

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, Texas

Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at 12:00 P.M

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

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

Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

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Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve August 27, 2025, Minutes President

Item #3: Public Comment

Item #4: Administration Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

B. Executive Director Report

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

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development Melisa Gonzalez-Rosas
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to authorize entry into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) for the provision of translation services.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Resolution for the FY 2026/2027 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program application
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve a Tire Resolution to accept the Regional Tire Ordinance as suggested in the Tire Study 2022 Scrap Tire Management and Available Alternatives in Texas LRGVDC Region.

Program Status Reports

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

B. Health & Human Services Margarita Lopez
Director

Program Status Reports

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

C. Public Safety Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Cesar Merla
Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation of Appointment of newly elected committee member for the next two (2) years.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation on Appointment of newly elected Committee Members for the next two (2) years.

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.

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

Program Status Reports

- Inservice Courses
- Officers Trained
- Contact Hours

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the updated Seatbelt Policy for LRGVDC Valley Metro.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and the Possible Dream Foundation.

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO Michael Medina
Executive Director

RGVMPO Status Reports

Item #6 New & Unfinished Business

Item #7 Adjourn

NEXT MEETING
October 29, 2025

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

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2

MEETING

MINUTES

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

12:00PM Wednesday August 27, 2025

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:04 p.m. a quorum was attained.

Present: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Commissioner Ernie Garcia, Willacy County
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Commissioner Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Mayor Rosa Perez, City of La Villa
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Sylvia Castillo, Sullivan City
Commissioner Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV Edinburg
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent :

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Ron Mills, Willacy Co. Nav. Dist.

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION for approval of June 25, 2025, meeting minutes. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2025, meeting, Oscar Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

Item #3: Public Comment – Santiago Salinas Executive Director from RGV Long Term Disaster recovery gave a brief presentation. He started off with, my name is Santiago Salinas, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Rio Grande Valley Long-Term Disaster Recovery non-profit organization. On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to formally introduce our organization to the LRGVDC Board and the public. Our mission is to provide recovery assistance to individuals and families affected by natural disasters who lack the necessary resources to repair their homes—especially those without flood insurance or who did not receive aid from FEMA or other agencies. We aim to address issues related to disaster recovery that fall under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC.

Our team coordinates volunteer labor and supplies construction materials to support the repair of homes damaged by natural disasters. In some cases, families may contribute through sweat equity, helping to rebuild their homes alongside our volunteers. If possible, we also assist in arranging repairs through third-party contractors.

Currently, we are preparing to assist families impacted by the March 2025 floods across Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, and Starr counties. Our planning efforts have included, and will continue to include close collaboration with federal, state, county, and local emergency management officials. Additionally, we work alongside a broad network of partners, including individuals, businesses, faith-based groups, nonprofit organizations, and other recovery stakeholders—to gather the funding, volunteers, and materials needed to meet the ongoing needs of disaster survivors.

2. Ms. Veronica Gonzales from UTRGV also had something to announce: Altacare Foundation

- **Ms. Veronica Gonzales** serves on the board of AltacareFoundation.org, a nonprofit company helping people in poverty across four counties.
- Focus is on **colonias** and connecting residents with **wraparound services** from various nonprofits.
- Their major event, the **Altacare Accelerator Conference**, will be held:
 - **September 4**
 - **Harlingen Conference Center**
 - **Free to attend**
 - Register at: www.altacairaccelerator.com
- Includes a **poverty simulation** to help participants understand the challenges faced by those in extreme poverty.

UTRGV Highlights

- UTRGV was named:
 - **#1 Public University in Texas** (for the third year in a row) – by *Washington Monthly*
 - **#7 Nationally**
 - **#2 Top Hispanic-Serving Institution** in the U.S.
- The university has graduated **over 60,000 students** and is celebrating its **10-year anniversary**.
- UTRGV's **first football game** is:
 - **This Saturday**
 - Tailgates start at **2:00 PM**
 - Game starts at **7:00 PM**
 - Tailgate is **open to the public – no ticket required**

With no further comments and questions, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #4 Administration.

Item #4: Administration

4.A. Presentation on region 15, Regional flood Plan. Mr. Cruz stated that Commissioner Garza sends his regrets; he was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. He has been leading a two-year effort focused on flood planning and mitigation in Region 15, which covers 15 counties in South Texas, including the Rio Grande Valley.

Region 15 Flood Plan

- The flood plan has been approved. It is currently undergoing modifications. Included a period for public comment to add new projects
- Motivated in part by the flooding disaster in Central Texas on July 4th, raising awareness and urgency around flood preparedness in the Valley.

Why It Matters

- The Valley's topography makes it especially vulnerable to flooding—described as a bowl. A past study by Dannenbaum Engineering estimated in 2007. The Valley could experience 23–24 feet of inundation. Storm surges could reach as far inland as Los Fresnos.
- The plan and upcoming legislative session will be critical in preparing and funding regional flood solutions.

Next Steps

- The flood planning website will be shared via email so members can: Review the plan. Prepare questions for Commissioner Garza. We are trying to reschedule his presentation, ideally next month or soon after, allowing him to speak directly in his capacity as Chair of the Region 15 Flood Planning Group.

4.A.B. Presentation and Consider ACTION Regarding the 2024 Annual Audit. Melissa Gonzalez, the Certified Public Accountant is here to present the annual audit for the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024.

We issued an **unmodified opinion** on the financial statements, which is the highest level of assurance an auditor can provide. This means that the financial statements **present**, in all material respects, the financial position and results of operations of the Council in accordance with **U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)**.

Importantly, there were:

- **No material misstatements**
- **No significant deficiencies**
- **No compliance issues** identified during our audit.

Financial Highlights

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance (Governmental Funds):

- **Total Revenues:** \$32.8 million
- **Total Expenditures:** \$32.8 million
- **Ending Fund Balance:** \$33,917
This reflects a stable financial position with no significant change in fund balance.

Statement of Net Position (Balance Sheet Equivalent):

- **Total Assets:** \$49.6 million
- **Total Liabilities:** \$30.3 million
- **Net Position:** \$19.2 million
 - Most of this net position is tied up in **capital assets**.

Budget vs. Actual

- **Budgeted Revenues & Expenditures:** \$40.2 million
- **Actual Revenues & Expenditures:** \$32.8 million
- **Variance:** \$7.4 million
This variance is primarily due to **projects that have not yet been initiated** as of year-end.

Federal & State Programs (Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs):

- **Financial Statement Findings:** None
- **Federal & State Award Findings:** None

This reflects strong internal controls and consistent compliance with all federal and state award requirements. I would like to commend your Finance Director, Crystal Balboa, and her team for their professionalism and dedication. Their commitment to compliance and strong financial management is clearly reflected in these results. Congratulations on another clean audit and a continued demonstration of financial strength and accountability. **Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve Melissa Gonzalez presentation on 2024 Annual Audit, Luke Lucio seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

4.A.C. Presentation and ACTION to Accept Quarterly Investment Report. My name is Crystal Balboa, and I am the Finance Director, I have provided the Second Quarter Investment Report, which was included in your meeting packets. If there are no questions, the report is now presented for board approval. **Jim darling made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report; Luke Lucio seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

4.A.D. Ratification of Executive Committee ACTION on the Acquisition of Vehicles (transit buses) under TxDOT and FTA Section 5339-Rural Bus and Bus Facilities Program approved Grants for LRGVDC Valley Metro. On August 8th, the Executive Committee approved of the recommendation to proceed with the purchase of buses. This action was taken to help mitigate potential cost increases. The procurement process has already been initiated, and we are now presenting this item to the full Board of Directors for final ratification and approval. **Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve Acquisition of Vehicles (transit buses) under TxDOT and FTA Section 5339-Rural Bus and Bus Facilities program approved Grants for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

4.A.E Consideration and ACTION to Approve consideration and ACTION to Execute Engagement Letter for legal Services for Special Legal Counsel with DNRBS&Z. This item stems from ongoing discussions with the Executive Committee. As you may know, the Board has not historically had dedicated legal counsel present at meetings. The Executive Committee recommended that it would be prudent for us to formally engage legal representation. Attached to your packet is a proposed agreement with Denton Navarro. We've had a long-standing working relationship with this firm dating back to at least 2010. Historically, they have handled various legal matters for us, and in many instances, those costs have been covered through our Texas Municipal League (TML) coverage. This proposal formalizes the business relationship to ensure we have legal guidance readily available when needed. **Jim Darling made a motion to approve Engagement Letter for Legal Services for special legal Counsel with DNRBS&Z, Mayor Rosa Perez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

B. Executive Directors Report. Mr. Cruz announced all new hires and promotions for the month of July and August. Mr. Cruz then introduced Javier Dominguez for a quick update.

Javier then went on to announce that, LRGVDC applied for the **H.E.B. Trees for Texans** grant—and I'm happy to report that we were awarded funding! This grant will allow us to plant much-needed trees here on our main campus. Unfortunately, some of our existing trees have dried up and need to be replaced. This effort is especially important because our main campus includes a half-mile walking trail that's used not only by our staff but also by members of the community. Providing shade along this trail is essential to making it a comfortable and welcoming space for everyone.

We're tentatively planning the tree-planting event for some time in February, and we'll follow up soon with a confirmed date. Once we have that, we'd love to extend an open invitation to anyone from your agencies or organizations who would like to join us. We're also planning to reach out to H-E-B to see if they can help us by providing volunteers for the day. It's an exciting initiative, and we're proud to share it with all of you.

Mr. Cruz then moved on to other reports in the executive Directors Report. As you're aware, I won't be touching on the legislative session today—it's still evolving and changing daily. There are quite a few items already approved on the agenda, and I'm sure we're all staying updated on those developments.

Now, onto some positive news. Yesterday, we had the opportunity to once again advocate for our programs. Through an invitation from the Hidalgo County Prosperity Task Force, Ms. Lopez and I met with Congresswoman Monica De La Cruz. We took this opportunity to advocate strongly for AAA, and we also shared information related to Homeland Security, Criminal Justice, Community and Economic Development, and the critical need for continued funding across these areas. The Congresswoman seemed to have a good grasp of the region's needs. We provided her with comprehensive program materials and discussed priorities at length. As you may recall, all of you signed and submitted a letter from our Chair to our local representatives, along with a box of testimonials and related documents, which were delivered to their Washington offices.

This is, of course, an ongoing effort. The federal budget remains in flux and is changing daily. We're hopeful that Congress will return in time to pass a new budget, but if not, we're looking at a continuing resolution. That would maintain funding at the current levels into the new fiscal year—which, given the uncertainties, is a positive scenario.

As of March, many of our programs were in limbo—some even at risk of being cut. However, as of last month, AAA is back on the table, and it looks like we'll receive steady funding moving forward. That's a huge relief.

In other promising news, FEMA is also back in the conversation for funding. This directly supports our State Homeland Security Program, which funds our first responders' needs for emergency equipment. The state of Texas, overall, received an increase of about \$12 million. While we don't yet know how those funds will be distributed—whether they'll go to Central Texas or to regions—we're optimistic. Given the focus on the border region, we're hopeful the Valley will see some of that investment.

Unfortunately, it often takes a disaster to prompt action, that's just the reality. But we hope this leads to a renewed focus on emergency preparedness. This is something I've worked on personally through our CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), which train citizens to handle fires, floods, hurricanes, and other disasters. We are in a flood-prone area, and it's critical that we secure funding to ensure we're prepared for whatever comes our way. We'll continue to advocate for every dollar we can get—not just for this year, but for the long term.

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

Item #5 Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development:

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) bylaws. For us to move forward effectively and ensure our members can carry out their responsibilities, we need to have our bylaws in place. This is also necessary to finalize and submit everything back to the Department of Energy (DOE). The proposed bylaws were included in your packet for review. Currently, I'm requesting your approval of the bylaws. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to address them now. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities coalition (STC4) bylaws. Mayor Alejandro Flores seconded the motion upon a vote; the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Stakeholders. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Stakeholders. Luke Lucio seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
3. Consideration and ACTION to approve LRGVDC to accept a \$10,000 dollar grant contract from National renewable energy Laboratory (NREL) for the purpose of assisting the LRGVDC South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) achieve FULL Fledged DOE Coalition Status by developing and submitting complete DOE application based on requirements in the Partnership Structure. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which works closely with the Department of Energy, has offered us a \$10,000 grant. These funds may be used at our discretion to support the transition from an affiliated organization to a fully established coalition. ***Luke Lucio made a motion to approve accepting the \$10,000 dollar contract from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Oscar Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports: Melisa Gonzales just had a couple of quick announcements.

