River—the Governor's policy barred appointments to boards that had sued the state. As a result, the RGRWA lost its quorum approximately six years ago. The board's final action was to designate Mr. Darling as Executive Director to ensure continuity.

Mr. Darling noted that the RGRWA performs two key functions:

- 1. **El Muro Drain Funding** The Authority collects funds from Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo Counties to pay for the El Muro Drain, an IBWC (International Boundary and Water Commission) project. The drain helps mitigate pollution from Mexican agricultural runoff. RGRWA receives the bill from IBWC, coordinates with counties, and facilitates payment.
- 2. **Water Rights Sales** The Authority sets rates for water rights sales when irrigation districts exclude property. Cities can acquire water rights from these exclusions, and RGRWA calculates the rate based on previous sales data provided by the Texas Water Development Board, TCEQ, and IBWC.

Mr. Darling currently performs these duties in an unpaid capacity due to the lack of a functioning board. He proposed that the LRGVDC consider assuming administrative responsibility for the RGRWA. Funding is available to support administrative fees, and he suggested negotiating a contract like previous arrangements, adjusted for inflation.

He emphasized that having the Council of Governments involved would strengthen efforts to restructure and diversify RGRWA's membership—efforts which have so far been unsuccessful. He believes LRGVDC's support would help move the initiative forward, including with the Governor's Office. Mr. Manuel Cruz states that the LRGVDC would be willing to house the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA), provided that all actions follow proper protocol and most importantly meet compliance with applicable procedures before transferring. It was noted that, in the absence of an official RGRWA board to take formal action, any transition would need to be carefully managed to ensure legitimacy and transparency.

It was further explained that the program was previously managed by LRGVDC but was transferred to the Rio Grande Valley Partnership in or around 2010. The reason is unknown. Since that transfer occurred prior to the current administration, historical records, including meeting minutes and budgets—were also transferred, leaving no information about the program's status at the LRGVDC. However, it appears the program has not been active in recent years due to the vacant seats.

Staff proposed resuming oversight from where the program was left off and noted the alignment with existing work being done through the Region M Water Planning Group. LRGVDC staff already contribute significantly to regional water initiatives, making this a logical and complementary extension of their efforts whether the RGRWA is once again commissioned or not. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Request from Mr. Jim Darling, General Manager/President of Rio Grande Regional water Authority (RGRWA) to Transfer the RGRWA, upon meeting Compliance Standards to the LRGVDC as its Fiscal Agent and Execute any Applicable Management Agreement. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

No questions or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza then moved on to Item 4.E Executive Report.

4.E. Executive Report Mr. Cruz stated that a legislative update, including a summary of bills that may or may not impact the Council of Governments across various departments. A status report was included as the first page of the packet for review, outlining bills that could have either positive or negative effects on the organization.

Additional pages with detailed legislative information were also provided. The Executive Director noted that a more in-depth overview would be given by Mr. Javier Dominguez, who has conducted further analysis, particularly on legislation related to annexation and local government debt.

It was mentioned that the legislative session has been progressing slowly, with efforts underway to revive or advance several bills through amendments. Mr. Javier Dominguez provided a detailed overview of the legislative tracking report included in the meeting packet. The report contains nearly 70 bills, with a focus on legislation related to municipal debt accumulation and annexation authority. Bills were reviewed using targeted keyword searches to identify relevant impacts to local governments.

A color-coded system was used to categorize the bills:

• **Light green** indicates bills that have passed their respective House or Senate committees but have not yet been sent to the Governor for signature.

Mr. Javier Dominguez emphasized that, as of the latest update (last Thursday), only **one bill** had been sent to the Governor for signature—pertaining to the dissolution of a hospital district in Cedar Creek, which has no impact on the Rio Grande Valley region.

He noted that while most of the tracked legislation has not advanced significantly, activity may increase in the final days of the legislative session. As such, changes are still possible.

An updated link to the full legislative packet was provided, including bill numbers, filing dates, and current committee assignments. Mr. Javier Dominiguez concluded by stating that, as of now, there are no bills directly affecting local annexation powers or debt accumulation for jurisdictions in the region, but continued monitoring is recommended.

Mr. Cruz then moved on to present all the new hires.

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

Item #5: A. Community & Economic Development: Melisa Gonzalez had no Action items on the agenda for her department.

Status Reports: Mrs. Gonzales shared a few announcements. **Economic Development Administration Committee (EDAC):** It was noted that the upcoming EDAC meeting originally scheduled for June 10, 2025, has been rescheduled to June 17, 2025. This correction is reflected in the updated report. Currently, there are two vacancies on the EDAC for special Economic Development Organizations (EDOs). Staff have reached out to members for assistance in identifying potential candidates. Members are encouraged to recommend EDO representatives from their communities. Interested individuals will be provided with an application for consideration.

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC):** There is one vacancy on the SWAC for a private citizen representative. Nominations are now being accepted. The selected nominee will be presented at the September SWAC meeting for approval, after which the recommendation will be brought before the Board.

**Region N Water Plan:** Region N is currently in the process of updating its water plan. Public comments will be accepted through July 22, 2025. Members are encouraged to review the plan and provide input. While the document is lengthy (approximately 900 pages), summaries and key sections are available for easier review.

**Road to Recycling Program:** Staff are still compiling final numbers for the Road to Recycling event. An additional contribution came from the Cameron County Irrigation District, which requested assistance with tire disposal following a hurricane cleanup. With approval from TCEQ, these tires will be included in the final count. Updated figures will be provided at the August Board meeting, as there is no regular meeting scheduled for June.

No further questions or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to B. Health and Human Services.

B. Health & Human Services: Margarita Lopez had 2 Action Items on the agenda.

Ms. Margarita Lopez just wanted to express sincere gratitude to the Board and stakeholders for their continued support, highlighting the numerous phone calls and over 500 letters of support received. These letters are ready to be distributed to each district representative. Board members were provided with a packet for reference.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Letter of Support on behalf of the LRGVDC Boad of Directors for Congressional offices addressing the proposed FY 2026 Federal Budget impacts to Older Americans Act programs. This action item originates from a request made by the LRGVDC Board of Directors during last month's meeting. The Board requested the development of a formal letter of support to be sent to congressional offices, advocating against proposed federal budget cuts for Fiscal Year 2026 that would impact programs under the Older Americans Act, Medicaid, Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and Adult Protective Services. An updated packet was provided to Board members, which includes previously shared information as well as additional data requested at the prior meeting. A draft of the proposed letter is included in the packet and is now presented for the Board's consideration and approval. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Letter of Support on behalf of the LRGVDC Board of Directors for Congressional Offices addressing the proposed FY 2026 Federal Budget impacts to Older Americans Act Programs. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion, upon a vote; the motion was caried unanimously.

Jim Darling the states that it was noted that the House of Representatives has approved its version of the Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget. The budget proposal is now under consideration in the Senate. Further updates will be provided as the legislative process progresses.

Ms. Lopez then responds with It was noted that some changes to Medicaid have been made, but final information on other related programs is still pending. Further updates will be provided as additional details become available. Mr. Cruz mentioned that they noted that efforts have been made to ensure alignment with national messaging. Margarita and staff collaborated to ensure that all communications, including the drafted letter, reflect the same messaging and cadence as national associations, such as US Aging and NADO affiliates. This alignment ensures consistency, credibility, and reinforces the collective advocacy effort, especially regarding the significant impact on senior citizens.

Status Reports: Ms. Margarita Lopez mentioned Staff provided clarification that while a general draft letter was included, **four personalized letters**—each addressed to an individual district representative—will be prepared and distributed accordingly.

# **Executive Report and Supporting Documents**

Board members were directed to the **Executive Report** included in the meeting packet, which contains updated data presented at the previous meeting. The report outlines the **number of individuals served over the past five years**, organized by county and city. This data is provided for board members' reference and can be used to support ongoing advocacy efforts for senior services in the region.

The packet also includes:

- **Confidential testimonials** from the Ombudsman Program
- **Examples of letters of support** received from the community, including from participants in the **WellMed community**
- Photographs and community input from across the tri-county service area

# **Federal Advocacy Update**

Staff shared that they are awaiting scheduling confirmation from Congressman Gonzalez's Team to arrange a **virtual meeting with the Washington delegation**, where they plan to brief them on the current issues and provide updates.

# **Funding and Carryover Update**

Staff reported the following funding figures:

• FY 2024 Carryover: \$3,567,004

• **FY 2025 Award**: \$10,619,257

• **20% Hold (Pending Spending Authorization)**: \$1,239,379

While the **full FY 2025 allocation has been received**, the 20% portion remains **unavailable for use pending federal authorization**. Despite the delay, staff expressed no concern over spending timelines, as they currently have:

- Approximately 540 individuals awaiting service approval
- An additional 120–200 individuals on a waitlist pending intake

Once authorization is granted, funds will be utilized promptly to serve eligible individuals. If delays persist, the **unspent amount will roll over into FY 2026**. Staff expressed hope that the organization will continue to serve as the **Area Agency on Aging** in 2026 to ensure continuity of services.

Ms. Veronica Gonzalez stated, it was noted that several testimonials included in the packet referenced dementia. A recent bill, Senate Bill 5 (SB5), has passed and been sent to the governor for approval. This legislation establishes the Dementia Research and Treatment (DRT) initiative, modeled after the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas.

The initiative will allocate \$3 billion over 10 years to support dementia care and research. Voters will have the opportunity to approve this funding in the upcoming November ballot.

Additionally, it was shared that the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) Institute of Neuroscience in Harlingen offers research and clinical care services for individuals affected by dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Board members and staff were encouraged to utilize this local resource for referrals and support as needed. Margarita then mentioned that in continuation of the dementia-related initiatives, it was reported that US Aging has conducted interviews with staff, including Letty Gonzalez from the WellMed Charity Foundation, which provides care for older adults in our community.

It was noted that due to the Valley's high incidence rates of dementia and Alzheimer's, our region is being considered as a candidate to receive a pilot grant. Early conversations at the national level have already begun, and there is optimism about being selected for this funding.

The team looks forward to continuing to serve the community through this opportunity, in whatever capacity it may take.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Public Safety.

C. Public Safety: Criminal Justice & Homeland Security. Mr. Cesar Merla was recognized and mentioned that he had no action items on the agenda.

Status Reports: Mr. Cesar Merla provided an overview of upcoming trainings:

- Law Enforcement De-escalation Training: Scheduled for June 20 and June 26, this oneday, 8-hour TCOLE-approved training will be held locally and marks the start of the summer training series.
- **Active Shooter Response Training:** A three-day training from August 12 to 14 at the KNAPP Conference Center in Weslaco. This important training is open to the public, free of charge, and all jurisdictions are encouraged to send police, fire, EMS personnel, and leadership to attend. It is one of the first of its kind in the Valley in recent years.
- **Listo RGV Conference:** Scheduled for September 24–26, registration is currently \$100. The goal is to make the conference free to attendees next year by increasing sponsorships and fundraising efforts.

# Additional updates included:

- The region has responded effectively to recent flooding events in March, with focus now shifting to long-term recovery, which involves fire, EMS, law enforcement, mental health, and legal sectors.
- Volunteer training sessions will be held June 4–6 in collaboration with the Texas Division of Emergency Management. These sessions prepare volunteers for disaster response, covering volunteer organization setup and donation management. Ms. Leslie Sanchez-Seaton is the training coordinator.

- Disaster Recovery Centers are currently open to assist those affected by the March flooding in the region:
  - o Cameron County: 701 Harlingen Heights, Harlingen, Texas
  - o Hidalgo County: 255 S Kansas Ave, Weslaco Texas
  - o Starr County: 100 N FM 3167, Rio Grande City Texas 78582
  - Willacy County: Sebastian Community Resource Center @ 434 W 8<sup>th</sup> St Sebastian, Texas Centers operate from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., sometimes longer, and residents and businesses affected by flooding are encouraged to visit.