First, Mayor—thank you for allowing us to be part of your ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday. I was honored to officially participate in my very first ribbon cutting, and it was a great experience.

Second, I'd like to highlight the great work happening through our outreach efforts. We brought on our new Outreach Coordinator and Customer Service Representative, Crystal, back in May—and she has truly hit the ground running. Between June and August, she has already attended 26 events across our three-county region. This is just the beginning of her engagement with the community, so I encourage all of you—if you have upcoming events, please let us know. We'll do our best to have her present and continue strengthening our visibility and connections in the region.

B. Health and Human Services

Ms. Margarita Lopez wanted to mention that she will have 2 action items to present. They are as follows.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractor's list. We are requesting approval to utilize the Direct Purchase of Services Contractors List for Fiscal Year 2025–2026. These contractors will provide critical services, including medical transportation, homemaker assistance, respite care, residential modifications, medication assistance, medical supplies, and durable medical equipment. For your review, I've attached the detailed list of vendors and the specific services they offer in Exhibit 1-1. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List, Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the List of Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act-Services Under Title III. The subrecipients listed will be responsible for delivering key services to seniors in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties, including congregate meals, home-delivered meals, transportation, senior center operations, and caregiver education and training. The full list of subrecipients can be found in Exhibit 2.1. Please note that approval of this list does not assign specific funding amounts. Final allocations will be determined once state and federal funding levels are confirmed. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve the List of Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act-Services under the Title III. Veronica Gonzales seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports: Margarita Lopez had an announcement. I'd like to provide a brief update on Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026. I've also submitted my semiannual report for your review, which includes data from October 2024 through March 2025.

Regarding the Older Americans Act (OAA), it has not been reauthorized since FY 2024. So, you might be wondering how we're continuing to operate. The answer is that funding has remained stable, with Senate appropriations for FY 2026 maintaining flat funding levels.

I've provided a list of those appropriations, which were initially submitted in December 2022 and approved for use through FY 2026. You can see that list displayed on the monitors.

So, while the OAA is still under review and awaiting reauthorization, we are operating under the appropriations allocated since 2023. That's how we're able to continue providing services this year.

The challenge, of course, is that we are working with year-to-year appropriations, which introduces some uncertainty. However, we remain committed to our mission to continue delivering services and fully executing our grants as we have in the past. We'll keep moving forward and I'll continue to keep you updated as new information becomes available.

C. Public Safety Criminal Justice and Homeland Security – There was no action items at this time for Criminal Justice and Homeland Security.

Program Status Reports: First, two weeks ago, we successfully hosted our first annual *Advanced Active Shooter Incident Management Course*—a three-day training held at Knapp Medical Center in Weslaco. We welcomed 45 first responders from across the region, including a few from outside the area. These individuals are now better equipped to respond to active shooter situations not only within their jurisdictions but also in settings like schools, hospitals, and other public spaces. This course is held every two years, and we're already working to bring the next session to the region in either 2027 or 2028, depending on scheduling availability.

Second, our *Listo RGV Conference* is coming up, and we're excited to report that over 120 participants have already registered. We also have a solid lineup of sponsors supporting the event. A major highlight this year: our networking social will be held at Breakaway Cruises—so if you're up for a relaxing evening with ocean views, we encourage you to attend. Additionally, Margaritaville is sponsoring a raffle for a two-night stay at their resort. To enter, you must be present at the conference—so don't miss your chance.

C.2 LRGV Academy Program- I know we didn't get a chance to meet last month, but I want to thank you all for attending our graduation ceremony for the Mission Academy. A special thank-you to the City of Mission for hosting us at the Mission Event Center—it was truly a privilege.

We had 24 cadets graduate, and it was an incredible experience to see their excitement and pride. Your presence meant a lot, and we appreciate your support.

I have three action items to present today, all which stem from our annual Advisory Board meeting, which is a requirement by TCOLE. Our Advisory Committee met on June 24, 2025, to review and discuss key updates

1. Consideration and ACTION to ratify the nomination and appointment of Elsa Police Chief Robert McGinnis and Weslaco Police Captain Alvino Flores to the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to ratify nomination and appointment of Elsa Police Chief Robert McGinnis and Weslaco Captain Alvino Flores to the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to amend the LRGV Academy curriculum to include new licensing courses and Mental Health Pilot Program. ***Commissioner Joey Lopez made a motion to approve to amend the LRGV Academy curriculum to include new licensing courses and Mental Health Pilot Program, mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and ACTION to ratify the New Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy cadet Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual as recommended and approved by the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. We've made several important updates to the academy manual. Some of the key changes include Eligibility and enrollment requirements for the following; the disqualification period for marijuana use has been extended—from three years to five years. Applicants who have used marijuana within the last five years are now ineligible. For cocaine, methamphetamine, and opioids, we've implemented a lifetime ban. Previously, the disqualification period was five years, but we've raised the standard to reflect the seriousness of these substances. We also added new sections related to financial payment policies and clarified some definitions throughout the manual. These changes are aimed at strengthening our standards and ensuring the highest level of professionalism in our academy admissions. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve to ratify the New Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy Cadet Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual as recommended and approved by the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. Commissioner Joey Lopez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports:

We recently hosted the Texas Narcotic Officers Association K-9 Competition and Fentanyl K-9 Training Seminar two weeks ago, and I'd like to briefly share the highlights:

- We had a total of 66 K-9 teams in attendance, representing 18 different law enforcement agencies across local, state, and federal levels.
- Additionally, we welcomed five international K-9 teams from Mexico, including teams from Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey, Culiacán, and Saltillo.
- Our team assisted these international agencies in training their dogs to detect fentanyl, enhancing interdiction capabilities south of the border.
- Locally, we now have 28 certified K-9 teams in the Rio Grande Valley trained specifically in fentanyl detection. Agencies with certified teams include:
 - Alamo Police Department
 - Mission Police Department
 - Edinburg Police Department
 - Brownsville Police Department
 - San Benito Police Department
 - South Padre Island Police Department
 - Cameron County Sheriff's Office
 - Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office
 - Hidalgo County Constable Precinct One
 - Edinburg CISD Police Department
 - La Joya ISD Police Department

End of Training and Grant Cycle Report: We are also wrapping up our current training and grant cycle, which ran from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2025. Here are the final numbers:

- **In-service courses taught:** 247
- **Total officers trained:** 3,637
- **Total instructional hours:** 8,567
- **Total contact training hours:** 157,014

Police Academy Outcomes (Primary Mission):

- **Number of academies conducted:** 8
- **Total cadets enrolled:** 154
- **Cadets who passed the TCOLE licensing exam:** 149
- **Regional peace officers added:** 149
- **Overall pass rate:** 96.75%

We're proud of this success and are aiming for a **100% pass rate** in the next grant cycle.

C.3 Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Program Updates - No action items today—just a brief report.

I want to take a moment to highlight our **Third Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar**. You should have the event flyer on your desk. This event started with a simple, but powerful, goal: **to support the mental wellness of our 9-1-1 telecommunicators**—the first to answer the call when someone is in crisis. Since its inception, the seminar has grown significantly, expanding its reach to the broader public safety community and reinforcing the importance of **caring for those who take care of us**.

This year, the seminar will take place on **September 30th at the Mission Event Center**. A special thank-you to our Board President, **Mayor Norie Garza**, who will be delivering the opening remarks. Your leadership and commitment to mental health awareness in public safety is truly appreciated and will help set the right tone for the event.

We are honored to welcome two keynote speakers:

- **Chris Fields**, a retired firefighter from the Oklahoma City Fire Department
- **Brock Bevell**, a retired detective from the Arizona Police Department

Both will be sharing powerful, personal stories that speak to the emotional challenges faced by public safety professionals—and how they've navigated their careers while supporting others.

In addition to speaker sessions, this year's seminar will feature an Exhibit Hall, providing valuable wellness resources and services for attendees. We remain committed to investing in the mental health and wellness of our first responders and telecommunicators, and this seminar is a key part of that mission.

This is a free, all-day event and open to the public—please feel free to share the registration link with your networks, including local police departments and other public safety agencies. A QR code is included in the flyer for easy registration.

Finally, we will also be taking time during the event to honor excellence in our field, including:

- The **Telecommunicator of the Year Award**
- The **Sandra Coronado Award**, recognizing outstanding service among our 9-1-1 professionals

These awards reflect the dedication and resilience of those on the front lines of emergency communication.

We hope you all attend and show your support for our Public Safety Community.

D. Valley Metro Transportation -

Program Status Reports - No action Items at this time, Tom Logan wanted to give a quick update on Valley Metro Transportation. Year-to-date, we've recorded a total of 739,000 passenger trips. We've provided 89,000 service hours and covered approximately 1.9 million service miles. Overall, the system is operating in a very healthy and efficient state.

D.1 RGVMPD – No reports to report currently.

Item #7: Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to adjourn at 12:52 pm

President, Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

ITEM #3

PUBLIC

COMMENT

ITEM #4

ADMINISTRATION

ITEM.4.B

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE

REPORT

ADMINISTRATION

**SEPTEMBER
NEW HIRES**

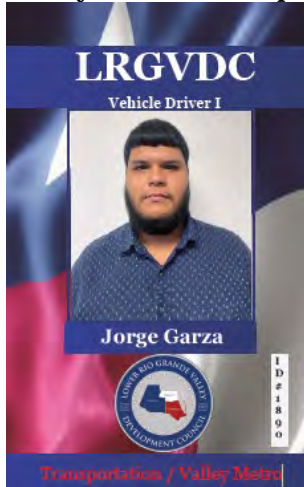
New Hires

Hire Date: September 2, 2025,

Jorge Garza

Vehicle Driver I

Valley Metro Transportation

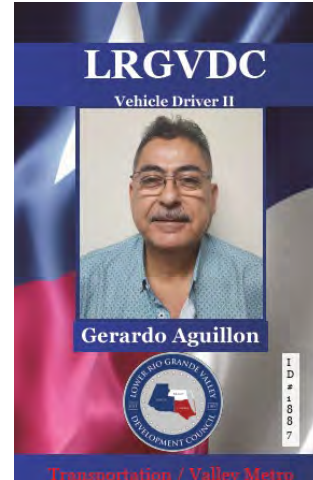


Hire Date September 8, 2025

Gerardo Aguillon

Vehicle Driver I

Valley Metro Transportation

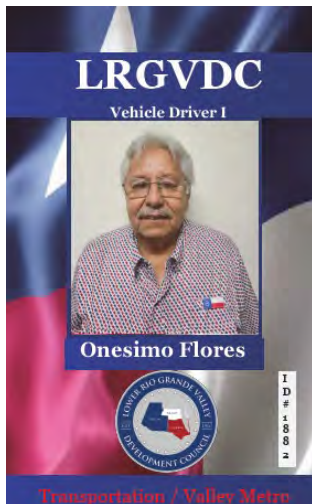


Hire Date September 2, 2025,

Onesimo Flores

Vehicle Driver I

Valley Metro Transportation

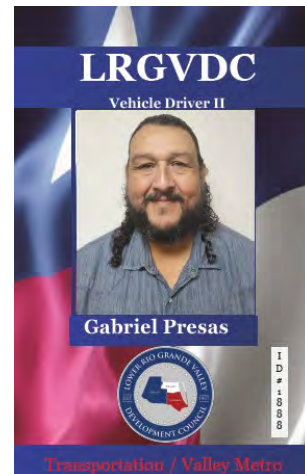


Hire Date September 8, 2025

Gabriel Presas

Vehicle Driver I

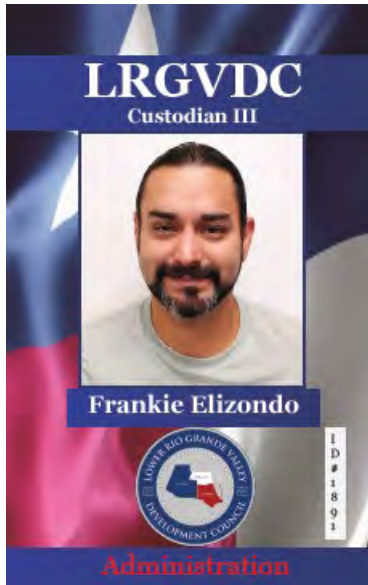
Valley Metro Transportation I



New Hires

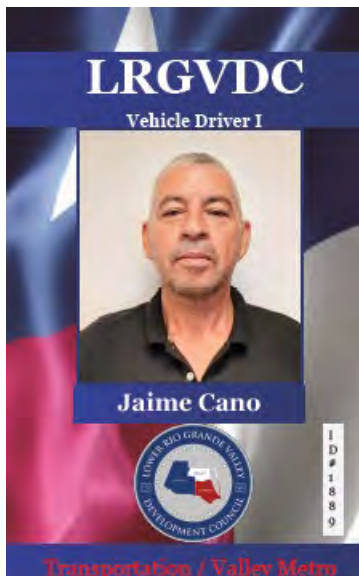
Hire Date: September 15, 2025

Elizondo Frankie
Custodian III
Procurement- Administration



Hire Date: September 15, 2025

Jaime Cano
Vehicle Driver I
Transportation – Valley Metro





LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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

Executive Directors Report

September 24, 2025

This report contains updates, regional news, funding opportunities training, and legislative updates that your local government may be interested in. This information is courtesy of the Texas Association and Regional Councils, State funding agencies and LRGVDC Programs. Hyperlinks to external sources may be found throughout the report for additional and complete details.