No further questions or comments Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to LRGV Police Academy.

Mr. Javier Solis started off with the first action item on the agenda for his department.

- 1. Consideration and ACTION to approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy. Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy; Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.
- 2. Consideration and ACTION to approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas to accept the transfer of two 2016 Dodge Ram Police vehicles from the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy. Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve an MOU between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the County of Hidalgo, Texas to accept the transfer of two 2016 Dodge Ram Police vehicles from the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

Status Reports: The report began with updates from the regional police academies:

- Mission 228th Academy completed emergency vehicle training on May 9, 2025, and has
  entered its final month of instruction. Firearms training is currently underway. Graduation is
  scheduled for July 11.
- Weslaco 229th LRGV Academy completed traffic enforcement and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training. Cadets are now certified in the National Traffic Incident Management System and will begin Use of Force training. Graduation is set for October 2025.
- **Rio Grande City 230th LRGV Academy** is in its second month of training and has completed modules on the Texas Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Arrest, Search, and Seizure. They will now begin training on the Texas Traffic Code.

During **May**, in-service training was scaled back to allow staff to prepare for upcoming conferences and events. Only **one in-service course** was held, training **12 officers** over **16 hours**, resulting in **192 total contact hours**.

Staff are actively preparing for the following major upcoming events:

2025 Listo RGV Conference

- 2025 RGV 911 District Wellness Seminar
- 2nd Annual Cameron County–Willacy County Child Advocacy Centers Conference

# **Major Training Announcement:**

The Texas Narcotic Officers Association, in collaboration with the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association (NNDDA), will host the **first-ever fentanyl detection training for police K-9 units in the Rio Grande Valley**. This three-day course will be held **August 16–18 in Brownsville, Texas**, and will include the use of **real fentanyl samples** for imprinting detection dogs. The training will also provide the best practices and safety protocols. Currently, no K-9 units in the Valley have access to this level of fentanyl-specific training. The course will be **offered at no cost** and is open to **all local law enforcement and school district K-9 teams**. Departments are encouraged to participate.

# **Special Recognition:**

Mr. Roland Pérez, Master Instructor for the LRGVDC Police Academy, was recognized for his accomplishments and service:

- Mr. Pérez was a member of the **1977 Edinburg High School Bobcat Boys Cross Country Team**, which won the **first-ever state championship title** for Edinburg in cross-country.
- He later served as a **police officer** and as a **combat veteran** in the United States Army, where he earned **two Purple Hearts** for injuries sustained during multiple deployments in Iraq.
- After a distinguished 40-year career in law enforcement, he continues to train and mentor police cadets throughout the region.
- In recognition of his legacy, Mr. Pérez will be inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Sports
  Hall of Fame on June 28 as part of the historic 1977 cross-country team.

A small token of appreciation was presented to Mr. Pérez by the board, with special acknowledgment from Mayor Ramiro Garza and Mr. Manuel Cruz.

No questions or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza proceeded to Item C.3 RGV – 911 District.

Status Reports: Mr. Dennis Moreno Mentioned that it has reported an increase in both page views and address submittals through the regional portal. Cities and counties are encouraged to utilize this portal, particularly when new subdivisions are submitted and approved by their respective boards. The portal allows for timely updates to address points, which directly support the accuracy of 911 mapping services.

Planning departments across the region have been actively coordinating with the GIS team to ensure data remains current. Additionally, for residents outside city limits, the division is offering free address plates. These can be requested through the same portal and are currently available in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties only. Staff remain available by phone for assistance, but the online platform provides a convenient and efficient option for address updates and services.

No further questions or comments from the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item D Valley Metro.

- D. Transportation Valley Metro: Mr. Tom Logan states that today he will have 1 action item on the agenda.
- 1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy. Revisions have been made in accordance with the Executive Order to align with current Federal definition and requirements. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy. Revisions have been made in accordance with the Executive

# Order to align with current Federal definition and requirements. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.

Status Reports: Mr. Tom Logan states that Valley Metros' status reports are in the package for their review and if they have any questions feel free to give him a call.

No further Questions or comments, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza then moved to Rio Grande Valley MPO.

Status Reports: A quarterly update was provided on the activities of the RGV Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Board. The key item discussed was the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revision, which is the state's short-range transportation plan. The process includes a 30-day public comment period, presentation to the MPO Policy Board for formal approval, and subsequent review and action by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Final approval is subject to acceptance by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Additionally, it was announced that the RGVMPO successfully completed a federal review conducted by FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in late 2024. The certification was granted, ensuring continued funding flow for transportation initiatives.

An update was also provided on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan, which serves as a guiding tool for all jurisdictions within the MPO's region. The plan supports the identification and nomination of safety-related projects, which may now be eligible for flexible federal funding. The MPO Policy Board is scheduled to meet later in the day to discuss potential project funding opportunities under this plan.

Stakeholders were encouraged to review the plan, submit nominations, or attend the MPO meeting to participate in the ongoing planning process. For further information, contact was encouraged through the MPO office.

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business: Lastly Mr. Cruz added congratulations to the new members that are joining the board of directors as the 27 members. Attendees were encouraged to reach out with any questions regarding the board's processes or documentation. Staff offered to provide business cards after the meeting and committed to sharing relevant materials via email, including information on board responsibilities, bylaws, and procedures, to help ensure a smooth and informed meeting experience.

**Ms. Ann Cass** made a request for the Board to consider sending letters of condolence to *the Affordable Homes of South Texas* and to the organization formerly coordinated by *Nedrick Kinnick*, both of whom recently lost key leaders. She noted the significant contributions of these individuals in advancing affordable housing and civic education in the Rio Grande Valley.

Ms. Cass also highlighted concerns raised during a recent emergency management workshop regarding anticipated funding cuts to key nonprofit organizations—impacting services such as Medicaid, the food bank, and affordable housing. She emphasized the urgent need for increased support from the private sector and urged the Council of Governments (COG) to take a more active role in encouraging public and private donors to step up during times of need. She stressed that while nonprofit agencies often carry much of the response burden, especially in disasters, private sector engagement remains limited. She called for proactive support to ensure these essential services can continue.

With no further questions or concerns, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #7.

Item #7: Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adjourn at 1:15pm

	President, Norie Gonzalez Garza
ATTEST:	
Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary	

# ITEM #3 PUBLIC COMMENT

# ITEM #4. A ADMINISTRATION

# Presentation Texas Gas Service

# ITEM #4. B ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE REPORT

# **ADMINISTRATION**

# JUNE NEW HIRES

# June New Hires

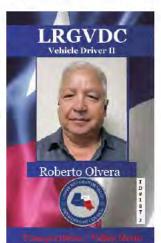
# New Hire Date: June 9, 2025,

Claudia Salinas Project Manager II RGVMPO



New Hire Date: May 27, 2025

Roberto Olvera Vehicle Driver II Transportation Valley Metro



# New Hire Date; May 27, 2025

Maria Trevino Vehicle Driver II Transportation-Valley Metro



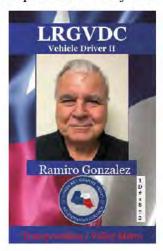
# New Hire Date: May 27, 2025

Rafael Gonzalez System Administrator III RGVECD 9-1-1



New Hire Date: May 27, 2025

Ramiro Gonzalez Vehicle Driver II Transportation Valley Metro



# **New Hires**

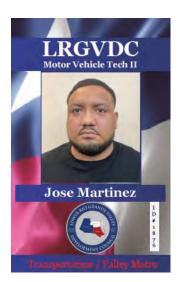
# NEW HIRE DATE: June 23, 2025,

Erik Ojeda Motor Vehicle Transportation II Transportation Valley Metro



# NEW HIRE DATE: June 23, 2025

Jose Martinez Motor Vehicle Technician II Transportation Valley Metro



# NEW HIRE DATE: June 23, 2025

Manuel Meraz Purchaser I Administration



# **ITEM #5. A.**

# COMMUNITY & & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

# Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

# **Program Action Item**

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the Interlocal Agreement with Texas State University and the LRGVDC to create a Composting curriculum for  $6^{th}-8^{th}$  graders under the SWIFR program.

Due to a Region One curriculum development issue, TCEQ has allowed LRGVDC to partner with Texas State Institute regarding the development of a food composting curriculum for middle school students. Texas State Institute has the resources to develop the curriculum by the deadline date of August 31, 2025. The schools participating are as follows: Mission, Raymondville, Los Fresnos, Mercedes ISD, and Rio Hondo. The objective is to fully implement the curriculum by September 2025.

# MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

This agreement is made between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the Texas State University (Texas State).

WHEREAS, LRGVDC desires to engage Texas State to provide services as described in unique Scopes of Work under individual Task Orders and has sufficient funding for such services.

WHEREAS, Texas State has the requisite knowledge, skill, authority, and experience to perform the Services in accordance to the needs of LRGVDC and described in the unique Scopes of Work under individual Task Orders.

- 1. Services. This Agreement is a Master Interlocal Agreement and is intended to provide the contractual terms and conditions applicable to all services rendered by Texas State to LRGVDC. The Services performed by Texas State pursuant to this Agreement shall be documented in advance and described in the one or more Task Orders. Acceptance and implementation shall follow a mutually agreed upon Task Order describing activities and budget of the task. Task Order #1 is included as Attachment 1 of this Master Agreement as the first activity.
- 2. **Task Orders (TO).** Each TO shall include, to the extent appropriate, (i) a description of the Services to be provided by Texas State; (ii) any work product and specific deliverables to be developed or supplied by Texas State during the course of the Services ("Deliverables"); (iii) the individuals designated by each, LRGVDC and Texas State, who shall have management responsibility in connection with the TO; (iv) the fees payable to Texas State for the Services to be performed; and (v) such additional provisions applicable to the TO which are not otherwise set forth in this Agreement.
- 3. Change Orders. LRGVDC may request additions, deletions, or revisions in the Services provided pursuant to a TO provided that such modifications ("Change Orders") are documented in writing by LRGVDC and acknowledged and approved of in writing by Texas State. If Texas State determines that a Change Order is necessary to provide the Services set forth in a TO, Texas State shall notify LRGVDC in writing of such Change Order and price revision(s), if applicable, in advance of carrying out the modifications.
- 4. **Fees and Payment Terms.** The fees payable for the Services shall be as set forth in the applicable statement of work and accepted through a mutually signed Task Order. Reimbursement for each task shall be on a Fixed Price basis. Payment for Task Orders shall be payable within thirty (30) days following the date of Texas State's invoice.

- 5. **Contract Manager:** The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, will serve as Texas State University's Contract Manager in all matters relating to this agreement.
- 6. **Principle Investigator:** Rebecca Davio, will serve as Texas State's primary contact for the details regarding programmatic questions as well as individual Task Orders.
- 7. **Term and Termination:** This agreement becomes effective as soon as both parties have signed this Master Agreement and remains effective through August 31, 2025. This Agreement and all Task Order's hereunder shall be terminable by either party for any reason following thirty (30) days written notice to the other party.
- 8. **Termination for Unavailability of Funds:** The Parties acknowledge that either Party may terminate this agreement in whole or in part if either Party learns that funds to pay for the goods or services will not be available at the time of delivery or performance.

  LRGVDC terminates this agreement for unavailability of funds by giving Texas State notice of the termination, as soon as it learns of the funding unavailability, and specifying the termination date, which may not be less than fifteen (15) calendar days from the notice date. The agreement terminates on the specified termination date. LRGVDC is liable for any costs incurred by Texas State pursuant to this agreement prior to the date of any such notice.
- 9. Audit/Access to Records: Texas State shall maintain and make available for review, inspection and/or audit books, records, documents, and other evidence reasonably pertinent to performance on all work under this Agreement, including negotiated changes or amendments thereto, in accordance with accepted professional practice, appropriate accounting procedures and practices.
  - a) LRGVDC or any of LRGVDC's duly authorized representatives, shall have access to such books, records, documents, and other evidence for the purpose of review, inspection and/or audit.
  - b) Audits conducted pursuant to this provision shall be in accordance with State law, regulations and policy, and generally accepted auditing standards and established procedures and guidelines of the reviewing or audit agency.
  - c) Records under this section shall be maintained and made available during the entire period of performance of this Agreement and until seven (7) years from date of final LRGVDC payment for the project. In addition, those records which relate to any dispute, litigation, or the settlement of claims arising out of such performance, or costs or items to which an audit exception has been taken shall be maintained and made available until completion of such action and resolution of all issues which arise from it, or until the end of the regular seven- (7) year period, whichever is later.

- 10. **Entire Agreement:** This agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. This agreement may not be modified except as agreed by the parties in writing, nor may this agreement be assigned.
- 11. **Notices:** Notice under this agreement shall be in writing and may be delivered by hand, by certified mail, by common carrier, or electronically. Notice by hand delivery is deemed effective immediately, by certified mail is deemed effective three days after deposit in U.S. Post Office or in a U.S. Mailbox, and by common carrier, is deemed effective upon receipt. Electronic notice is deemed effective upon confirmed receipt of the receiving party. Notice to a party shall be addressed as follows:

### For LRGVDC:

Melisa Gonzales 301 W Railroad Street Weslaco, TX 788596 Office 956-682-3481 melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org

# For Texas State University:

Office of Research & Sponsored Programs
Post-Award Support Services
Texas State University
601 University Dr. JCK420
San Marcos, Texas 78666
grants@txstate.edu
512-245-2102

### With Copy To:

Texas State Principal Investigator:

Rebecca Davia, PhD rebeccadavio@txstate.edu 512 245-7366

- 12. **Liability:** To the extent allowed by law each Party agrees to be solely responsible for the wrongful acts of its own employees, contractors, and agents. However, nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by either Party of its sovereign immunity.
- 13. **Governing Law and Venue:** This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the parties as to its subject matter and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. Venue for a dispute arising from this agreement shall be in Hays County, Texas. Nothing herein shall constitute a waiver of either Party's sovereign immunity or the constitutionally, statutory or common law rights, privileges, immunities or defenses of the parties.

- 14. **Nondiscrimination:** In their execution of this agreement, all contractors, subcontractors, their respective employees, and others acting by or through them shall comply with all federal and state policies and laws prohibiting discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. Any breach of this covenant may result in termination of this agreement.
- 15. **Breach:** LRGVDC's failure to fully comply with the payment terms set forth herein constitutes a material breach by LRGVDC and Texas State may terminate this agreement by giving LRGVDC at least ten days' prior notice, except that any such notice will not result in termination if the breaching party cures the breach before the ten-day period elapses. In the event of breach by LRGVDC, Texas State shall retain sole and exclusive ownership of all work performed by Texas State pursuant to this agreement.

This agreement is executed by:

Lower Rio Grande Development Council	Texas State University	
Manuel Cruz	Shreek Mandayam, PhD	
Executive Director	VP for Research	
DATE	DATE	

# Task Order #1 Developing Composting Curriculum for 6th-8th Graders

# **Background:**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is participating in a Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant with the Region One Service Center. The Goal of this project is to "Implement the LRGV Composting and Vermiculture Pilot School Project within at least 4 local school districts in the 3-county region. Counties: Hidalgo (Mission, Pharr), Cameron (Los Fresnos) and Willacy (Lyford)." There are two program objectives including "1. Creation or improvement of recycling or organics collection and management, and/or other landfill diversion. 2. Recycling, composting, reuse, source reduction, and/or landfill diversion education." This project aligns with multiple goals and objectives in LRGVDC's 2022-2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

# **Project Description:**

The Institute for Government Innovation (IGI) at Texas State University will complete the SWIFR Scope of Work, Task 3 as shown in the Texas State Tasks section.

### **Texas State Tasks:**

Complete SWIFER grant, Task 3 as presented below:

Task 3: Development of Instructional Activities

Subtask 3.1: Problem-solution based learning activities developed

Subtask 3.2: Development of Instructional Activities and finalized

# **LRGVDC** Responsibilities:

- Provide information about the grant and materials supplied to schools
- Introduce project staff to individuals with insights into this project
- Provide guidance as required during the project

# **Deliverables:**

1. Curriculum for Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> including problem-solution based learning activities and instructional activities

## **Project Schedule:**

Project will begin as soon as the contract is fully executed and be completed no later than August 15, 2025.

# **Project Budget:**

\$11,273.57 on a firm fixed price basis.

**Payment Schedule:** The final amount will be invoiced within 30 days of the Project delivery estimated at August 15, 2025.

# **Project Contact:**

Melisa Gonzales 301 W Railroad Street Weslaco, TX 788596 Office 956-682-3481 Melisa.Gonzales@LRGVDC.org

# **Texas State Contact:**

Rebecca Davio
Institute for Government Innovation Director
512 245-7366
rebeccadavio@txstate.edu

Task Order #4, Developing Composting Curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders, is executed by:

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	Texas State University
Manuel Cruz Executive Director	Shreek Mandayam, PhD Vice President for Research
DATE	DATE

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

**Item #5: Department Reports** 

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

# • Economic Development Administration

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

Staff are currently administering the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation's EDA award project, which involves the development of approximately 5.3 acres designated for a detention pond. This project will include the construction of roughly 1,130 square yards of parking lot area and approximately 320 linear feet of drainage piping. Additionally, a foot-hike and bike trail extending around 2,900 linear feet will be integrated around the pond. It is anticipated that this project will generate approximately 300 jobs and retain around 115 positions, with an estimated private investment of \$4 million. This project commenced with construction.

Staff continue to engage with city officials to explore potential EDA projects, providing valuable insights that will assist in the preparation of applications for submission. Staff are available to offer technical assistance, project development, and grant administration for EDA proposals and projects. For any inquiries or information on EDA, please contact the Community & Economic Development Department. We also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to share information as needed. Additionally, our team coordinates with other governmental entities on economic development activities to maximize the benefits of all projects and objectives in the region and to avoid any duplication of efforts and resources. For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <a href="https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/">https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/</a>.

LRGVDC appreciates the ongoing commitment to closing the digital divide and fostering economic opportunities in the Rio Grande Valley! The efforts play a crucial role in helping connect communities and providing access to essential resources. We're excited about collaborating to implement the successful launch of the RGV Broadband Plan and make a real difference together in the lives of those we serve. Let's get started! Visit the LRGVDC Economic Development webpage, <a href="https://www.lrgvdc.org/business.html">https://www.lrgvdc.org/business.html</a> for RGV Broadband Coalition Resources (RGV Broadband & Digital Opportunity Plan, Promotional Toolkit, & RGV Broadband Coalition).

# • Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

We are pleased to announce that staff will be hosting the in-person Annual Meeting on July 22, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Ken Jones Board Room Building B. A "Save the Date" notification has been sent to the relevant entities. Key topics of interest for our small cities will include water, transportation, and other essential resources that will support and enhance our communities. Our team is currently developing the agenda, and we will share the finalized version once it is complete.

Staff continue to disseminate vital information to small cities via email. If you have questions, you may contact Brenda Salinas <a href="mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org">bsalinas@lrgvdc.org</a>



# • Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

Staff are actively engaged in executing the designated technical assistance activities for TxCDBG-eligible localities within our operational region, ensuring adherence to program compliance. We are committed to continuously disseminating pertinent program information to keep these communities well-informed. Additionally, we promote Fair Housing initiatives, support the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and facilitate grant kick-off meetings for communities that have been awarded funding.

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

# Solid Waste Management Program

The City of Palmview has received funding through the Solid Waste Grant to install four surveillance cameras in areas identified as illegal dumping hotspots. These cameras play a crucial role in monitoring and mitigating illegal dumping activities, reinforcing the city's commitment to maintaining a clean and sustainable environment. In addition to deploying surveillance equipment, the city has distributed educational materials to residents, ensuring community awareness and compliance with regulations. To enhance monitoring efforts, the city has installed

Flash Cam equipment at designated surveillance sites, refining both coverage areas and sensitivity settings for optimal effectiveness. The video monitoring tracks and addresses violations more efficiently. Furthermore, the City of Palmview is developing a comprehensive geographic database of illegal dumping incidents to facilitate ongoing tracking and mitigation efforts. The evidence captured by surveillance cameras will be utilized to support the prosecution of offenders, reinforcing accountability and deterrence. Officials will also conduct an in-depth analysis of illegal dumping trends, examining factors such as materials disposed of, locations, timeframes, and repeat offenders. This data-driven approach will inform strategic interventions aimed at reducing illegal dumping within the jurisdiction. Based on these insights, the city will explore additional preventive measures, such as organizing tire drop-off events, enhancing recycling services, and expanding educational initiatives to promote responsible waste disposal practices. The City of Palmview staff mentioned to us that the illegal dumping has decreased since cameras have been installed. As these funds are from TCEQ they require LRGVDC staff to conduct site visits to document and take pictures of equipment purchased through the grant.







Staff attended the TCEQ Trade Fair & Conference held on June 3rd and 4th. The conference encompassed a wide range of topics and featured esteemed speakers, focusing on subjects such as solid waste management and water-related sessions, which are all integral to the TCEQ's mission. Noteworthy presentations included discussions on scrap tire management, the utilization of regional recycling resources, and an examination of waste management options. Presentations are available at, <a href="https://www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html">www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html</a>.

The next in person Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be on September 9, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Ken Jones Board Room Building B.

Staff continue to provide technical assistance, outreach, and monitoring for all Solid Waste Projects. Information about the Solid Waste program is available at <a href="https://www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html">www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html</a>.

# • Air Quality Program

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

# **Current Project Status:**

- Emission Inventory Completed.
- Data Research and Analysis to be completed by the end of Q2 2025.
- Modeling begins late Q2 2025 or early Q3 2025.
- Draft Report to begin late Q3 2025 or early Q4 2025.
- Project is on schedule with no expected delays.

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

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

The next STC4 meeting will be on June 27, 2025, at 10:00 AM via GoToMeeting platform.

LRGVDC staff had a virtual call with NRAL, company partners, to Clean Cities Coalition, regarding the possibility of small funding for staff to help us reach full-fledged Coalition status. Application period should start in June 2025 and LRGVDC staff will work with NRAL to get application completed and submitted.

# • Water Quality Program

Staff continue to actively educate the public on water quality issues through a variety of outreach initiatives. Monthly themed Facebook posts are created to engage our online community, encouraging users to give a thumbs up or leave a comment. These posts are designed to raise awareness about water quality topics and provide valuable information to the public. CED Facebook: <a href="Community & Economic Development">Community & Economic Development</a> | Facebook, LRGVDC Facebook: <a href="Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council">Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council</a> | Weslaco TX | Facebook







Beyond social media, our outreach efforts extend to in-person events. At these events, we share valuable information and promote awareness about water quality through reading materials and promotional items, along with all other department functions. This community engagement will significantly enhance our education and outreach efforts, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) program and strengthen our connection with the community.

Staff attended 4 events this month: City of Sullivan Community Resource – Palooza, Hidalgo County Ready - Emergency Preparedness Pop-up, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and San Juan Nature Nights.