Regional Capacity Program & BDO Program Updates

TARC and the Broadband Development Office (BDO) are finalizing tools, requirements, and timelines to launch the Regional Capacity Program, with COG onboarding targeted for January. TARC will oversee the allocation from the BDO of \$8.7 million program for three years of which an estimated \$107,000 per year will be allocated to the COGs for broadband planning and implementation of projects that have been identified in the regional broadband plan. A member work group will be formed to guide next steps, and the program was formally launched at the TARC Community & Economic Committee Meeting held on September 11 at the TARC Biannual Training and Board of Directors meeting in Austin.

Texas Municipal League Information (Collaboration Forum)

The Texas Municipal League (TML) joined us on Thursday, Sept 11th and provided COG attendees with a presentation of the latest legislation. The link to TML's post-session articles is [here](#) and will assist as we all try to implement legislation that is now law.

TML also discussed the importance of legal compliance, specifically city audits. TML offers audit assistance/guidance for smaller communities through its city financial services. If you're a small city that historically or presently has not conducted an yearly audit, please contact Martie Simpson, Assistant Director of [City Financial Services](#), at msimpson@tml.org or 512-231-7400 to inquire on the process.

It's important to note that most if not all the funds that the Texas Legislature is making available for flooding and water infrastructure projects will highly likely require cities/counties to have a recent audit.

Secretary Rollins Announces USDA Presidential Appointments, Naming More State Directors.

Texas: James Redfield, State Director, USDA Rural Development. [here](#) Email: James.Redfield@usda.gov

Year	Total Bills Introduced	Total Bills Passed	City-Related Bills Introduced	City-Related Bills Passed
2013	6061	1437	1700+	220+
2015	6476	1329	1600+	220+
2017	6800	1220	2000+	290+
2019	7541	1437	2000+	330+
2021	6927	1073	2000+	240+
2023	8344	1258	1800+	230
2025	9014	1231	2000+	262

TML tracked 2,189 (24% of all bills introduced) in 2025



89th Legislature: Cutting Room Floor

Property/Sales Taxes

- Lowering Voter Approval Rate
- Super Majority Approval of Tax Rate Increases

City Finance

- Expenditure Caps
- Debt Limitations

Land Use/Development

- ETJ Elimination
- Accessory Dwelling Units

City Administration

- Community Censorship

Elections

- Eliminating May Uniform Election Date



89th Regular Session

- **S.B. 1173:** Competitive Bidding Threshold raised to \$100,000
- **H.B. 1522:** Public Meeting Notice Requirements
- **S.B. 1008:** Food Service Establishments
- **S.B. 1851:** Annual City Audits



Special Session

Passed

- Redistricting – H.B. 4
- Hill Country Flood Related Legislation – H.B. 1, S.B.1, S.B. 3, S.B. 5

Did Not Pass

- Community Censorship – S.B. 13
- Spending Limits – H.B. 46 and H.B. 73
- Recalculation of Voter Approval Rate – S.B. 10
- Mailing Notice – H.B. 17



Upcoming Broadband Opportunities & Events

From the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO)

Join the Monthly BDO Local Government Call

Date: Thursday, **October 2, 2025**

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CT

Location: Virtual

Connect with the BDO and other stakeholders the first Thursday of every month to discuss broadband expansion efforts. This same [meeting link](#) will work for all future meetings.

Funding Opportunity: Texas Middle Mile (TMM) Program

Total Available: Up to \$200 Million

Deadline to Apply: November 20, 2025, at 2:00 PM CT

Deadline for Questions: September 5, 2025, at 2:00 PM CT

Submit questions to: bdo.nofa@cpa.texas.gov

The TMM Program supports the development of **middle-mile broadband infrastructure** to increase access in unserved and underserved areas, boost network resiliency, and promote affordability through open-access networks.

Learn more & apply: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/funding/middle-mile/>

Priority Focus: Flood Emergency Warning Systems

Projects that support flood detection and monitoring systems in vulnerable areas may be eligible for **up to 100% funding**. All other eligible projects may qualify for **up to 80%**.

Who Can Apply?

- Local governments
- Utilities
- River authorities
- State agencies
- For-profit businesses (excludes last-mile providers)

Learn more & apply: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/broadband/funding/>

Program Updates

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD Program)**
- **The Benefit of the Bargain Round (BOBR) Round Closed:** 4,539 applications received, covering **98% of project areas**, totaling **\$6.4B** in funding requests.
 - **Final Proposal Deadline Extended:** Now due **October 27, 2025**, approved by NTIA.
- **Building the Texas Broadband Workforce Grant Program:** Application review underway; awards expected **early fall**.

Have Questions or Need Support?

Email the BDO team at broadband@cpa.texas.gov

Stay informed: [Texas Broadband Development Office](#)

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

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

Wednesday September 24, 2025

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to authorize entry into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) for the provision of translation services.

These services will support the Community & Economic Development Department by ensuring program and project materials are accessible to a wider audience.

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION CONTRACT

This **Interlocal Cooperation Contract (Contract)** is entered into effective date **September 24, 2025**, by and between Contracting Parties pursuant to authority granted in and in compliance with [Chapter 791, Government Code](#).

CONTRACTING PARTIES:

Receiving Party: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Performing Party: The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, on behalf of its Translation and Interpreting Office

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Contract is to obtain the services of Performing Party to **the translation of materials (Project)**. This Contract will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Contracting Parties.

STATEMENT OF SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED:

Performing Party will perform the following services (**services**):

1. Translation
and
2. provide deliverables (Deliverables) described in Exhibit A.

WARRANTIES:

Receiving Party warrants (1) the services are necessary and authorized for activities properly within its statutory functions and programs; (2) it has authority to contract for the services under authority granted in Section 11.157, *Texas Education Code*, and [Chapter 791, Government Code](#); (3) it has all necessary power and has received all necessary approvals to execute and deliver this Contract, and (4) the representative signing this Contract on Receiving Party's behalf is authorized by its governing body to do so.

Performing Party warrants (1) it has authority to perform the services under authority granted in Section 65.31, *Texas Education Code* and Chapter 791, *Texas Government Code*; (2) it has all necessary power and has received all necessary approvals to execute and deliver this Contract, and (3) the representative signing this Contract on Performing Party's behalf is authorized by its governing body to do so.

CONTRACT AMOUNT:

The total value of this contract will vary significantly depending on the volume of verbiage requiring translation.

PAYMENT:

Receiving Party will remit payments to Performing Party for services satisfactorily performed in accordance with [Chapter 2251, Government Code](#) (Texas Prompt Payment Act).

Payments made under this Contract (1) are based on cost recovery (2) will fairly compensate Performing Party for the services performed, and (3) will be made from current revenues available to Receiving Party.

[Section 51.012, Education Code](#), authorizes Receiving Party to make payments through electronic funds transfer methods. Performing Party agrees to accept payments from Receiving Party through those methods, including the automated clearing house system (ACH). Performing Party agrees to provide its banking information to Receiving Party in writing on Performing Party letterhead signed by an authorized representative of Performing Party. Prior to the first payment, Receiving Party will confirm Performing Party's banking information. Changes to Performing Party's bank information must be communicated to

Receiving Party in writing at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of the change and must include an IRS Form W-9 signed by an authorized representative of Performing Party.

TERM:

The term of this contract commences on the Effective Date and expires on September 24, 2026. This contract may be extended upon mutual agreement of the Receiving Party and the Performing Party, with two (2) one-year extension options available. The initial three-year period will span from the commencement date of this agreement.

NOTICES:

Except as otherwise provided by this Section, notices, consents, approvals, demands, requests or other communications provided or permitted under this Contract, will be in writing and will be sent via certified mail, hand delivery, overnight courier, facsimile transmission (to the extent a facsimile number is set forth below), or email (to the extent an email address is set forth below) as provided below, and notice will be deemed given (i) if delivered by certified mail, when deposited, postage prepaid, in the United States mail, or (ii) if delivered by hand, overnight courier, facsimile (to the extent a facsimile number is set forth below) or email (to the extent an email address is set forth below), when received:

If to Receiving Party: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
301 W. Railroad Weslaco, Tx 78596
Phone: (956) 682-3481 ext. 163
Email: melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org
Attention: Melisa Gonzales-Rosas

If to Performing Party: The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
1201 W. University Dr. Edinburg, TX 78539
Fax: (956) 665-2164
Email: alex.valdez@utrgv.edu
Attention: Alex Valdez, Chief Procurement Officer

or other person or address as may be given in writing by either party to the other in accordance with this Section.

TERMINATION:

In the event of material failure by a Contracting Party to perform its duties and obligations in accordance this Contract, the other party may terminate this Contract upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination setting forth the nature of the material failure; provided that, the material failure is through no fault of the terminating party. The termination will not be effective if the material failure is fully cured prior to the end of the thirty-day period.

Performing Party may terminate this Contract without cause upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination to the Receiving Party.

OTHER PROVISIONS:

Access by Individuals with Disabilities: Performing Party represents and warrants (**EIR Accessibility Warranty**) the electronic and information resources and all associated information, documentation, and support that Performing Party provides to Receiving Party under this Contract (**EIRs**) comply with the applicable requirements in [1 TAC Chapter 213](#) and [1 TAC §206.70](#) (ref. [Subchapter M, Chapter 2054, Texas Government Code](#)). To the extent Performing Party becomes aware the EIRs, or any portion thereof, do not comply with the EIR Accessibility Warranty, then Performing Party represents and warrants it will, at no cost to Receiving Party, either (1) perform all necessary remediation to make the EIRs satisfy the EIR Accessibility Warranty or (2) replace the EIRs with new EIRs that satisfy the EIR Accessibility Warranty. If Performing Party fails or is unable to do so, Receiving Party may terminate this Contract and, within thirty (30) days after termination, Performing Party will refund to Receiving Party all amounts Receiving Party paid under this Contract.

Payment of Debt or Delinquency to the State. Pursuant to Sections [2107.008](#) and [2252.903](#), *Government Code*, any payments owing to Performing Party under this Contract may be applied directly toward any debt or delinquency Performing Party owes the State of Texas or any agency of the State of Texas, regardless of when it arises, until paid in full.

Venue; Governing Law. Hidalgo County, Texas, will be the proper place of venue for suit on or in respect of this Agreement. This Agreement, all of its terms and conditions, all rights and obligations of the parties, and all claims arising out of or relating to this Agreement, will be construed, interpreted and applied in accordance with, governed by and enforced under, the laws of the State of Texas.