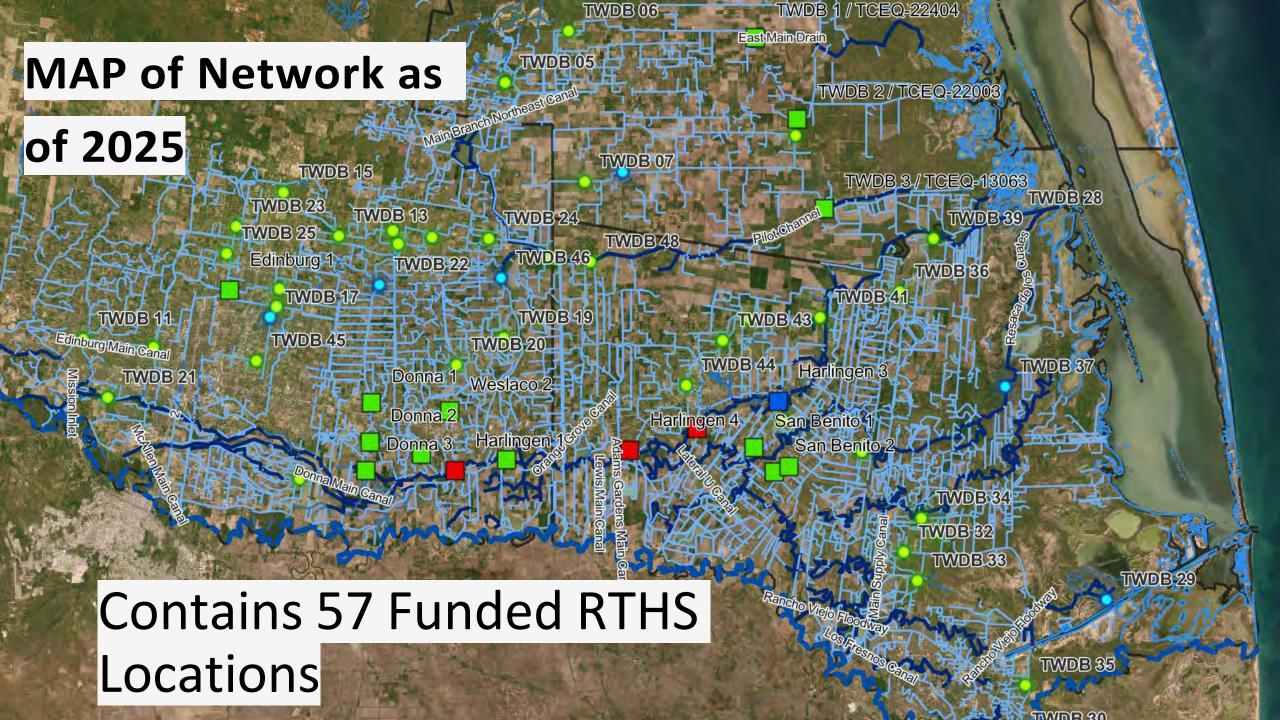












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Instead of applying a model centered around 1 single station
We apply our data into a model for the entire network





As mentioned, staff attended the TCEQ Trade Fair & Conference. Water presentations can be found on the Water Resource webpage at: https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html

Staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as well as other entities involved in water quality initiatives to strengthen partnerships and generate further activities related to water quality and to highlight the importance of it to the region. Visit our Water Resource webpage at: https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html

# • Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2025, at 2:00 PM. The RWRAC meeting was held on June 11, 2025, that included two presentations with one highlighting the LRGVDC's very own FIF project. This presentation highlighted the RTHS which give real time data on the flow and height of the water body these stations are placed in. It also showed in real time how the march flood event occurred and impacted the Rio Grande Valley. The second presentation was involving stakeholders in TCEQ North and Central Watersheds.

Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer

Information about water resources is available at

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

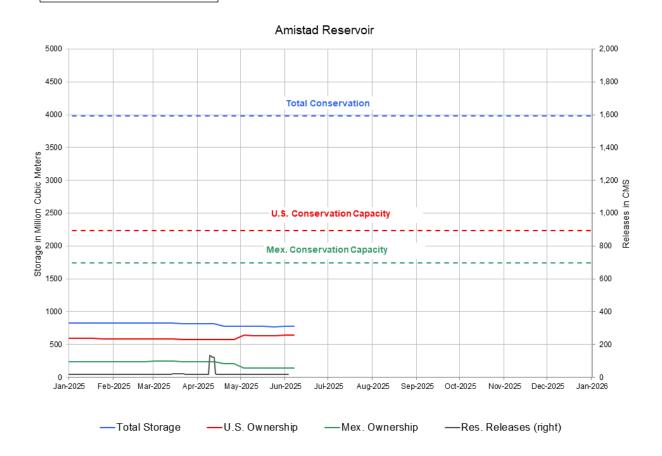
projects.

https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html

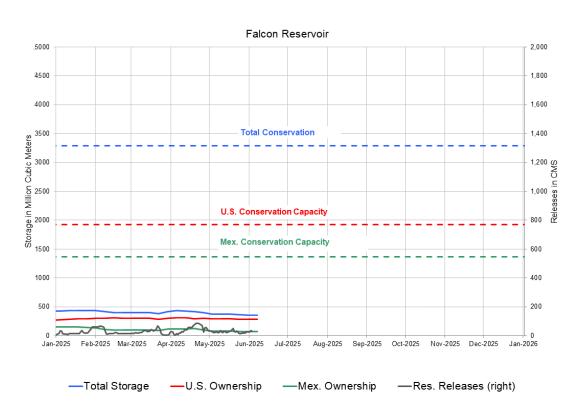
The RGRWPG is accepting comments on the Initially Prepared 2026 Region M Water Plan until July 22, 2025. The RGRWPG will consider all submitted comments and documentation of submitted comments. The RGRWPG's responses will be provided to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The public can submit written comments to: Jim Darling, Chairman Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group, 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco, TX 78596 or Email: Outreach\_RegionM@BlackandVeatch.onmicrosoft.com

- For questions or additional information, you may contact Mrs. Melisa-Gonzales
  Rosas at (956)682-3481 ext.163 or melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org
  As mentioned, staff attended the TCEQ Trade Fair & Conference. Environmental
  Quality along the Texas Border with Mexico Session presentations can be found on the
  Water Resource webpage at: https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html
- For any Region M meeting information, please visit website: <a href="http://riograndewaterplan.org">http://riograndewaterplan.org</a> or <a href="https://www.lrgvdc.org/">https://www.lrgvdc.org/</a>

AMISTAD RESERVOIR



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# ITEM # 5. B.

# HEALTH & & HUMAN SERVICES

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 10, 2025

# **Item #5: Department Reports**

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Update ...... Margarita Lopez, Director

1. Update – Submission of Approved Letter of Support and Advocacy Packets.

As a follow-up to the action item titled "Consideration and action to approve the Letter of Support on behalf of the LRGVDC Board of Directors for congressional offices addressing the proposed FY 2026 federal budget impacts to Older Americans Act programs," please note the following update:

The Letter of Support, which was approved and signed by the LRGVDC Board of Directors during last month's meeting, was officially distributed. Advocacy packets containing the signed letter, an executive summary report, and multiple community letters of support were both emailed and mailed to the following congressional offices:

- Senator Ted Cruz
- Senator John Cornyn
- Representative Monica De La Cruz
- Representative Vicente Gonzalez

This fulfills the action of support approved by the Board to advocate on behalf of the agency and its programs in response to the proposed FY 2026 federal budget cuts impacting the Older Americans Act, Medicaid HCBS, and Adult Protective Services.

\*Attached to this report you will find a copy of each letter that was emailed and mailed out, along with the executive summary report that was included in each advocacy packet.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday June 25, 2025

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 May 2025.

# • Direct Consumer Services Report - Care Coordination May 2025

- o The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 168 new clients.
- A total of 899 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
Care Coordination Services	168	899
Health Maintenance Services Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	0	0
Homemaker Services Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	0	0
Transportation Services Assistance with transportation services to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.	0	0
Residential Repair Services Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	0	0

<sup>\*</sup>Disclaimer: Areas showing zero interactions reflect that funds were previously exhausted. Services are being reinstated gradually as additional funding is received, and only those services covered by the new funds are being reopened. Updates will be included in the August report.

# **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support May 2025**

- o The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 31 new clients.
- o A total of 137 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
Caregiver Support Services	31	137
Respite In-Home Services Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.	0	49
Health Maintenance Services Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	0	0

<sup>\*</sup>Disclaimer: Areas showing zero interactions reflect that funds were previously exhausted. Services are being reinstated gradually as additional funding is received, and only those services covered by the new funds are being reopened. Updates will be included in the August report.

# Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant May 2025

o The CDBG Program serviced a total of 23 new clients.

 A total of 38 individuals were assisted with health maintenance services under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	13	17
Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	10	21
Community Development Block Grant Residential Repair Services Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	0	0

# • Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List May 2025

 1,431 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.

Direct Consumer Services Interest List	
Care Coordination Services	1,598
Caregiver Support Services	108
Grand Total	1,706

# • Nutrition Program Report: May 2025

- Successfully enrolled 9 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program
- o Successfully delivered 25,018 meals.
- o Successfully enrolled 91 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- o Successfully served 15,957 Congregate meals.

Home Delivered Meals	Total New Clients	Total Meals Served
Amigos Del Valle	9	25,018
Congregate Meals	Total New Clients	Total Meals Served
Amigos Del Valle	77	13,838
Bright Nutrition	14	2,119
Total	91	15,957

# Senior Center Operations Report – May 2025 Program successfully enrolled 30 new clients. Senior Centers conducted 19,001 activities with their clients.

Cito	Mary Cliente	Antivition
Site	New Clients	Activities
La Joya	0	2,144
Los Fresnos	7	2,382
Primera	0	795
Rio Hondo	1	333
Mission Housing Authority	0	667
WellMed Charitable Foundation	22	12,680
Total(s)	30	19,001

# **Special Services Report**

# • Benefit Counselors Program - May 2025

 Achieved the enrollment of 121 new clients and established 169.75 contacts.

Benefit Counselors	Total New Clients	<b>Total Contacts</b>
HICAP Awareness	37	19
HICAP Assistance	20	43
MIPPA	37	45.75
Legal Awareness	0	0
Legal Assistance	27	62

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

# • Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report - May 2025

- During May, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 58 new clients.
- They made a total of 209 contacts across hospitals within the tri-county area.

CTI Coaches	Total New Clients	Total Clients Served
May 2025	58	209

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

# • Ombudsman Program Report - May 2025

- The Ombudsman handled 49 complaints.
- o They dedicated 85.98 activity hours and recorded 429 activity totals.
- o The volunteers collectively contributed 8 in-kind hours.

Ombudsman				
Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints
May 2025	8	85.98	429	49

# **Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

# • Information Referral & Assistance Report – May 2025

o The intake team had a total of 412 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, faxes, and follow ups.

IR&A Interactions	
1-800 AAA	11
1-855 ADRC	24
(956) 682-3481	123
(956) 412-0958	23
Walk-ins	6
E-mails	82
Fax	2
Follow ups	141
Total Interactions	412

Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	317
Consumer 59 and below	8
Total Consumers	325

Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	324
Veterans	5

Top Call Topics				
Health Maintenance	84			
Homemaker	63			
Residential Repair	42			
Benefits Counseling	40			
Respite	37			

# • Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – May 2025

o During May, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 23 new caregivers.

Caregivers Assisted				
Total New Clients	23			

# ADRC Housing Navigator Report – May 2025

Assisted 3 consumers with housing inquiries.

Housing Intakes Total						
Total Housing Intakes:	3					

# ADRC Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report – May 2025

 Provided services to 27 consumers under the CDBG Grant. 26 received Health Maintance Services and 1 received Homemaker Services.

ADRC Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)						
City	Health Maintance	Homemaker Services				
City of Donna	8	1				
City of Elsa	18	0				
Total Consumers:	26	1				

# ITEM # 5. C.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 25, 2024

**Item #5: Department Reports** 

C. Public Safety

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Recommendation for the return of voluntary monetary contributions to jurisdictions from the Emergency Radio Communication Fund.

The HSAC met on June 13, 2025, in the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom to review the return of voluntary monetary contributions totaling \$86,135.50. The committee recommends approval of the attached jurisdictional breakdown of these funds. This fund was established specifically to support the ongoing operations of the National Weather Service's Spanish notification systems across the service area.

				80% Return from Remaining	
Jurisdictions	YTD Revenue	YTD Expenses	Remaining Balance	Balance	
D :	470.00	<b>\$00.00</b>	фоо <b>г</b> г	404.44	
Bayview	\$70.38		\$30.55	\$24.44	
Brownsville	\$29,519.34	\$16,707.12	\$12,812.22	\$10,249.77	
Cameron County	\$15,169.53		\$6,584.00	\$5,267.20	
Combes	\$652.13	·	\$283.04	\$226.43	
Harlingen	\$14,767.46	\$8,357.97	\$6,409.49	\$5,127.59	
Indian Lake	\$135.39	\$76.63	\$58.76	\$47.01	
La Feria	\$1,579.44	\$893.92	\$685.52	\$548.42	
Laguna Vista	\$512.66	·	\$222.51	\$178.01	
Los Fresnos	\$1,375.80	\$778.66	\$597.14	\$477.71	
Los Indios	\$219.26	·	\$95.16	\$76.13	
Palm Valley	\$393.76	\$222.86	\$170.90	\$136.72	
Port Isabel	\$710.76	\$402.27	\$308.49	\$246.79	
Primera	\$1,006.54	\$569.67	\$436.87	\$349.49	
Rancho Viejo	\$555.54	\$314.42	\$241.12	\$192.90	
Rio Hondo	\$425.29	\$240.70	\$184.59	\$147.67	
San Benito	\$5,832.56	\$3,301.07	\$2,531.49	\$2,025.20	
Santa Rosa	\$438.03	\$247.91	\$190.12	\$152.09	
South Padre Island	\$578.68	\$327.52	\$251.16	\$200.93	
Alamo	\$3,850.79	\$2,179.44	\$1,671.35	\$1,337.08	
Alton	\$3,219.06	\$1,821.90	\$1,397.16	<b>\$1,117.7</b> 3	
Donna	\$3,458.21	\$1,957.25	\$1,500.96	\$1,200.77	
Edcouch	\$645.99	\$365.61	\$280.38	\$224.30	
Edinburg	\$16,082.20	\$9,102.08	\$6,980.12	\$5,584.10	
Elsa	\$1,237.49	\$700.38	\$537.11	\$429.68	
Granjeno	\$65.45	\$37.04	\$28.41	\$22.73	
Hidalgo	\$2,507.17	\$1,418.99	\$1,088.18		
Hidalgo County	\$49,622.88		\$21,537.71	\$17,230.17	
La Joya	\$741.71	\$419.79	\$321.92	\$257.54	
La Villa	\$335.29	\$189.76	\$145.53		
McAllen	\$30,075.74	\$17,022.03	\$13,053.71	\$10,442.97	
Mercedes	\$2,971.35	·	\$1,289.65		
Mission	\$17,691.30		\$7,678.52	\$6,142.81	
Palmhurst	\$603.22	\$341.41	\$261.81	\$209.45	
Palmview	\$1,088.93		\$472.63	\$378.10	
Peñitas	\$1,011.18		\$438.88		
Pharr	\$15,595.62	\$8,826.69	\$6,768.93		
Progreso	\$620.84	\$351.38	\$269.46	\$215.57	
Progreso Lakes	\$22.13	\$12.52	\$9.61	\$7.68	
San Juan	\$5,587.78		\$2,425.25	\$1,940.20	
Sullivan City	\$494.29		\$214.54	\$171.63	
Weslaco	\$12,145.31	\$6,873.91	\$5,271.40	\$4,217.12	
Lyford	\$550.34	\$311.48	\$238.86	\$191.09	
Raymondville	\$2,180.47	\$1,234.09	\$230.00		
San Perlita	\$2,180.47	\$55.15	\$42.29	\$33.83	
Willacy County	\$1,625.44	\$919.95	\$705.49 Total Return	\$564.39 \$86,135.50	

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

# **Item #5: Department Reports**

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

# **Criminal Justice Program**

- Staff attended the Cameron County Commissioners Court meeting on June 2, 2025, to discuss and present on the LISTO RGV Regional Recovery and Justice Conference.
- Staff participated in the Regional Cyber Sync meeting on June 9, 2025, hosted by the City of McAllen at the McAllen Public Library.
- Staff attended the City of Lyford Commissioners Court meeting on June 9, 2025, to discuss and present on the LISTO RGV Regional Recovery and Justice Conference.
- Staff attended on June 11, 2025, the FBI RGV InfraGard June 2025 meeting at the Lone Star National Bank in McAllen, TX.
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on June 11, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco. TX.

# **Homeland Security Program**

- Staff attended and participated on June 3, 2025, in the Regional Coordination call with Texas Division of Emergency Management on the newly activated Disaster Recovery Center that are operational throughout the region.
- Staff attended and participated on June 5, 2025, with the Cameron County Emergency Management Hurricane Season Kick-Off and After-Action Review of the March 26 Severe Flooding.
- Staff attended the City of Lyford Commissioners Court meeting on June 9, 2025, to discuss and present on the LISTO RGV Regional Recovery and Justice Conference.

- Staff member participated on June 12, 2025, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff hosted on June 13, 2025, Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting in at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended the City of San Benito commissioners meeting to preset on the LISTO RGV Conference.
- Staff attended the City of Weslaco Fire Department Office of Emergency Management Stakeholder Meeting on June 18, 2025, Knapp Medical Center.
- Staff hosted the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) Recovery Support Group on June 18, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended the monthly Hidalgo County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting on June 19, 2025, in McAllen, Texas.
- Staff participated in June, 2025 the monthly Community Preparedness Call hosted in a virtual setting.
- Staff hosted a de-escalation training for law enforcement on June 26, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, Texas.
- Staff hosted a Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Training ICS 300 and 400 Instructor Course on June 30, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, TX.

# De-Escalation Training for Law Enforcement



Register: www.lemitonline.org/dtc

301 W. RAILROAD ST WESLACO, TEXAS 78596 BUILDING B

AVAILABLE AT NO

June 26, 2025, 8AM - 5PM

HELD IN THE KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

**8 HRS OF TCOLE 1849 CREDIT** 

Law Enforcement Management
Institute of Texas (LEMIT), in
partnership with the U.S. DOJ COPS
Office and Blue Shield Tactical
Systems, is pleased to offer eligible
agencies a 1-day (8 hour)
de-escalation training course.



Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice



DE-ESCALATION TRAINING CENTER



# Save the Date and Register: August 12-14, 2025 8am-5pm Location: Knapp Medical Conference Center 1401 E 8th St, Weslaco, TX 78596

Cost: FREE



**ASIMAdvanced** 

ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT MANAGEMENT



Register here https://forms.office.com/g/3aATULgLYu

Training / ASIM Advanced

# STOP THE KILLING. STOP THE DYING.®



This course provides responders with the experience and confidence to manage an Active Shooter Event, no matter their rank or assignment.

Active Shooter Incident Management Advanced is a 3-day comprehensive course using the ASIM Checklist integrated response process with eleven hands-on scenario exercises (using the multi-responder NIMSPro™ 3D Simulation System). The course is appropriate for all ranks of law enforcement, fire, EMS, and dispatch. The course provides hands-on incident management experience for street responders and leaders alike. Participants are trained to integrate and manage a multi-discipline response to a full range of Active Shooter and hostile event threats, including Complex Coordinated Attack (CCA). The goal is simple — decrease the time to neutralize the threat and get injured to a hospital.

Participants learn and practice the following positions, functions, and scenarios:

# ASIM Advanced

Active Shooter Incident Management with Complex Incidents (24 Hr)

11 Full-scale Exercises

# 60 Participants

30 Law Enforcement

20 Fire / EMS

5 Dispatch

2 PIO

2 EM

1 Helicopter Pilot

# 3 Days / 5 Instructors

**Exercise Tool** 

NIMSPro™

- ASIM Checklist process
- First arriving LEO
- Contact Team
- Tactical Group
   Supervisor
- Staging Manager
- Casualty Collection Point
- Medical Branch

- Triage Group Supervisor
- Rescue Task Force (RTF)
- Transport Group Supervisor
- Ambulance Exchange Point
- Casualty (injured)
   Evacuation
- Law Enforcement Branch
- Intelligence/Investigative Section

- Victim Management and Reunification
- Incident
   Commander
- Communication
   Center Integration
- Complex
   Coordinated Attack
   (CCA) including
   multi-site and
   multiple attacker
   teams
- Active Shooter
   Event with IEDs
- Active Shooter
   Event with
   hostage/barricade

de Incident
Management
Checklist
A Validated Active
Shooter Checklist

ASIM Hosting

Requirements
Facility requirements

ASIM Advanced inperson deliveries

Fill the Class

**Active Shooter** 

Safety Priority

action

Consider life safety

of everyone when evaluating a tacitcal

and logistics for hosting

ASIMAdvanced Instructors utilize a no-fault, no-embarrassment coaching style to conduct live training with up to 60 students utilizing NIMSPro™ for hands-on scenarios. NIMSPro™ is our professional grade 3D multi-responder simulation system that places everyone in the middle of the action! Dispatchers utilize a fully integrated CAD system to direct responders who work to neutralize threats, triage casualties, implement warm zone EMS care, treat and transport patients, establish perimeters, move and manage victims, and much more — all within to-scale photo realistic 3D environments of selected real world locations!

® Stop the Killing, Stop the Dying is a registered trademark of Texas State University and is used with permission.



Register here https://forms.office.com/g/3aATULgLYu

Advanced Active Shooter Incident
Management Course

We offer the best in Active Shooter Incident Management courses

# **CONFERENCE ARRIVAL DAY**

2:30 PM TO 6 PM

# REGISTRATION, EXHIBITOR SET UP AND PREVIEW

Details: September 24, 2025 Margaritaville Resort 1st Floor Lobby and Second Floor For Exhibitors

# **CONFERENCE DAY ONE**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER25, 202,

7:30 AM TO 12 PM

REGISTRATION

Details: September 25, 2025 Margaritaville Resort 1st Floor Lobby

8:30 AM TO 9:15 AM

# OPENING CEREMONIES-COMPASS ROSE BALL ROOM

- · Welcoming by Master of Ceremonies: Tim Smith, Channel 5 News
- Presentation of Colors by the UTRGV Reserve Officer Training Corps and the National Anthem
- · Special Guest Speaker: Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino
- Special Guest Speaker: Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez
- Special Guest Speaker: LRGVDC Board of Directors President
- A Word from the SPI Convention and Visitors Bureau:
- A Word from our Executive Director: Manuel Cruz
- . A Word from the Event Coordinator: Cesar Merla

9:30AM TO 10:30 AM

# KEYNOTE SESSIONS

 Rosa Martinez, CA DVT-Domestic Violence Expert-Trauma Informed Care in the Aftermath of a Mass Casualty Incident (TCOLE: 2035, BH CEU) COMPASS BALL ROOM

10:30AM TO 11:00AM

EXHIBITORS SHOWCASE-2ND FLOOR

11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

# **BREAKOUT SESSIONS A**

Session A1: Margarita Lopez, Director-LRGVDC Health and Human Services: Safe, Secure and Supported:

Post-Disaster Strategies for Aging and Disability Communities (TCOLE: 3908, BH CEU)

Room: A

Session A2: Rosa Martinez, CA DVT, Domestic Violence Expert: Advanced Safety Planning for Victims of Family Violence (TCOLE: 2035, BH CEU)

Room: CD

Session A3: Roxanne Ramirez LCSW-S, Hilda Salinas, Ass't Chief of Staff, Mental Health Coalition Office of the Hidalgo County Judge-Weathering the Storm: Managing stress and feeding the family during challenging times. (TCOLE: 3871, BH CEU)

· Room: Fins

Session A4: Stephanie Champion LPC, CTP, C-DBT, Director-Sage counseling Service Edinburg: Healing After a Crisis-The Role of Therapy and Self-Care (TCOLE: 3844, BH CEU)

Room: Hemisphere

12:00 PM TO 1:30 PM

LUNCH BREAK-INDIVIDUAL







THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

1:30 PM TO 2:30 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS B

Session B1: David Vasquez, STHS and Apple Pharmacy: Traumatic Brain Injury and how to recover from the incident.