Entire Agreement; Modifications. This Contract supersedes all prior agreements, written or oral, between Performing Party and Receiving Party and will constitute the entire agreement and understanding between the parties with respect to its subject matter. This Contract and each of its provisions will be binding on the parties, and may not be waived, modified, amended or altered, except by a writing signed by Receiving Party and Performing Party.

Loss of Funding. Performance by a Contracting Party of its duties and obligations under this Contract may be dependent upon the appropriation and allotment of funds by the Texas State Legislature (**Legislature**) and/or allocation of funds by that Contracting Party's governing board. If Legislature fails to appropriate or allot necessary funds, or a Contracting Party's governing board fails to allocate necessary funds, then Contracting Party that loses funding may terminate this Contract without further duty or obligation. Contracting Parties agree acknowledge that appropriation, allotment, and allocation of funds are beyond the Contracting Parties' control.

State Auditor's Office. Contracting Parties understand acceptance of funds under this Contract constitutes acceptance of authority of the Texas State Auditor's Office or any successor agency (**Auditor**), to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds (ref. [Sections 51.9335\(c\)](#), [73.115\(c\)](#) and [74.008\(c\)](#), *Education Code*). Contracting Parties agree to cooperate with Auditor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records requested. Contracting Parties will include this provision in all contracts with permitted subcontractors.

Assignment. This Contract is not transferable or assignable except upon written approval by Contracting Parties.

Severability. If any one or more of the provisions of this Contract will for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, that invalidity, illegality or unenforceability will not affect any other provision, and this Contract will be construed as if the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provisions had never been included.

Public Records. It will be the independent responsibility of Receiving Party and Performing Party to comply with [Chapter 552, Government Code \(Public Information Act\)](#), as it applies to the Contracting Parties' respective information. Receiving Party is not authorized to receive public information requests or take any action under the Public Information Act on behalf of Performing Party. Likewise, Performing Party is not authorized to receive public information requests or take any other action under the Public Information Act on behalf of Receiving Party.

Executed effective on the Effective Date by the following duly authorized representatives of Contracting Parties:

RECEIVING PARTY:

By: _LRGVDC_____

Name: _Manuel Cruz _____

Title: _Executive Director _____

Date: _____

PERFORMING PARTY:

By: _UTRGV- Translation & Interpreting Office_____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

**EXHIBIT A
SERVICES, DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE**

1. Services and Payment Schedule:

University will perform the following Services and Receiving Party will pay the Contract Amount under the following Payment Schedule, in accordance with the terms of this Agreement on an as-needed basis:

Project Name: Translation of a brochure on a PDF file ("Project")

Material(s) to be Translated: PDF file of Department brochure NO LINE_ Final.pdf ("Materials to be Translated")

Translation Word count: ("Word Count")

Translation Services Fee(s): \$ NA (Word count x \$0.30)

Certification Fee(s): \$ N/A (\$35.00 per certified document)

Rush Fee(s): \$ N/A (Additional 25% of Translation Service Fees)

Formatting Fee(s): \$ N/A (Additional 35% of Translation Service Fees)

Total Contract Amount: The total value of this contract will vary significantly depending on the volume of verbiage requiring translation.

Receiving Party shall pay University the services on an as-needed basis (100% of Contract Amount), plus any additional fees incurred during the Project, within 30 days of University's delivery of the Translated Materials and a final invoice to Receiving Party.

2. Deliverables and Schedule:

University will deliver the Deliverables to Receiving Party on the following Schedule:

Date of Receipt of Materials to be Translated: N/A

Method of Delivery of Materials to be Translated: Electronic Mail

Format of Materials to be Translated as Received: PDF Document

Estimated time of Project: Turnaround times for translation requests will be mutually agreed upon in writing for each project, taking into consideration the length, complexity, and nature of the document.

Anticipated Date of Delivery of Translated Materials: N/A

Method of Delivery of Translated Materials: Electronic Mail

Formatting of Translated Materials: PDF Document

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

September 24, 2025

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

B. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Resolution for the FY 2026/2027 Regional Solid Waste Grants Program application. The LRGVDC shall submit the signed resolution with the LRGVDC COG application.

On September 16, 2025, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met and approved the resolution and contract. This grant contract is between the TCEQ and the LRGVDC to provide funding under the Regional Solid Waste Grants Program.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FILE AND EXECUTE AN APPLICATION AND A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ) FOR FY 2026/2027 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS this resolution will authorize the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Executive Director to file and execute an application and grant contract with the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR FY 2026/2027 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM; and

WHEREAS the State of Texas acting by and through the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY administers the Solid Waste Management Program; and

WHEREAS the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY informed the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council that these funds are available to conduct the FY 2026/2027 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors that:

- A. The Executive Director be authorized to file and execute an application and grant contract for FY 2026/2027 SOLID WASTE GRANT PROGRAM.
- B. The Executive Director is authorized to take such actions necessary to implement the contract.
- C. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council will comply with the provisions of the financial assistance program and the requirements of the TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.
- D. Grant funds will be used only for the purposes for which they are provided.
- E. The Solid Waste Grant Program will follow and supports the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, and any superseding plans, statutes, or regulations applicable to the geographical area covered by the program.

Adopted by the LRGVDC at a meeting held on the 24th day of September 2025

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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

September 24, 2025

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve a Tire Resolution to accept the Regional Tire Ordinance as suggested in the 2022 Scrap Tire Management and Available Alternatives in Texas (LRGVDC) Region.

On September 16, 2025, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met and approved the Tire Resolution to accept the Regional Tire Ordinance. The purpose of this ordinance is to identify the economic costs and benefits of diverting scrap tires from landfills within the Region and to provide consistent regulation of scrap tire management to protect public health, reduce environmental hazards, and promote responsible recycling in the LRGV region.

RESOLUTION
FOR THE ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL TIRE ORDINANCE

THE ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL TIRE ORDINANCE AIMS TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY REGULATING THE PROPER STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP TIRES. THE PURPOSE OF THE ORDINANCE IS TO IDENTIFY THE ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS OF DIVERTING SCRAP TIRES FROM LANDFILLS WITHIN THE REGION AND TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT REGULATION OF SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH, REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS, AND PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING IN THE LRGV REGION. BY DOING THIS ORDINANCE AS A REGION WE WOULD BE COMPLYING WITH THE 2022-2042 REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE RECOMMENDATION STIPULATED IN THE 2022 SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT & AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES IN TEXAS. THE ORDINANCE ESTABLISHES ENSURING THAT ALL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN TIRE HANDLING ADHERE TO SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, THEREBY REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND PROMOTING COMMUNITY WELL-BEING. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR COUNTIES AND CITIES TO COLLABORATE IN ENCOURAGING ENFORCING THESE REGULATIONS EFFECTIVELY.

WHEREAS, the proper management of scrap tires is crucial for protecting public health, safety, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of scrap tires can lead to environmental hazards such as mosquito breeding grounds, fire risks, and illegal dumping; and

WHEREAS, counties and cities within the region are committed to promoting sustainable practices and reducing the impact of scrap tires on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration within municipalities is essential for the effectiveness of this tire ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of LRGVDC:

1. **Adoption:** The Regional Tire Ordinance is hereby adopted as a measure to help the participating entity who adopts the Tire Ordinance to regulate the proper storage, transportation, and disposal of scrap tires within their jurisdiction.
2. **Implementation:** The governing body encourages the appropriate municipality to implement the provisions of the Regional Tire Ordinance effectively and efficiently.
3. **Public Awareness:** The appropriate municipality shall inform residents and businesses about the requirements and benefits of the Regional Tire Ordinance.
4. **Collaboration:** The governing body encourages the appropriate municipalities to collaborate to share resources, information, and strategies for the success of the tire ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval.

Adopted by the LRGVDC at a meeting held on the 24th day of September 2025

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council



Regional Model Scrap Tire Ordinance

PURPOSE OR INTENT: The purpose of this ordinance is to identify the economic costs and benefits of diverting scrap tires from landfills within the Region and to provide consistent regulation of scrap tire management to protect public health, reduce environmental hazards, and promote responsible recycling in the LRGV region.

DEFINITIONS

In this article:

- (1) **CITY** means the **City of XXX**, Texas,
- (2) **DIRECTOR** means the director of the department designated by the city or county to enforce and administer this article and includes the director's authorized representatives.
- (3) **LRGVDC REGIONAL ALTERNATIVES:** Engage with scrap tire transporters who have end users; Engage with scrap tire processors and end users; Pursue Land Reclamation Projects Using Tires efforts; Consider adopting a model ordinance throughout the Region and supporting statewide scrap tire management legislation; Stay abreast of changes in the scrap tire industry
- (3) **MANIFEST** means a tracking mechanism to monitor the transfer of tires from the point of generation to their end-use or final destination, such as a tire storage site, scrap tire facility, permitted landfill, or land reclamation project using tires. The manifest is a five-part form whose format and content is prescribed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
- (4) **MOBILE TIRE REPAIR BUSINESS** means a business that repairs tires at any temporary location, including but not limited to a roadway, alley, parking lot, or residence. The term does not include a business that only changes or replaces tires but does not make any repairs to a tire.
- (5) **MOBILE TIRE REPAIR UNIT** means any vehicle used in a mobile tire repair business.
- (6) **SCRAP TIRE** means a whole tire or any portion of a tire that:
 - (A) can no longer be used for its original intended purpose; or
 - (B) is being held, transported, or processed for disposal or recycling.
- (7) **SCRAP TIRE GENERATOR** means a fleet operator, an automotive dismantler, or a retailer, wholesaler, manufacturer, recapper, or retreader of new or used tires.
- (8) **SCRAP TIRE TRANSPORTER** means any business or person who transports more than six scrap tires at any one time or is loading or unloading scrap tires from or to any location within the **City of XXX**.
- (9) **TCEQ-TEXAS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE SECTION 328.56 state Generator Requirements**, concerning the management and storage of used or scrap tires, including





registration, transportation, and documentation obligations for generators. Available at Texas Administrative Code - Section 328.56. [Home - Rules & Meetings](#)

(10) **TIRE BUSINESS** means any business or establishment where used tires are collected, repaired, processed, recycled, scrapped, sold, bought, or stored, including but not limited to a mobile tire repair business and a salvage yard.

(11) **TIRE RECYCLING FACILITY** means a state-registered facility that processes, recycles, or conducts energy recovery with scrap tires.

(12) **VEHICLE** means any motorized vehicle and any non-motorized trailer that is or may be attached to a motorized vehicle. If a trailer is attached to a motorized vehicle, both the trailer and the motorized vehicle will be considered as one vehicle.

**TIRE BUSINESS LICENSE AND MOBILE TIRE REPAIR UNIT PERMIT REQUIRED;
APPLICATION; TRANSFERABILITY**

To obtain a tire business license, a person must submit an application on a form provided for that purpose to the director. The director or assigned staff shall keep an updated tire business listing within their jurisdiction, including mobile tire businesses, that will be reviewed annually for any business changes or updates.

The applicant must be the person who will own, control, or operate the tire business. The application must be signed and verified by the applicant and contain all the following information:

- (1) The name, residential mailing address, county of residence, email address, and telephone and facsimile number of each owner and operator of the tire business.
- (2) The physical address, email address, and telephone number of the tire business.
- (3) The approximate number of tires that will be stored on site at the tire business.
- (4) If applicable, the zoning district or districts where the business is located.
- (5) The tax identification number or taxpayer identification number of each owner and operator listed in the license application.
- (6) The number and description of vehicles the applicant proposes to use as mobile tire repair units, including the year, make, model, color, vehicle identification number, and state license registration number for each vehicle, and proof that each vehicle is in compliance with state requirements for vehicle registration, vehicle inspection, and vehicle financial responsibility.
- (7) The registration or license number of any Texas Commission on Environmental Quality registration or license, if applicable.





(8) Each permitted business shall report annually to the city/county, detailing the quantity of scrap tires generated, transported, disposed of, or recycled. Reports must specify the end-use facilities for disposal and recycling.

(9) If the **City of XXX** chooses: All tire businesses located within the **City of XXX** limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) that engage in the resale of tires, or the generation of waste tires must obtain an annual permit issued by the **City of XXX** public works department. The annual permit fee shall be set by the **City of XXX**, of which **City of XXX** choice % will be allocated to support centralized processing partnerships or recycling incentives.