. Room: A

Session B2: Fire Chief Gus Ramirez, Alton Fire Department: Signs of Human Trafficking in Healthcare Settings (TCOLE: 6050, BH CEU)

Room: CD

Session B3: Barry Goldsmith, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association: The Storm May be Over, but the Readiness Remains:

National Weather Service Decision Support During Recovery (TCOLE: 3881)

Room: HEMISPHERE

Session B4: Cassandra Bravo, DHR Injury Prevention-Injury Prevention During Emergencies and Disasters (TCOLE: 3881)

Room: FINS

2:30PM TO 3:00 PM

EXHIBITORS SHOWCASE-2ND FLOOR

3:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS C

Session C1: Melisa Gonzales-Rosas, LRGVDC Economic and Community Development: Overview of the Economic and Resiliency Plan

. Room: A

Session C2: Dennis Moreno, RGV911: Preparedness & Recovery, The Power of 911 & Mobile Medical Information (TCOLE: 3852)

Room: CD

Session C3: Dr. Norma Villanueva, Nueva Luz Foundation: Mental Health Lifeline After a Critical Incident (TCOLE: 8882, BH CEU)

. Room: HEMISPHERE

Session C4: Amy Bayona, Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit, Office of the Criminal District Attorney Hidalgo County:

Protective Orders After an Incident (TCOLE: 3108)

Room: FINS

# A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS!















































7:00 PM TO 8:30 PM

NETWORKING SOCIAL-HOSTED BY



33384 STATE PARK ROAD 100, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS 78597

# AND SPONSORED BY







FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

8:30 AM TO 9:30 AM

SPECIAL SESSION-DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CENTER

Special Session: Aliza Long and Felicia Cuellar-South Texas Deaf and Hard of Hearing Joint Taskforce Overview

. Room: A

10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS D

Session D1: Monica H. Sanchez, LCSW-S, ACPS, PSS, Behavioral Health Solutions-

Overdose Prevention-It takes More than Nalaxone (TCOLE: 2085, BH CEU)

Room: A

Session D2: Leslie Sanchez-Seaton, Texas Division of Emergency Management:

Bridging the Gap-Coordinating Recovery from the Ground Up (TCOLE: 3881)

Room: CD

Session D3: Fire Chief Antonio Lopez, Weslaco Fire Department: Recovery, Lessons learned over the years (TCDLE: 3881)

Room: HEMISPHERE

Session D4: Mayra Reves Psychotherapist, MLR Therapy & Consulting Services PLLC:

Mental Health Awareness & Resources for Essential Workers (TCOLE: 8882)

Room: FINS

11:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS E

Session E1: Jorge Rodriguez, Director Hope Center at Buckner Children and Family Service and Ivan Morales, Family Coach-Mobilizing Fathers in Disaster Preparedness (TCOLE: 3881)

. Room: A

Session E2: Lidia Fonseca PhD, Executive Director Valley Association of Independent Living-

Empowering Resilience: CMIST Framework for Disability Self-Determination in Emergency Management.

Room: CD

Session E3: Ruben Pequeno, Investigator Office of the Hidalgo County District Attorney-

Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Investigation (TCOLE: 1735)

Room: HEMISPHERE

Session E4: Derek Rivera, Owner of Mission Pawssible-Emergency Pet Preparedness and Recovery (TCOLE: 3881)

Room: FINS

12:45 PM TO 1:15 PM

CLOSING CEREMONY-COMPASS ROSE BALL ROOM

# A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS!









































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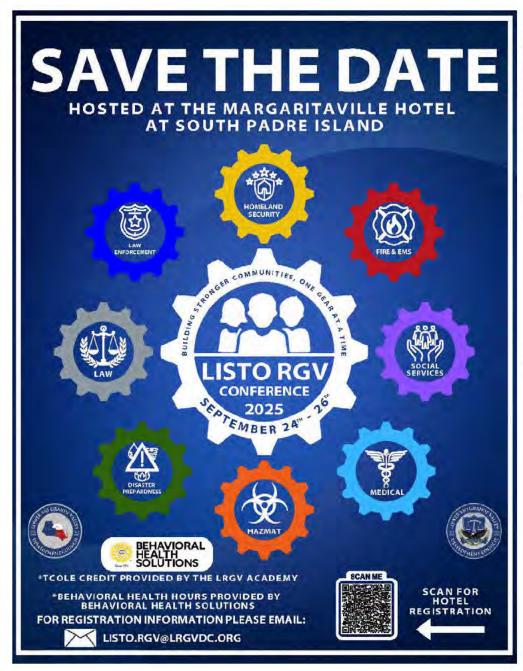












Mark your calendars for an event that promises to energize, educate, and connect! We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to the annual LRGVDC LISTO RGV Conference an essential gathering for professionals like you and members of the community, where you can recharge and acquire the knowledge, resources, and build the crucial relationships preparing, responding and recovering to all type of emergencies! The conference will cater to individuals across all levels of government and public service, volunteer organizations and elected officials, first responders, emergency managers, and decision-makers from the entire region. This event provides an opportunity to collaboration during National Preparedness Month and enjoy the beach at the same time!

### Who and why Attend?

 The LRGVDC LISTO RGV Conference is tailor-made for individuals working at all levels of government (federal, state, and local), emergency management, volunteer organizations, healthcare, cybersecurity, academia and behavioral/mental health

### Here's why you can't afford to miss it:

- · Reenergize: Take a break to revitalize yourself while immersing yourself in discussions on community resilience.
- · Build Connections: Network with peers, experts, and industry leaders, fostering partnerships that make a difference.
- Share Best Practices: Contribute and learn best practices in public health emergency preparedness, enriching your expertise.
- · Advance Skills: Engage in workshops designed to elevate your skillset and empower you for effective response efforts.
- Innovative Solutions: Discover cutting-edge solutions and practical strategies to address vulnerabilities unique to our region.

### Save the Date:

- Date: September 24-26, 2025
- Location: Margaritaville South Padre Island TX Hotel Room Reservation Link- <u>Margaritaville South Padre Island Resort</u> -Reservations - Room Availability
- Want to Register?

# One step: Fill out the Individual or Group Registration Packet and send back to us with your preferred method of payment.

To Pay by check, purchase order or money order: Please mail or drop off at the following Address: Attn LISTO RGV Event at LRGVDC 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, TX 78596. If dropping off a check, purchase order or money order call 956-405-2924 so that a staff member can be available to receive your payment.

Want to pay with a Credit or Debit Card? Send us the registration form and email it to <a href="listo.rgv@lrvdc.org">listo.rgv@lrvdc.org</a> and a representative will be in Contact with you with your confirmation number!

Want to pay with cash on the day of the conference? Fill out the packet and let us know you will pay on the day so we can make sure we have your conference badge ready!



June 16, 2025 DR-4871-TX NR-008

FEMA News Desk: 940-898-5454
FEMA-R6-NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov

# **News Release**

# **Change in Disaster Recovery Center Hours in South Texas**

**AUSTIN** – In coordination with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), FEMA and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) have been staffing Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) to offer face-to-face help to residents of the four South Texas counties affected by the severe storms and flooding that occurred March 26-28, 2025.

Starting Saturday, June 21, new weekend hours of operation for all seven DRCs are:

Saturdays: Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sundays: Closed

Weekday hours remain the same: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

All DRCs will be closed for the Juneteenth Holiday (Thursday, June 19); and reopen on Friday, June 20, at 8 a.m.

Homeowners and renters in **Cameron**, **Hidalgo**, **Starr and Willacy counties** may be eligible for FEMA assistance for losses not covered by insurance.

FEMA and SBA support state-led recovery efforts at the recovery centers. Staff can help survivors apply for federal assistance. They can also identify potential needs and connect survivors with local, state and federal agencies, as well as nonprofits and community groups.

The list of DRCs by county is as follows:

### **Cameron County**

San Benito Parks and Recreation Building 705 N Bowie St. San Benito, Texas 78586 Harlingen Convention Center 701 Harlingen Heights Harlingen, TX 78552

### **Hidalgo County**

Las Palmas Community Center 1921 N. 25th St. McAllen, TX

Pharr Development & Research Center 850 W. Dicker Rd Pharr, TX

Weslaco EDC 275 S. Kansas Ave. Weslaco, TX 78596

## **Starr County**

Starr County Courthouse Annex 100 N FM 3167 Rio Grande City, TX 78582

### Willacy County

Sebastian Community Center 434 West 8th St. Sebastian, TX 78594

For information and to apply online visit <u>SBA.gov/disaster</u>. Applicants may also call the SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Survivors can apply to FEMA in several ways including going online to <u>DisasterAssistance.gov</u>, downloading the <u>FEMA App</u> for mobile devices or calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. Calls are accepted every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. CT. Help is available in most languages.

If you use a relay service, such as video relay (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA the number for that service. To view an accessible video about how to apply visit: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jhea.2007/jhea.20

For more information, visit <u>fema.gov/disaster/4871</u>. Follow FEMA Region 6 on social media at <u>x.com/FEMARegion6</u> and at facebook.com/FEMARegion6/.

FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 833-285-7448. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday June 25, 2025

Public Safety	
LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY	
Program Action Items	Iavier Solis Asst. Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to amend a previous action item pertaining to the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado from Lake County Chevrolet in the amount of \$54,848. The LRGV Academy requests cancellation of the previous purchase order and seeks approval of a new purchase order for Caldwell County Chevrolet in the amount of \$52,407

The LRGVDC Executive Board approved the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado for the LRGV Academy program in March 2025. The approved purchase amount was \$54,858 and the bid was awarded to Lake County Chevrolet.

Lake County Chevrolet failed to meet the deadline and cannot guarantee delivery of the vehicle prior to the liquidation date of the current grant cycle. Failure to use the funds for the purchase prior to the end of the grant cycle will result in the GPI funds being reallocated to the Office of the Governor of the State of Texas.

The LRGV Academy received a bid from Caldwell County Chevrolet in the amount of \$52,407. Caldwell County Chevrolet guarantees immediate delivery of the vehicle upon purchase. LRGV Academy seeks approval to amend the purchase of said vehicle from the new vendor and under the new purchasing amount.

### Item Name

# Silverado 1500 Crew Cab

### **BuyBoard Contract**

724-23 | Vehicles, Police Motorcycles, Parts, and Maintenance Repair Services

14 | Base Model Price for Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Full Size Crew Cab Truck - 1/2-ton, Crew Cab, Standard bed, 2WD, WT base model complete with all manufacturer's standard equipment.

Requests Responses

Com	

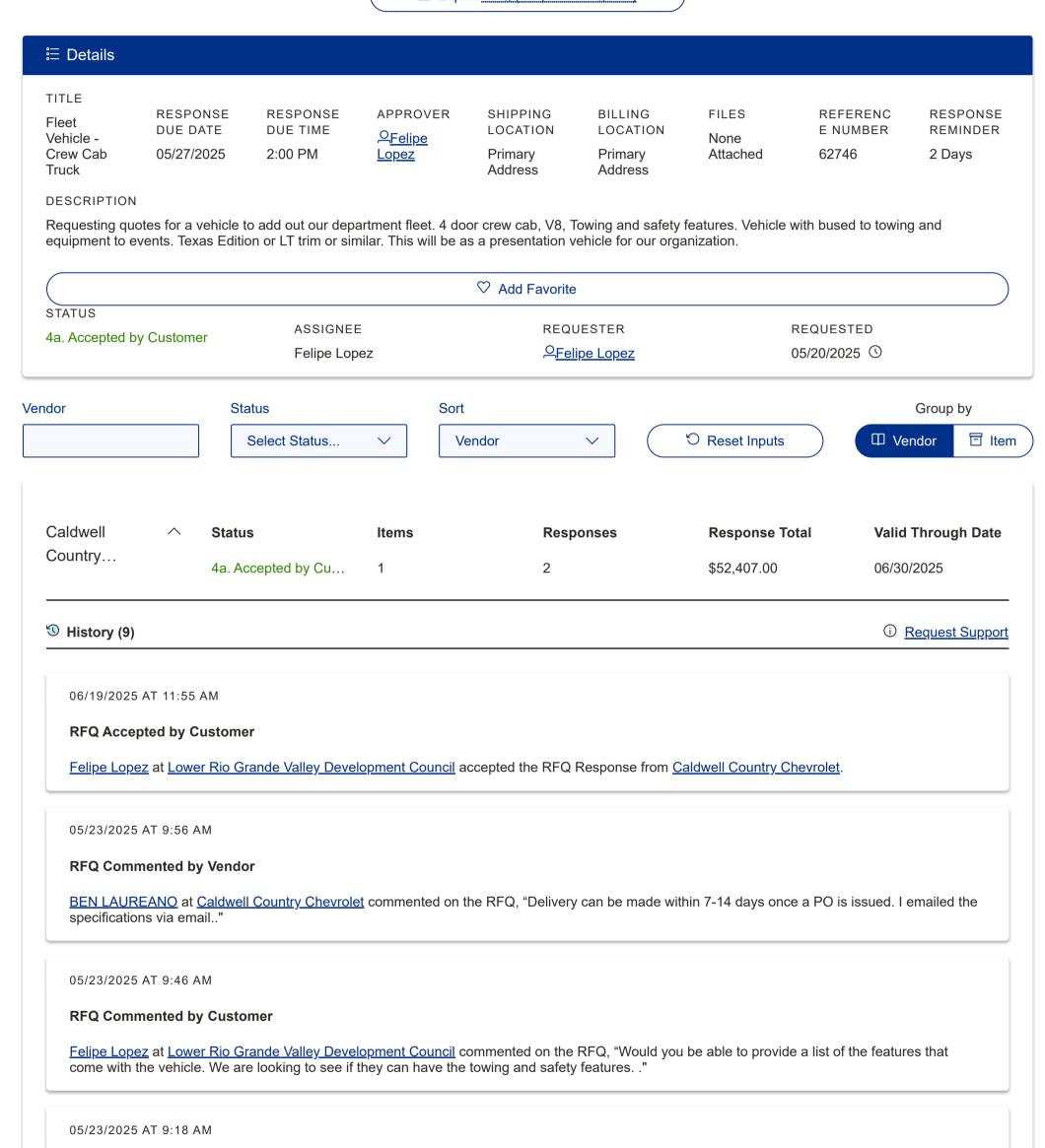
Source	Item Name	Manufacturer	Product Number	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Price	Ship	ping	Subtotal	Valid-through Date
Request	Silverado 1500 Cre	ew Cab		Each		1			5 -	
Caldwell Country Chevrolet	CHEVROLET 1500	PICKL CHEVROLET	14	Each		1 \$52,082.00	\$	325.00	\$ 52,407.00	6/30/25 17:00
Gunn Chevrolet									5 -	
Parkway Chevrolet, Inc.									\$ -	
Sam Pack's Five Star Chevrolet									5 -	
									5 -	

**RFQ Commented by Customer** 

for delivery?."



# **Custom Request for Quote (RFQ) Summary**



Felipe Lopez at Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council commented on the RFQ, "Thank you for your response. What would be the lead time

05/21/2025 AT 2:45 PM

### RFQ Responded by Vendor

BEN LAUREANO at Caldwell Country Chevrolet responded to the RFQ; see associated Response for details.

05/20/2025 AT 3:22 PM

# Felipe Lopez Assigned

BEN LAUREANO with status SentToVendor

05/20/2025 AT 3:22 PM

### **RFQ Sent by Customer**

Felipe Lopez at Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council sent the RFQ to Caldwell Country Chevrolet.

05/20/2025 AT 3:22 PM

## **RFQ Updated by Customer**

Felipe Lopez at Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reassigned the Responder to "BEN LAUREANO".

05/20/2025 AT 3:22 PM

### **RFQ Requested by Customer**

Felipe Lopez at Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council requested approval for the RFQ.

# Request

DESCRIPTION

Requesting quotes for a vehicle to add out our department fleet. 4 door crew cab, V8, Towing and safety features.

Vehicle with bused to towing and equipment to events. Texas Edition or LT trim or similar. This will be as a

presentation vehicle for our organization.

ITEM NAME MANUFACTURER PRODUCT NO UOM QUANTITY PRICE SUBTOTAL

1

Silverado 1500 Cr... Each

# Response

DESCRIPTION

IN-STOCK VEHICLE - VIN#1GCPACED6SZ275444 2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 (CC10743) 2WD Crew Cab

None Attached

157" LT

ITEM NAME MANUFACTURER PRODUCT NO UOM QUANTITY PRICE SUBTOTAL

CHEVROLET 1... CHEVROLET 14 Each 1 \$ 52,082.00 \$ 52,407.00 ①

Gunn Chevrolet Y Status Items Responses Response Total Valid Through Date
3d. Expired without... 1 0 None None

Parkway  $\checkmark$  Status Items Responses Response Total Valid Through Date Chevrolet, Inc. 3d. Expired without... 1 0 None None

Sam Pack's  $\vee$  Status Items Responses Response Total Valid Through Date

Five Star...

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

#### Item #5: Department Reports

#### C. Public Safety

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

#### GIS Division

The GIS Data Hub has officially transitioned to www.rgv911.org, offering enhanced access to downloadable maps and a more efficient process for handling data requests. This upgrade reflects the GIS team's continued growth and commitment to service excellence.

#### 6-Month Productivity Review:

Subdivisions Completed: 77

Street Name Requests: 34

• Utility Requests: 28

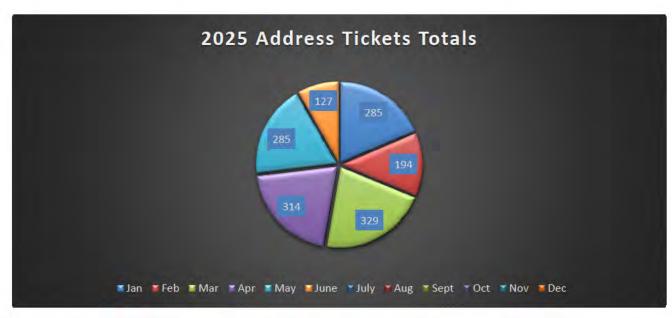
Address Tickets Processed: 1,534

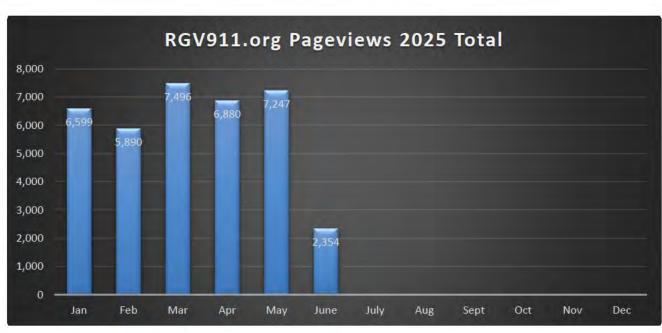
Additionally, the team has developed a comprehensive training plan for 2026, which has been transformed into an interactive Story Map. This will be featured on our Operations Dashboard to provide a visual representation of our training goals and initiatives.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our annual planning meeting with ESRI in July. During this session, we will collaborate to develop a GIS Work Plan for 2026, ensuring our efforts remain strategic and forward focused.









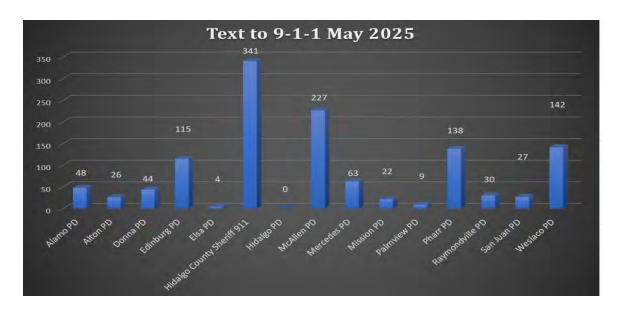
#### • 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The Information Technology Division conducted in-house MapFlex and Power911 training, providing hands-on experience for telecommunicators from PSAPs in Hidalgo County. This training offers both new and current dispatchers an opportunity to familiarize themselves with Power911's call-handling system and GIS mapping technologies along with hands on training on 9-1-1 call handling system so they can familiarize themselves with it and it's easier for them to use.

Additionally, the team conducted training and showcasing improvements to 9-1-1 systems with video and translation integration. Giving the opportunity for 9-1-1 call takers to have more than 36 languages available with on-demand translation to and from 9-1-1 centers, along with Video capabilities, 9-1-1 centers can share Multimedia (pictures, video, live-video) with first responders to better assess a situation and/or provide more concise directions to lower response time.

We remain committed to maintaining 99.999% operational efficiency, ensuring seamless integration between our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping. By doing so, we continue to support our public safety partners and the community with reliable emergency communication services. We are committed to getting these services to the public, so we are conducting a cybersecurity assessment on our 9-1-1 system and local system to ensure reliability,





#### **Community Engagement Division**

May was a fantastic month for the Public Education team! From school visits to community outreach events and end-of-year activities, the team stayed busy spreading awareness about 911 and connecting with the public. We had the opportunity to educate students, support families, and take part in some amazing local events. The dedication and teamwork shown throughout the month truly made a difference, and we are proud of the strong relationships we continue to build across our communities.

**Valley View Middle School Career Day, May 6, 2025.** The RGV911 GIS Team and Public Education Team had an amazing time sharing with students about the world of 9-1-1, GIS mapping, and how public education helps save lives.

City of Elsa Police Department Memorial Service, May 14, 2025. We joined in remembering and honoring the life and legacy of Chief Jesus Rosalez, Jr., along with all the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our communities. Their service and dedication will never be forgotten.

**CPR** and **Stop** the **Bleed Training**, **May 15**, **2025**. RGV911 team took part in CPR and Stop the Bleed training as part of our ongoing commitment to public safety and emergency preparedness. We're proud to take this step forward together, ensuring that we're not only advocating for safety in our communities—but also living it.

Willacy County Young Farmers Fishing Tournament, May 24, 2025. We had an amazing time at the Willacy County Young Farmers Fishing Tournament—casting lines, soaking up the sun, and connecting with the community. It was a great opportunity to talk with folks about the life-saving importance of 911 and how we're always here when seconds count.



The RGV911 GIS Team and Public Education Team.

#### Valley View Middle School Career Day





Remembering and honoring the life and legacy of the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our communities.