(10) **Mobile-only businesses that operate without a fixed address.** Mobile-only operators without a permanent address within the **City of XXX** must register their business at the local public works department and provide a physical address for inspection and recordkeeping.

ISSUANCE, DENIAL, AND DISPLAY OF A LICENSE PERMIT, OR TIRE DISPOSAL RECORDS

(a) The director shall issue a tire business license to the applicant, unless the director determines that the applicant:

- (1) failed to completely fill out an application;
- (2) provided false information on an application;
- (3) failed to pay a license or permit fee required under this article;
- (4) has had a tire business license revoked within the preceding 12 months; or
- (5) has failed to complete the required training.

(b) Upon issuance of a license to an applicant, the director shall issue a permit to each vehicle to be operated by the applicant as a mobile tire repair unit.

(c) If the director determines that an applicant should be denied a tire business license, the director shall notify the applicant in writing that the application is denied and include in the notice the reason for denial and a statement informing the applicant of the right of appeal. The director shall provide the notice within 10 business days of making the determination.

(d) A license or permit issued under this section must be displayed in a manner and location approved by the director. A license and permit must be presented upon request to the director or to a peace officer for examination.

(e) An applicant shall keep a state-approved manifest of all tires received and transported out of its facility. An annual inventory summary or audit, certified by an authorized representative of the business must be made available upon the request of the director, police department,





city marshal, city attorney, or the city's attorney's designee. An applicant shall maintain manifest records for three years at the physical address designated on their license. Digital records are permitted if securely stored and accessible to the director upon request.

(f) A tire business, mobile tire repair unit, or scrap tire transporter commits an offense if it allows any tire to be transported upon any public street other than by an approved and registered permit holder. Each tire business shall maintain daily records of the numbers of tires generated at each premise under their control.

(g) Tire businesses must dispose of or recycle scrap tires at licensed recycling facilities or participate in Land Reclamation Projects Using Tires (LRPUT) when feasible. Disposal in unauthorized locations, including illegal dumping, is strictly prohibited.

(h) Priority for Recycling and LRPUT Projects: Tire businesses are required to prioritize the disposal of scrap tires at certified recycling or LRPUT facilities over landfills. The city/county may provide financial incentives for businesses that divert scrap tires to these facilities.

REVOCATION OF A LICENSE

(a) The director shall revoke a tire business license if the licensee:

(1) refuses to allow any agent of the city/county entry into and inspection of the tire business or a mobile tire repair unit;

(2) is convicted twice within a 24-month period of any city ordinance or state or federal law regulating solid waste, litter, dumping, pollution, standing water, insect or rodent infestation, junk or salvage yards, junk motor vehicles, tires, or similar health, sanitation, or environmental concerns;

(3) violates any provision of this article or of this code;

(4) does not complete the required training

(b) Any person whose license or permit has been revoked shall return the license or permit to the director, along with any identification stickers or decals issued to the licensee within 10 business days of revocation.

REQUIRED TRAINING

(a) The licensee and each of the licensee's authorized agents at each tire business location and mobile tire repair unit shall complete a two-hour training course delivered by the director prior to initial registration and annually thereafter prior to renewal.





- (b) The licensee shall notify the director within 15 days of the separation of any authorized agent or the termination of the agency relationship.
- (c) All new authorized agents shall complete the required training within 30 days of the establishment of the agency relationship. If the training is not completed within 30 days, the tire business license is subject to revocation pursuant to the requirements in this ordinance.
- (d) Expand the training curriculum to include environmental impact awareness. Topics can include mosquito abatement, fire risk reduction, and the environmental impact of tire stockpiling and best practices in tire recycling and reuse.
- (e) Training materials will be available in Spanish and other relevant languages based on community needs

SCRAP TIRE GENERATOR STORAGE METHODS

- (a) Tires stored by a tire business must be stored under a roofed structure.
- (b) All used tires and scrap tires must be stored in a manner which prevents exposure to natural elements.
- (c) Tires must be stored to prevent the collection of water, debris, dirt, rubbish, and other materials.
- (d) Used tires and scrap tire pieces stored outside must be screened from public view.
- (e) Tires must be secured to prevent unauthorized removal from the structure.
- (f) Tires must be stored in compliance with the **City of XXX** Fire Code.
- (g) Scrap tire generators shall implement regular prevention methods to eliminate mosquito breeding and rodent habitation.
- (h) Tires stored in violation of this section will be deemed a public nuisance subject to abatement at the expense of the premises owner.
- (i) Tires must be stored at each facility in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- (j) Scrap tire generators storing more than 500 scrap tires on the ground or more than 2,000 scrap tires in enclosed and lockable containers at a facility must obtain a scrap tire storage registration pursuant to 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 328.56.
- (k) Tire businesses must ensure that scrap tires are stored in a manner that prevents water accumulation and breeding of mosquitoes. Tires must be transported in covered vehicles to prevent spillage and ensure safe handling.





(j) Transportation Partnerships: To reduce costs and encourage recycling, tire businesses are encouraged to utilize city/county approved partnerships for regional tire processing and transport. Incentives may be available for businesses that support the city's designated recycling or LRPOT facilities.

(l) Tire businesses must comply with all Specify mosquito abatement techniques and rodent control measures for tire storage facilities, such as mandatory larvicide treatments or regular inspections by the health department.

TIRE IDENTIFICATION

Scrap tires must be marked with the assigned license number of the tire business within one business day of receipt of the tire. Clarify if the **marking can be digital/QR-coded** for tracking. Digital identification methods may be approved by the director, provided they meet traceability requirements.

The license number must be placed on each tire using a permanent marking system and:

- (1) be at least one inch in height;
- (2) be of contrasting color; and
- (3) be located on at least one side of the tire.

TRANSPORTING SCRAP TIRES

(a) A person commits an offense if he transports scrap tires in a vehicle within the city without:

- (1) displaying a valid scrap tire transporter decal in a visible and conspicuous location on the rear of the vehicle;
- (2) being listed as a transporter or authorized driver for the vehicle in the application for the vehicle's scrap tire transporter decal that is on file with the director;
- (3) maintaining for inspection at any time a current manifest as required by Section 361.112 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, as amended;
- (4) the appropriate tire identification markings; or
- (5) displaying the licensee's name, phone number, and city/county registration license number on both sides of each vehicle owned and operated by the licensee and used in the transporting of scrap tires. The lettering must be permanently affixed to the vehicle, be of a contrasting color, and be at least two inches in height. For purposes of this subsection, magnetic lettering is not considered permanently affixed.





(6) Specify the type of manifest system (e.g., digital manifests approved by the **City of XXX** to streamline enforcement. Include guidelines for cross-border scrap tire transportation to address unique challenges posed by the proximity to Mexico.

(7) Cross-Border Transport Addition: Scrap tire transporters operating near international borders must comply with cross-border transport protocols, including coordination with CBP and Mexican Environmental Authorities if tires are transported internationally.

PENALTY

(a) An offense under this article is punishable by a fine of not less than \$500 or more than \$2,000.

(1) Each day that any violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

(2) Each tire transported in violation of this article constitutes a separate offense.

That any act done or right vested or accrued, or any proceeding, suit, or prosecution had or commenced in any action before the amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, shall not be affected or impaired by amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, and shall be treated as still remaining in full force and effect for all intents and purposes as if the amended or repealed ordinance, or part thereof, had remained in force.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and shall be reviewed after one year for enforcement effectiveness and regional alignment.

PASSED AND APPROVED by (board or chief official as applicable) in (**City of XXX**), TX., on this the (number/day) day of (month), (year).

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Notary Signature)

(Typed or Printed Name)

(Type or Printed Name)

(Title)

(Commission Expires)



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- **Economic Development Administration**

Staff participated in the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and attended the Community & Economic Development Session. Several speakers presented on the following topics: * Regional Roundtable: Innovations & Tools to Enhance Regional Economic Development Planning, * Managing Innovation Through Community Engagement, * Texas Economic Development & Tourism: Resources, Incentives, and Opportunities for Growth, * Regions on the Rise: Energizing & Empowering Regional Development. During the final presentation, Jorge Ayala, Director of the Economic Development Administration (EDA), provided updates on Disaster Supplemental Funding. This funding is available exclusively to communities affected by natural disasters that received a FEMA Disaster Declaration in 2023 or 2024. For more information about this opportunity, please visit the website linked below.

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

Know these key facts:

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

Staff continue to engage with city officials, EDC's, EDO's, and other economic development industries to identify and develop potential Economic Development Administration (EDA) projects. These discussions provide valuable insights that will increase the preparation of applications for submission, as well as generate letters of support that align with our Comprehensive Economic Development

Strategy (CEDS) goals and objectives for prospective projects. Our team is equipped to offer technical assistance, project development, and grant administration related to EDA proposals and initiatives. Should you have any inquiries or require further information regarding EDA, please do not hesitate to contact the Community & Economic Development Department. We also serve as the designated regional point of contact for the EDA and will continue to disseminate information as necessary. Furthermore, our team collaborates with other governmental entities on economic development activities to optimize the benefits of all projects and objectives within the region, while also ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts and resources. For additional information and resources concerning EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

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

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

A virtual RSCC meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2025, at 2:00 PM. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will be presenting to our small communities on current funding opportunities for them. For further information regarding these funding opportunities, you can reach out to Enriqueta "Keta" Caballero, Outreach Specialist, Water Supply & Infrastructure – TWDB, Enriqueta.Caballero@twdb.texas.gov.

You can find the meeting link on the LRGVDC Events Calendar or reach out to Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org, for any meeting information.

- **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

Staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and participated in the Community & Economic Development Session, where the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) provided updates on the Community Development Program. During the session, TDA discussed the required paperwork for the FY24 contract, which includes submission of final reports and reimbursement requests. It was noted that new contracts for FY25-26 are expected to be distributed to the Councils of Governments (COGs) before the end of September, with execution by the Executive Director to initiate deliverables. The proposed allocation for the upcoming cycle is designated for technical assistance that is not project-specific to any one TxCDBG initiative. Instead, it supports technical assistance activities throughout the region, such as disseminating information published by TDA, conducting outreach to support fair housing goals, and coordinating regional meetings.

In addition, TDA and LRGVDC will be facilitating a Grant Outreach Meeting to provide program information and solicit stakeholder input from TxCDBG communities. The meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2025, at 10:00 AM, at the LRGVDC Valley Metro Conference Room, 510 South Pleasantview Dr., Weslaco, TX 78596.

Other information provided during this meeting was the following:

Community Development Fund (2027-2028)

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

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

Downtown Revitalization Program (2026)

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

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

Colonia Fund Construction (2026)

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

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

Colonia Economically Distressed Areas Program (2025)

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

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

State Urgent Need (SUN) Fund (2025)

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

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

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

- **Air Quality Program**

The Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality project continues to advance as planned, with several tasks successfully completed and no expected delays. The project timeline remains intact, with a final report summarizing the findings from the study scheduled for completion by December 30, 2025. Furthermore, LRGVDC has secured additional funding in the amount of \$13,323.00, for this initiative. These additional monies will be used for continued monitoring and evaluation. Consequently, all project activities will be concluded by the established deadline of December 30, 2025.

Current Project Status:

- Prepare Scope of Work – Completed
- Prepare Quality Assurance Project Plan – Completed
- Emission Inventory – Completed
- Data Research and Analysis - Completed
- Air Quality Modeling – 65% Complete
- Draft Report – Due by December 2025

Staff continue to maintain 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.

Additionally, TCEQ and LRGVDC staff have initiated preliminary discussions regarding new funding for FY2026/2027. It was noted during this discussions that an amendment to our Air Quality contract is expected to be distributed and fully executed by December 2025.

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

The LRGVDC board of directors approved the acceptance of \$10,000 from NRAL to assist the C&ED department work towards full coalition status. All NRAL procurement paperwork has been received, and staff are working to finalize all documents.