#### City of Elsa Police Department Memorial Service



#### CPR and Stop the Bleed Training





RGV911 team taking part in CPR and Stop the Bleed training as part of our ongoing commitment to public safety and emergency preparedness.







Miss. Jackie showing the children TEXT TO 911.



Children ready to receive the fishing awards.



Attendees to this great event.



Willacy County Young
Farmers Fishing
Tournament



### ITEM #5. D.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Item #5:	Depa	rtment	Repo	rts
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Transportation Action Item #1

Valley Metro Status Report .......Tom Logan
Director

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve updated LRGVDC - Valley Metro Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy.

Staff requests Board approval for:

Updates made to Valley Metro's LRGVDC Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy:

- Update required elements in a policy statement and complaint form
- Addition of Standard Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurances
- Elimination of duplicate complaint form
- Addition of complaint form in Spanish
- Addition of information on the Public Participation plan

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Item #5:	Depa	artment	Reports
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D. Transportation Action Item

Valley Metro Status Report .......Tom Logan
Director

- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's **Americans with Disabilities Act "ADA" Policy and Procedures.** 
  - Valley Metro's ADA Policy and Procedures is designed to ensure equal access and nondiscrimination for individuals with disabilities in various sectors, including employment, public services, transportation, and telecommunications.

Updates have been made to the following:

- 1. Other Considerations (page 14)
- 2. Complaints, Commendations, and Reasonable Modification Requests (page 17-18)

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

**Item #5: Department Reports** 

#### D. Transportation Action Item #3

 Consideration and ACTION to Approve Executive Director, under LRGVDC Valley Metro, to initiate and submit funding applications to the RGVMPO Call for Projects – Category 7 (STBG) & Category 10 (CRP)

Staff is seeking the Board's approval for the Executive Director, under LRGVDC Valley Metro, to initiate and submit funding applications for the RGVMPO Call for Projects – Category 7 (STBG) & Category 10 (CRP)"

Proposed project submittals will include:

#### 1. Valley Metro Heavy-Duty Fleet Replacement

Investing in the replacement of our heavy-duty fleet will significantly improve service reliability, safety, and operational efficiency. As our current vehicles age, they require more frequent and costly maintenance, which can lead to unexpected service interruptions and decreased customer satisfaction. Upgrading to newer, fuel-efficient, and potentially low-emission vehicles allows us to reduce our environmental footprint while improving performance across our service area.

#### 2. Harlingen Multimodal Terminal Construction

The construction of a new multimodal terminal in Harlingen represents a major step forward in enhancing regional connectivity. This facility will serve as a central hub, allowing seamless transfers between Valley Metro routes and intercity providers such as Valley Transit or Greyhound. By providing sheltered waiting areas, real-time service updates, and other rider amenities, the terminal will improve the overall transit experience. It also has the potential to contribute to local economic development by anchoring revitalization efforts in the surrounding area and encouraging increased ridership through improved convenience and accessibility.

#### 3. Weslaco Multimodal Terminal A&E and Construction

The development of a multimodal terminal in Weslaco—covering both architectural and engineering design as well as construction—will provide the agency with a much-needed operational anchor in the heart of our service region. This facility will centralize administrative offices, maintenance operations, and vehicle dispatch, leading to improved internal coordination and reduced travel times for staff and vehicles. The Weslaco terminal will ultimately enhance efficiency and capacity, aligning with our long-term strategic goals.

#### 4. RGV Bcycle Upgrade Project

The RGV BCycle Upgrade Project will modernize and expand the region's bikeshare system, creating new multimodal travel opportunities that support both transit users and the broader community. Upgrades will include the deployment of smart, app-connected bikes and docking stations that make the system more accessible and user-friendly. This project encourages sustainable, active transportation, reduces vehicle dependency, and provides critical last-mile connectivity—especially near transit stops, college campuses, and downtown areas. By promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing emissions, the upgraded bikeshare program strengthens our role as a forward-thinking, environmentally responsible transit agency.

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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

#### D. Transportation Action Item #4

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve amendments to Federal Transit Administration grants TX-2023-101 and TX-2023-067 for LRGVDC to add Section 5339 federal funding to each grant.

Staff is seeking the Board's approval to amend the federal grants in order to add Section 5339 federal funds. The funds will be used for fleet replacement vehicle overhaul and acquisition of bus support equipment and any other associated expenses essential for the operations of Valley Metro. The projects will adhere to LRGVDC procurement guidelines and will be presented for Board approval once a recommendation is ready. Here are the grants and amounts:

Source	Grant #	Award Balance	Description
FTA	TX-2023-101	\$ 692,842	Fleet Replacement

FTA TX-2023-067 \$ 110,096 Bus Support equipment

The LRGVDC Valley Metro has identified the need to replace and overhaul vehicles and acquire bus support equipment to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of its transit services. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance service quality, meet increasing demand, and maintain compliance with safety and environmental standards. Funding for these activities is available through state approved grants.

#### Benefits and Impact:

Expected improvements in service reliability, safety, and operational efficiency.

Increased service capacity and reliability

Long-term cost savings from overhauls compared to new vehicle purchases.

Extends the life of existing assets with familiar operations

Access to modern technology and improved environmental compliance

Environmentally friendly and customizable to current needs.

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

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

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

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report......Tom Logan, Director of Regional Transit

• Ridership Report

#### Total Ridership from September 2024 to April 2025: 661,338

**Breakdown of Ridership** per system:

#### Ridership breakdown:

Rural and Small Urban areas: 89,797 riders

Large Urban areas: 571,541

#### Small Urban and Rural Ridership (Sept 2024 - May 2025):

• Total ridership: **89,797** 

Valley Metro (Small Urban): 88,794 riders

**TSTC**: 1,003 riders

#### Large Urban Ridership (Sept 2024 - May 2025):

Total ridership: 571,541
 UTRGV: 409,200 riders

Valley Metro: 157,797 riders

**STC**: 4,544 riders

## Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:

#### **RTAP Committee Meeting Summary**

Date: May 22, 2025

**Meeting Overview** 

The bi-monthly gathering focused on updates and initiatives related to transit services and community education. Stacie Garcia confirmed a quorum and facilitated discussions on various topics, including Laura Romero's report on the Read's subcommittee, which highlighted collaborative efforts to enhance transit services and public engagement strategies. Stacie also introduced the new Valley Metro transit terminal location and an upcoming ribbon-cutting event for the Zapata Express drop, emphasizing the importance of aligning projects with the transportation improvement program's revision cycle.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to the Possible Dream High School initiative, aimed at providing educational opportunities for adults aged 18 to 50 in Region One. Stacie outlined the program's flexible scheduling and focus on career readiness through vocational certificates, alongside partnerships with local colleges to support students. The initiative seeks to empower adult learners and improve educational attainment within the community. Stacie also discussed the importance of internships for students to gain work experience, reinforcing her commitment to adult education and community outreach.

Updates on regional transit initiatives included a pending application for a feasibility study to establish a regional transit authority, which Manuel Cruz noted would enhance transportation services and provide sustainable funding. Stacie reported on ridership figures, personnel updates, and upcoming services, including new express routes and community outreach efforts. The meeting concluded with discussions on transportation access for an upcoming health event and a webinar on walkability and transit, with plans for the next meeting scheduled for July 24th.

## Valley Metro Public Involvement Events









Valley Metro Planning Department Valley Metro Planning Outreach Review May 2025

#### **Key Topics**

- Region 1 Family Financial Festival
- Willacy Express Fare Changes
- Trip to El Metro Laredo
- Zapata Express Ribbon Cutting Meeting









## Region 1 Family Financial Festival:

**Supporting Financial Literacy** & Community Empowerment

By participating in the festival, Valley Metro aimed to connect with local families, provide valuable resources, and reinforce its commitment to accessible and affordable transit solutions.

6/9/2025 Annual Review



<u> </u>		FY 2025 Valley M	etro Public Outrea	ch & Tran	sit Plann	ing Repo	rt	
Date	Location	Event Name	Time	Adult	Elderly (60+)	Student	PWD	Veteran
5/8//25	1900 W. Schunior St., Edinburg,TX	Family Financial Festival	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	44	5	2		

Route:	Took:	Gave:
Starr County Demand Response	9	3
Zapata County Demand Response	14	14
Orange Line	50	39
Red Line	100	33
Route 10	50	4
Route 12	27	24
Purple Line	50	-43
Route 14	50	3
Route 15	50	- 1
Route 16	50	6
Route 17	50	1
Route 20	50	15
Route 30	50	14
Route 31	68	32
Route 40	50	32
Route 41	50	38
Route 42	50	46
Route 44	50	-41
Route 50	50	19
Green Line	50	23
Harlingen Terminal Departure Times	50	7





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6/9/2025

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#### Willacy Express **Fare Change:**

Valley Metro's decision to reduce Willacy Express fares from \$10 to \$2 was driven by a commitment to making public transportation more accessible and affordable for residents in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Harlingen Bus Terminal Sebastian Volunteer Fire Dept. Lyford City Hall Willacy County Courthouse

Fares / Tarif	17.5	
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Murdfulg Paris (Lindonsteel)*/ Parar score (Resolution)*	-	\$200.00
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#### Fares / Tarifas

20-Ride Pass ffective April 1, 2022



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#### Trip to Laredo -El Metro:

#### **Strengthening Regional Transit** Connections

Valley Metro's visit to El Metro in Laredo, TX, was an important step in strengthening regional transit connections and enhancing the passenger experience. As part of Valley Metro's Service Expansion Program and ongoing route assessment efforts, the visit provided valuable insight into how established transit systems operate. By exploring the terminal and engaging with various transit agencies, the team gathered firsthand information to support the launch and future development of the new Zapata Express route. These efforts are key to ensuring efficient service design, seamless connections, and improved mobility for riders throughout the region.





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#### **Zapata Express Ribbon Cutting** Meeting:

Discussing important logistics for the new service

Valley Metro's Zapata Express meeting will provide an overview of operations, scheduling, and event layout for the upcoming Zapata Express Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMON

Zapata Express Route Monday, June 23rd, 2025 Zapata County Court House: 200 7th Ave, Zapata TX 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

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#### Thank You!

Valley Metro is dedicated to educating the community about public transportation and how to navigate transit options effectively.

Tom Logan, CCTM - Director of Regional Transit tlogan@lrgvdc.org

Nancy Sanchez, Program Supervisor II - Planning and Mobility nsanchez@lrgvdc.org

Stacie Garcia, Planner 1 - Planning and Mobility sgarcia@lrgvdc.org

Claudia Olmedo, Planner 1 - Planning and Mobility colmedo@lrgvdc.org



"CONNECTING THE VALLEY ONE RIDE AT A TIME"

6/9/2025 Annual Review

#### Valley Metro Helpful QR Codes



## CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

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





## VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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



#### Types of Systems Provided

> 21 Fixed Routes

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

- 3 RGV Metro Express (limited stops) Connecting Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Port Isabel
- 5 Demand Response Serving Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties
- 5 Microtransit-Fast Ride Serving Cameron and Hidalgo County, City of Edinburg, Mission to Sullivan City, and San Benito to Brownsville on Military Road.
- B-Cycle Available in McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville.

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

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata



#### VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

#### Proudly serving:

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

#### Valley Metro Fares:

- Regular Fare \$2.00
- Discounted fares \$1.00 for the following:
  - > Students and faculty,
  - Persons with disability
  - > Elderly over 60
  - > Veterans
  - > Medicare recipients
- 20-Ride Pass \$20.00
- (\$10.00 with discount)
- Transfers \$1.00
- Other fares vary by service

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





Route Maps with locations





ValleyMetro Weslaco

Ride Systems



Track our buses in real time



VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

## ITEM #5. D.

## **RGVMPO**

# RGVMPO NO Status Updates currently.