LRGVDC staff have met virtually with UTRGV Office of Sustainability to see if interns could be identified to assist the LRGVDC with this project. An intern job description is being prepared by the HR department to begin this process as soon as NRAL send back approved contract.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The City of Mission proudly hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to unveil new equipment acquired through the 2024–2025 Solid Waste Grant. Through this grant they purchased (1) 20 Yd 22ft Roll off along with (14) 4YD flat standard containers to be used throughout the city. This event marked a significant milestone in the city's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible waste management. The ceremony brought together city officials, community members, and local stakeholders to celebrate the advancements made possible by the grant funding. During the event, the Director of Community and Economic Development Melisa Gonzales-Rosas delivered remarks recognizing the city's continued efforts to enhance recycling initiatives and promote eco-conscious practices among residents. This investment in solid waste infrastructure not only strengthens the city's operational capabilities but also reinforces its dedication to creating a cleaner, greener future for all who live and work in City of Mission.



In preparation for the upcoming 2026–2027 Solid Waste Funding Year, we held a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting on September 16, 2025, at the Ken Jones Board room at 2:00 PM. In this meeting the SWAC committee discussed the funding categories, funding limits, Road to Recycling project and the approval of the Regional Tire Ordinance.

In addition, the CED department continues to manage the Solid Waste Infrastructure for recycling (SWIFR) part of our ongoing efforts under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) initiative, we hosted a Composting Curriculum Launch Meeting at the LRGVDC main office on September 23, 2025, specifically designed for educators participating in the program. This collaborative session brought together representatives from Region One Education Service Center and Texas State University, who jointly presented the newly developed composting curriculum. During the meeting, teachers were introduced to the structure and objectives of the curriculum, and each participant received a full copy of the lesson plans.



The curriculum is designed to support classroom instruction on key environmental topics, including:

- The fundamentals of composting – understanding the science and benefits of organic waste decomposition.
- Food waste analysis – exploring the environmental impact of food waste and strategies for reduction.
- Establishing composting systems – guiding students through the process of setting up and maintaining composting operations in school or community settings.

This initiative aims to empower educators with the tools and knowledge needed to foster environmental stewardship among students, while also supporting broader goals of waste reduction and sustainability in our communities.



We are pleased to share a major milestone in the advancement of our Road to Recycling Project. Over the past year, we have made significant strides in aligning our waste management practices with the long-term goals outlined in the 2022–2042 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and the findings of our comprehensive Tire Study. Previously, all collected tires were processed through cutting and subsequently landfilled—a method that, while functional, did not support our broader sustainability objectives. This year, we successfully transitioned to a more environmentally responsible approach. A substantial portion of the tires collected were diverted from landfills and properly recycled through certified facilities. This shift represents a meaningful improvement in our operational practices and underscores our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable resource management, and the reduction of landfill dependency. We are proud of this progress and remain dedicated to building on this momentum in the years ahead.

# of Participants	# of Participants by County	Estimated Total Tires Collected	Estimated Tires Recycled (TDF & ADC)	Estimated # of Tires Landfilled	Total lbs.
28	4 – Willacy County 8 – Cameron County 16 – Hidalgo County	49,730	49,611	119	1,238,081



*Cameron County (left)

*Cameron County DD#3 (right)



*Town of Combes

*City of Alamo



*City of San Juan (1st site)

*City of Donna



*City of San Juan (2nd site)
 * City of San Juan (2nd site)

*City of San Juan



*City Elsa



*UTW – Vendor Processing





**BIG THANKS
to all participants
and vendors!**



As mentioned in previous program updates, staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) and attended the Solid Waste session. The topics presented were the following: Innovations in Recycling, Boosting Recycling Participation & Community Trust, Regional Roundtable: Best Practices for Coordinating Disaster Debris Management for Local Communities, and Connecting Air Quality and Energy Management Resources for Regional Programs. Lastly, TCEQ provided Regional Solid Waste Grant Program kick-off & updates regarding Fy26-27 funding application.

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

- **Water Quality Program**

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

Events attended for this month:

- Donna Evenings at the Square – City Square Park
- Mission Fire Safety Fest – Charge into Fire Safety
- Rio Grande Valley NRA Friends & Family Community Day
- Keep San Juan Beautiful – City Cleanup
- LISTO RGV Conference 2025
- 3rd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar

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



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 RWRAC meeting was held on September 17, 2025, at 2:00 PM. The meeting topic was centered around the Texas Commission Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Salinity Study. Ms. Isabel Keddy-Hector, Project Manager & Bi-National Liaison for TCEQ was the presenter on this study, that covered key findings and explored opportunities for regional collaboration to protect and enhance the Lower Rio Grande Valley's water quality. With all the water issues plaguing both countries, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), TCEQ and SELA (TCEQ Counterpart in Mexico), conducted a salinity study on the Murillo Drain which serves as an alternate water source which Mexico can utilize to pay down their US Water debt. The water quality (high levels of salinity) from the Murillo Drain makes this water source, not reliable to provide acceptable water for the US and this study is the first step to finding alternate water solutions. For more meeting information, you can reach out to Jack Cano, jcano@lrgvdc.org.

Information about water resources is available at,

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

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

The next Region M meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2025. Meetings continue to be held hybrid at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room and via GoToMeeting. At this meeting the RGRWPG will approve the inclusion of several new recommended water management strategies in the Rio Grande 2026 Regional Water Plan.

The following are the next steps:

- Finishing addressing comments and getting TWDB Level 1 comment responses approved by TWDB
- Make final edits to the plan, including incorporating the Socioeconomic Impact Analysis
- Complete updates to DB27 (deadline was September 22)
- Prepare for October RWPG meeting where final plan will be adopted (October 7th)
- Submit adopted final plan to TWDB (October 20th)

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

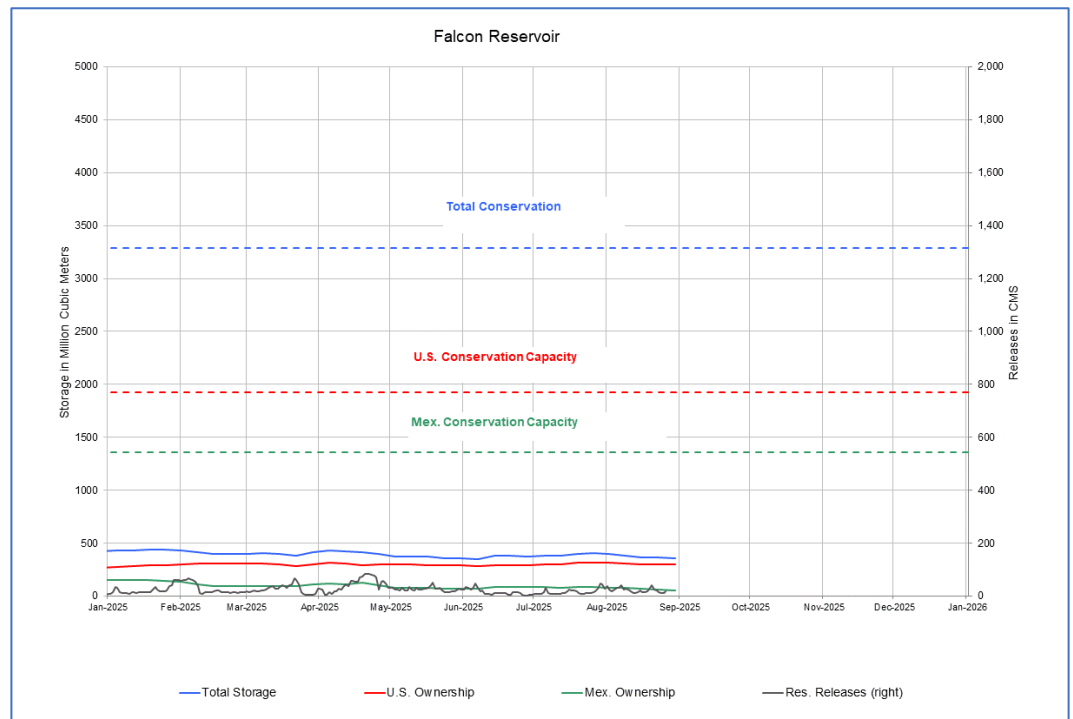
For any Region M meeting information, please visit website:
<http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

- Reservoir Levels as of September 12, 2025 (www.IBWC.gov)



AMISTAD
RESERVOIR

FALCON
RESERVOIR



ITEM # 5. B.

**HEALTH &
HUMAN
SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, September 24, 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 August 2025.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination August 2025**
 - The Care Coordination Program served a total of 91 new clients.
 - A total of 351 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Served
Care Coordination Services	147	1,149
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

****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. As we round out the FY2025 budget and close the grant year, services placed on hold remain pending reinstatement until new FY2026 budget allocations are confirmed.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support August 2025**
 - The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 23 new clients.
 - A total of 251 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

Direct Consumer Services	Total New Clients	Total Clients Serviced
Caregiver Support Services	23	247
Respite In-Home Services Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.	0	4
Health Maintenance Services Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	0	0

****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. As we round out the FY2025 budget and close the grant year, services placed on hold remain pending reinstatement until new FY2026 budget allocations are confirmed.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant August 2025**
 - All funds exhausted.

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.	0	0
Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	0	0
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

****Disclaimer:** Service requests are on hold due to the full use of 2025 city funds. Services will be reinstated in 2026 as new funding is awarded from cities able to provide support.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List August 2025**
 - As of September 5th, 2025, 1,693 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	1,445
Caregiver Support Services	248
Grand Total	1,693

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List August 2025**

- As of September 5th, 2025, 1,693 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	1,445
Caregiver Support Services	248
Grand Total	1,693

- **Nutrition Program Report: August 2025**

- Successfully enrolled 35 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program
- Successfully delivered 25,303 meals.
- Successfully enrolled 176 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Successfully served 26,247 Congregate meals.

Meals Program	Total New Clients	Total Meals Served
Home Delivered Meals	35	25,303
Congregate Meals	176	26,247

- **Senior Center Operations Report – August 2025**

- Program successfully enrolled 30 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 34,994 activities with their clients.

Senior Center Operations	
New Clients	30
Total activities	34,994

Special Services Report

- **Benefit Counselors Program – August 2025**

- Achieved the enrollment of 172 new clients and 184 contacts established.

Benefit Counselors	Total New Clients	Total Contacts
HICAP Awareness	0	0
HICAP Assistance	10	11
MIPPA	110	116
Legal Awareness	35	35
Legal Assistance	17	22

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

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

- **Bingo Days at Palm Plaza (Mission Housing Authority)**



- **Hobby Time at Palm Plaza (Mission Housing Authority)**



• Benefits Counselors Highlights

On August 5, 2025, the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging, in partnership with the Texas Legal Services Center, hosted the “*Power in Community.*” The event educated over 75 older adults and community members on Medicare, Advanced Directives, and Transfer of Death Deeds. Presentations were delivered by Managing Attorney Paul Zambie and Benefits Counselor Ashley Gomez. The event also featured door prizes, refreshments, exhibitor booths, and opportunities for one-on-one counseling sessions.



- **Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – August 2025**

- During August, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 59 new clients.
- They made a total of 203 contacts across hospitals within the tri-county area.

CTI Coaches	Total New Clients	Total Clients Served
August 2025	59	203

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

- **Ombudsman Program Report – August 2025**

- The Ombudsman handled 32 complaints.
- They dedicated 96.15 activity hours and recorded 459 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 16 in-kind hours.

Ombudsman				
Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints
August 2025	16	96.15	459	32

Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – August 2025**

- The intake team had a total of 345 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, faxes, and follow-ups.

IR&A Interactions	
1-800 AAA	24
1-855 ADRC	9
(956) 682-3481	94
(956) 412-0958	43
Walk-ins	14
E-mails	51
Fax	2
Follow ups	108
Total Interactions	345

Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	234
Consumer 59 and below	3
Total Consumers	237

Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	230
Veterans	4

Top Call Topics	
Benefits Counseling	66
Health Maintenance	57
Homemaker Services	53
Residential Repairs	39
Respite Services	33

- **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – August 2025**
 - During August, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 12 new caregivers and made 16 total contacts.

Caregivers Assisted	
Total New Clients	12
Total Contacts	16

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – August 2025**
 - Offered assistance to 5 consumers with housing inquiries by providing tailored resources such as information regarding rental relief and utility assistance.
 - Engaged with 76 individuals through in-person outreach activities, including 52 aged 60 and older, and 24 aged 59 and younger.
 - Interacted with 5 individuals with disabilities, 5 veterans, and 8 caregivers.

Housing Intakes Total	
Total Intakes	5

Outreach Events	
Total Outreach Events	5

Outreach Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	52

Consumers 59 and below	24
Total Consumers	76

Outreach Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	5
Veteran	5
Consumer has a Caregiver	8

- **ADRC Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report – August 2025**
 - Provided services to 36 consumers under the CDBG Grant.
 - 18 Consumers were served for Homemaker
 - 18 Consumers were served for Health Maintenance

ADRC Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)		
City	Homemaker Services	Health Maintenance
City of Pharr	5	10
City of Harlingen	13	8
Total Consumers Per Service Line:	18	18
Total Consumer Served:	36	

ITEM # 5. C.

**PUBLIC
SAFETY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation of Appointment of newly elected Committee Member for the next two (2) years.

The HSAC convened on September 4, 2025, to consider appointment of Tom Hushen, Chair of Cameron County Office Emergency Management, Jeff Johnston Vice Chair of City of McAllen Emergency Management, Odee Leal Parliamentarian of City of Brownsville Emergency Management.

<p>Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COG-21) Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) FY 2026</p>
<p>Chair Tom Hushen, EMC <i>Cameron County</i></p>
<p>Vice Chair Jeff Johnston, Assistant City Manager/EMC <i>City of McAllen</i></p>
<p>Parliamentarian Odee Leal, EM Administrator/EMC <i>City of Brownsville</i></p>
<p>Alfredo Alvear, Police Chief/Assistant EMC <i>City of Harlingen</i></p>
<p>Hector Gonzalez, Police Chief <i>City of Los Fresnos</i></p>
<p>Jim Pigg, Fire Chief/EMC <i>City of South Padre Island</i></p>
<p>Omar Garza, Fire Chief/EMC <i>City of Edinburg</i></p>
<p>Ricardo Saldana, EMC <i>Hidalgo County</i></p>
<p>Jesus Ortega, Lieutenant/EMC <i>City of Hidalgo</i></p>
<p>Michael Silva, Interim Fire Chief <i>City of Mission</i></p>
<p>Dr. Johnathan Flores, City Manager <i>City of Pharr</i></p>
<p>Antonio (Tony) Lopez, Fire Chief/EMC <i>City of Weslaco</i></p>
<p>Uvaldo Zamora, Police Chief <i>City of Raymondville</i></p>
<p>Frank Torres, EMC <i>Willacy County</i></p>

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation on Appointment of newly elected Committee Members for next two (2) years.

The CJAC convened on September 10, 2025, to consider appointment of Patrick “Kelly” McCormick Hidalgo County District Attorney/Prosecutor and Court as CJAC Chair. Ms. Patricia “Cookie” Bader Drug/Abuse Prevention as Vice Chair, and Robert Lopez Chief of Police with Weslaco PD as Parliamentarian.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COG-21)
Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)
FY 2026

Patrick “Kelley” McCormick-Chair

Hidalgo County

Patricia “Cookie” Bader- Vice Chair

Hidalgo County

Robert Lopez– Parliamentarian

Hidalgo County

Annie Romero

Cameron County

Mario G. Perea

Cameron County

David K. Longoria

Cameron County

Gloria Ocampo

Cameron County

Laura Soule

Cameron County

Luis Saenz

Cameron County

Pablo Almaguer

Cameron County

Rose Gomez

Cameron County

Rosie Mendoza

Cameron County

Tom Hushen

Cameron County

Antonio “Rick” Gonzalez

Hidalgo County

Carla Rodriguez

Hidalgo County

Christina Sprawls

Hidalgo County

Eddie Guerra

Hidalgo County

Mark Perez

Hidalgo County

Toribio “Terry” Palacios

Hidalgo County

Rosa Hernandez

Hidalgo County

Rosie Martinez Hidalgo County
Robert Lopez Hidalgo County
Maryann Denner Hidalgo County
Annette Hinojosa Willacy County
Frank Garcia Willacy County
Uvaldo Zamora Willacy County
Raul Garza Willacy County
Monica H. Sanchez Regional

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on September 10, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff attended the ALTA-CAIR Accelerator Public Health Conference on September 4, 2025, at the Harlingen Convention Center in Harlingen, Texas.
- Staff will attend the 3rd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar for the RGV911 on September 30, 2025, at the Mission Convention Center
- Staff attended Bi-Annual Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Conference Criminal Justice on September 9-12, 2025, in Austin Cambria Hotel, Austin, TX
- Staff will host on September 24-26, 2025, the Annual LISTO RGV Regional Preparedness and Recovery Conference at the Margaritaville Beach Resort at South Padre Island, TX
- On September 30, staff will attend the Public Safety Wellness Seminar at the Mission Event Center, Mission Texas.

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on September 4, 2025, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff attended Bi-Annual Texas Association of Regional Councils Conference Homeland Security on September 9-12, 2025, in Austin Cambria Hotel, Austin, TX.
- Staff attended the Regional Disaster Recovery Meeting on September 8, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Hotel Conference Room in Harlingen, Texas focusing on the March 27 floods.
- Staff attended Bi-Annual Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Conference Homeland Security on September 9-12, 2025, in Austin Cambria Hotel, Austin, TX
- Staff attended on September 16, 2025, with the Hidalgo County Emergency Management Volunteer Agency Liaison to discuss future coordination efforts for the region.
- Staff hosted on September 17, 2025, the Regional Response Group (RRG) Meeting at LRGVDC Boardroom in a hybrid setting.
- Staff attended the webinar on September 17, 2025, for National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) “Aligning Behavior Threat Assessment and Management.”
- Staff attended webinar on September 18, 2025, the local emergency planning committee meeting.
- Staff will host the September 24-26, 2025, the Annual LISTO RGV Regional Preparedness and Recovery Conference at the Margaritaville Beach Resort at South Padre Island, TX

ITEM # 5. C.

**LOWER RIO
GRANDE VALLEY
ACADEMY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Department Reports

Public SafetyJavier Solis Jr Assistant Director

Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

- LRGV Academy Staff are in the process of conducting final background investigations for cadet enrollment into the 231st LRGV Academy to be hosted by the Weslaco Police Department.
- The Weslaco Police Department 231st LRGV Academy is set to commence October 3, 2025.
- The Academy is ready to be the lead TCOLE reporting agency for the 2025 Liso RGV Conference and the 2025 RGV 911 District Wellness Seminar.
- LRGV Academy is coordinating the upcoming fall-in-service calendar to offer more intermediate and advanced TCOLE courses for the region's certified officers.
- LRGV Academy's 229th and 230th Police Academies in the cities of Rio Grande City and Weslaco are in their final weeks of training. Both academies will be attempting TCOLE licensing in the coming weeks.
- Currently the LRGV Academy has two vacancies on the LRGV Academy Advisory Board. We are currently accepting applications to fill the two vacancies. Candidates will be presented at our November advisory board meeting for final nomination and election.

September 2025 Program Training Report

- Inservice Courses
- Officers Trained
- Contact Hours

ITEM # 5. C.

**RIO GRANDE
VALLEY
EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION
DISTRICT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

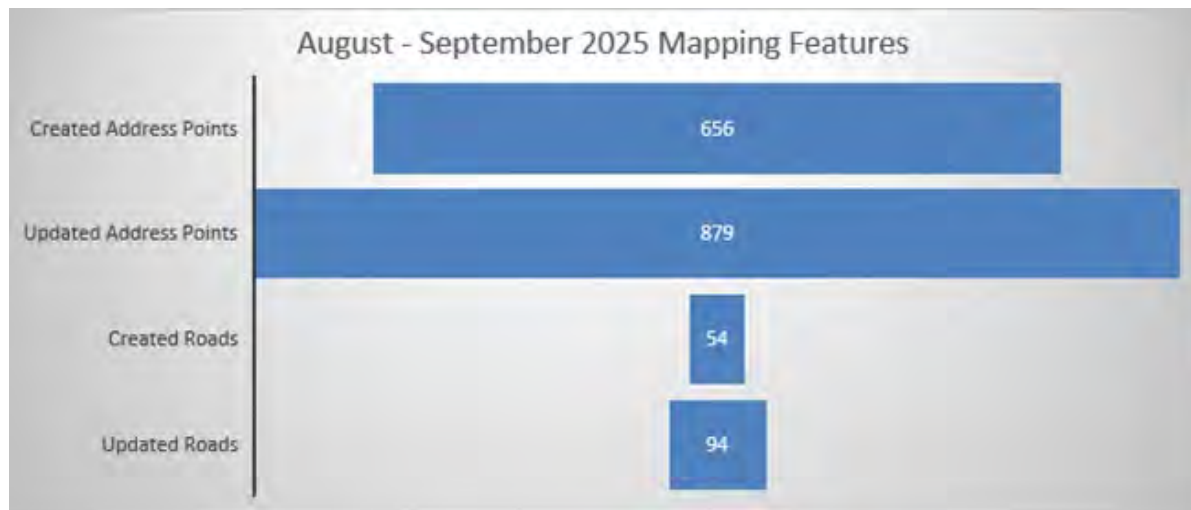
C. Public Safety

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

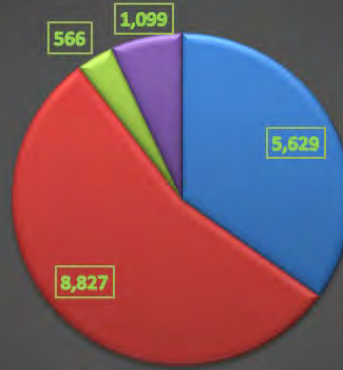
- GIS Division

The GIS team held its annual planning meeting with ESRI to outline a focused work plan for 2026. This plan, currently under development, will align with the district's strategic goals and should be ready by end November 2025. Additionally, a GIS Training plan for 2026 has been finalized and published as a story map, now accessible via our team dashboard.

Team members have created a process for naming private roads in Willacy County for 9-1-1 addressing purposes and requests will be made via our website on November 1st, 2025, at www.rgv911.org.

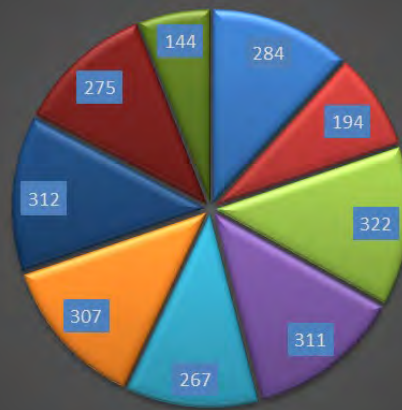


2025 Total Production : GIS



Created Address Points Updated Address Points Created Roads Updated Roads

2025 Address Tickets Totals



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

RGV911.org Pageviews 2025 Total



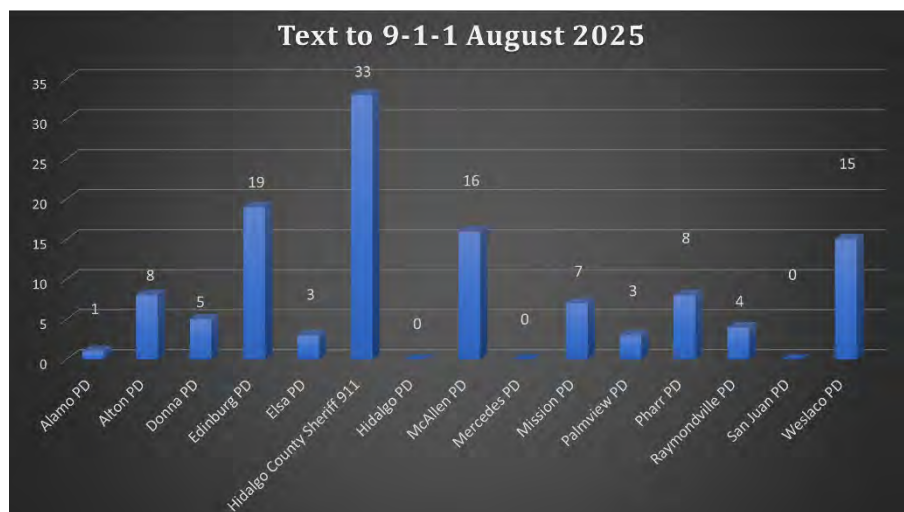
- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The Information Technology Division conducted follow-up PSAP audits at 2 PSAPs this past month pursuant of Health and Safety Code, Chapter 771, §771.051. Whereas, all aspects of 9-1-1 calls, transfers, call taking, and site requirements were met with operational requirements on 9-1-1 call-taking equipment. They also performed PSAP Maintenance at all sites, cleaning most used items and restarting network equipment.

Along with this, McAllen and Hidalgo County SO received two new replacement recorders from Vistacom. This gives us new equipment that can support newer options on 9-1-1 systems such as Text-to-911 Translation logging and Multimedia login.

We are working with our GIS team, offering a CAD Spill via DB9 to a server, then getting current ALI/ANI data in then placing it on a map, giving live call information. This may give live call data to agencies that do not have a PSAP workstation such as EMS, Fire and other Law Enforcement agencies.

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



- **Community Engagement Division**

August was a great and busy month for community engagement as we kicked off National Night Out alongside our local police departments, bringing families together to learn more about safety and the role of 911. We also participated in several back-to-school bashes, helping students and parents start the year prepared with important 911 education. In addition, we joined preparedness events focused on natural disasters, ensuring our communities have the knowledge and resources needed to stay safe. It was a full month of connection, education, and teamwork with our partners and community.

Back to School Health Fair, August 4, 2025. Hosted by Hidalgo County Precinct 4. We were honored to share the important services our district provides to the residents of Hidalgo County. From teaching kids how and when to call 9-1-1, to engaging with families about emergency preparedness, our goal remains to empower the community with life-saving knowledge. We also partnered with local agencies and organizations to extend our outreach and ensure vital information reached as many people as possible.

3rd Annual Health & Community Back to School Bash, August 5th, 2025. hosted by the Hidalgo County Health Department and Llano Grande Resort Golf Club. This event focused on bringing the community together by offering health and wellness services, social resources, and opportunities to connect with our amazing local first responders. RGV911 was proud to participate, providing families with valuable information on how and when to use 9-1-1.

San Juan Police Department National Night Out, August 7, 2025. RGV911 attended the event to share the important message, *"Call if you can, text if you can't."* We provided the community with information on how texting 9-1-1 works and when it should be used. Our goal is to ensure everyone knows the options available to reach emergency services in times of need.

Alamo Police Department National Night Out, August 12, 2025. We attended the event and educated the community on the importance of knowing when to call 9-1-1. Our team explained the difference between a true emergency call and a non-emergency situation. By sharing this information, we aim to help residents use 9-1-1 properly so emergency lines remain available for those in urgent need.

Palmview National Police Department Night Out, August 13, 2025. RGV911 had the opportunity to connect with the community and build stronger relationships through outreach. We shared helpful 9-1-1 tips to ensure residents know how and when to call during an emergency. Our goal is always to keep the community informed, prepared, and safe.

Meet the Bulldogs with Lyford ISD, August 13, 2025. Cell Phone Sally, along with the Public Education team, visited students to share important safety lessons. They talked about the importance of knowing your location in an emergency and how to use Text-to-911 when calling isn't possible. The students enjoyed learning valuable tips that could help save lives.

Hidalgo County Ready-Emergency Preparedness Event, August 14, 2025. We were happy to be part of this community effort alongside other organizations, joining forces to support our residents. Together, we shared resources, safety tips, and important information to keep families informed. Collaborating in this way helps strengthen our community and ensure everyone is better prepared.

TNOA K9 Competition, August 18, 2025. The LRGV Academy, together with the Texas Narcotic Officer Association, hosted this great competition. We took advantage of the event to speak with attendees about the importance of public safety. Our team highlighted the vital role 9-1-1 plays in protecting and supporting our communities during emergencies. It was a great opportunity to remind everyone that knowing how and when to use 9-1-1 can make a life-saving difference.

Raymondville Police Department National Night Out, August 21, 2025. Cell Phone Sally and the RGV911 team had an amazing time connecting with the community at the event. We shared the importance of registering your address in rural areas to ensure help can reach you quickly in an emergency. We also highlighted the lifesaving option to Text-to-911 when calling isn't possible.

911 Physical Address Event in the City of Raymondville, August 23, 2025. Mayor Gilbert Gonzalez, together with RGV911, hosted the first Addressing In Event in Willacy County. The event served over 40 residents, providing them with their 911 physical address letter. During the event, more than 40 address plates were issued, helping ensure better emergency response and community safety.

BEAT THE HEAT Senior Citizen Event, August 28, 2025. RGV911 had the pleasure of participating in the Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program's Beat the Heat Senior Citizen Event. Our team shared valuable 911 information and resources to help seniors understand when and how to call 911. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote safety and ensure our seniors are prepared during emergencies.

Back to School Health Fair, August 4, 2025



3rd Annual Health & Community Back to School Bash



San Juan Police Department National Night Out



Alamo Police Department National Night Out



Palmview National Police Department Night Out



Meet the Bulldogs with Lyford ISD



Hidalgo County Ready-Emergency Preparedness Event



TNOA K9 Competition



Raymondville Police Department National Night Out





ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday September 24, 2025,

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Action Item #1

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the updated Seatbelt Policy for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Valley Metro is seeking the Board's approval of the updated Seatbelt Policy, which establishes seatbelt use requirements for all transit vehicles operated by LRGVDC–Valley Metro to ensure compliance with Texas law and to promote the safety of both passengers and operators.

Key updates include:

- The previous policy was last updated in 2010 and no longer aligned with current safety standards.
- Updates were made to ensure compliance with both federal and state regulations.
- Clarifications were added regarding seatbelt use expectations for operators and passengers.
- Language was revised to reflect current operational practices and enforcement procedures.

The Seatbelt Policy has been revised to ensure compliance with current safety regulations and to promote the well-being of both passengers and operators.

The previous version of this policy, last updated in 2010, no longer aligned with current safety standards or operational practices. Since that time, federal and state requirements, particularly those under the Texas Transportation Code and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations have been updated to place greater emphasis on seatbelt use in public transportation vehicles.

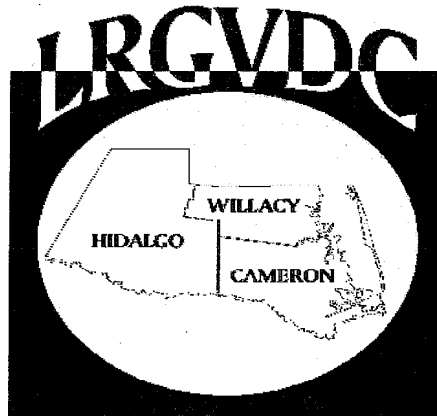
Key updates were made to bring the policy into full compliance with applicable federal and Texas state laws regarding seatbelt use. These changes clarify the expectations and responsibilities of both operators and passengers, ensuring that all individuals on board understand their obligation to use seatbelts when provided.

Additionally, the revised language reflects current operational procedures and outlines enforcement protocols to support consistent implementation and accountability.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Seatbelt Policy

Update logo



~~March 25, 2010~~
(proposed) Approved
by LRGVDC Board of
Directors September
24, 2025

510 S. Pleasantview Drive Weslaco, Texas 78596
(956)969-5761 - 1(800)574-8322

LRGVDC Seatbelt Policy

LRGVDC requires that all passengers wear a seatbelt while riding any LRGVDC Transit vehicle.

This policy affects both ambulatory passengers and persons in wheelchairs. Persons seated in the perimeter seating areas must wear a seatbelt when the bus is in motion. People in wheelchairs must allow the driver to secure their wheelchair and must wear a lap and shoulder belt.

There are three exceptions to this policy. The first exception includes infants or small children. If a person boards a bus carrying an infant or small child, they may hold the infant or small child in their lap while they are on the bus. The second exception would apply to a person that has a letter from a doctor stating it is physically or medically detrimental for a person to use a seatbelt. The letter must state a beginning date and an end date. The third exception to this is when there is no seating room available, which in this case the passenger must have a secure hand on the guardrail and be standing behind the white line.

If a person boards the bus and refuses to wear their seatbelt; refuses to allow the driver to secure their wheelchair; or refuses to wear the lap and shoulder belt while secured in the wheelchair securement area, the passenger must sign a "release form," releasing all liability from the LRGVDC in the case of an accident. As the passenger formally acknowledges their lack of adequate safety measures, the passenger is solely responsible for his/her safety.

Politica de cinturón de seguridad en LRGVDC

LRGVDC requiere que cada pasajero en un autobús de tránsito de LRGVDC tenga su cinturón de seguridad aplicado de manera adecuada.

El reglamento aplica a pasajeros ambulatorios y pasajeros de silla de ruedas. Personas sentadas en el perímetro están obligados a utilizar su cinturón de seguridad cuando el camión esté en ruta. Pasajeros de silla de ruedas deberán permitir al chofer de ajustar la silla de rueda y el pasajero tendrá que usar un cinturón de hombros y piernas por su seguridad.


Hay tres excepciones al reglamento. La primera excepción es por infantes. Si un pasajero borda con un niño o una niña, se puede cargar al infante siempre y cuando esté el adulto sentado. Excepción número dos, se aplica cuando un pasajero tenga una excusa oficial de su doctor explicando que es médicamente perjudicial para el pasajero utilizar un cinturón de seguridad. Excepción número tres involucra en el lugar que no esté ningún asiento disponible, el pasajero sin asiento deberá asegurarse con el mínimo de una mano sobre la baranda de protección y simultáneamente estar detrás del marcador blanco.

Si el pasajero borda y niega utilizar el cinturón de seguridad; niega al chofer el acceso para asegurar la silla de rueda; o niega utilizar el cinturón de hombros o piernas al momento de estar en el área de aseguramiento para sillas de rueda, el pasajero tendrá que firmar una "forma de liberación," otorgando la responsabilidad únicamente al pasajero. El pasajero oficialmente reconoce el carecimiento de seguridad adecuada para viajar en camión y será responsable en caso de un accidente.

~~Release of Liability Form~~

~~Seatbelt Policy~~

~~I fully understand that all LRGVDC buses make sudden stops and the LRGVDC Bus Operators have notified me that seatbelts are available for my use as a safety restraint.~~

~~In the case of a bus accident or sudden stop, I _____
_____  _____ signing below and refusing to wear my seatbelt while aboard an LRGVDC bus, therefore, releasing all liability from the Lower Rio Grande Development Council. I understand that by not wearing my seatbelt while on board any LRGVDC vehicle could potentially harm me if an accident or sudden stop were to occur.~~

~~Please note: If you do not understand this form, please do not sign it and continue to put on your seatbelt as directed by the LRGVDC Bus Operators.~~

~~This liability form is intended for use on the following LRGVDC route:~~

~~Signature: _____ Date: _____
_____~~

~~Operator Signature: _____ Date: _____~~

1. Purpose

This policy establishes seatbelt usage requirements for all transit vehicles operated by LRGVDC – Valley Metro, ensuring compliance with Texas law and promoting passenger and operator safety.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All transit operators and staff
- All passengers aboard agency-operated vehicles
- All agency-owned or leased vehicles equipped with seatbelts

3. General Requirements

In accordance with TxDOT regulations and Texas Transportation Code §545.412, all drivers and passengers must wear seatbelts while the vehicle is in motion, unless exempted by law or medical documentation.

- All transit operators must wear seatbelts at all times while operating the vehicle.
- Passengers in vehicles equipped with seatbelts must use them properly.
- Seatbelt use is mandatory where seat belts are available.

4. Child Passenger Safety

- Adult passengers with children must comply with Texas Child Passenger Safety Laws.

5. Medical Exemptions

Passengers with a documented medical condition that prevents seatbelt use may be exempt if they present to transit operator a signed Medical Exemption Waiver Form or supporting documentation from their healthcare provider.

6. Standing Passengers – Certain Routes

- Standing passengers are not permitted on vehicles designed for seated transport only.
- In vehicles designed for standing, passengers must hold designated handrails or grips at all times.
- Operators must ensure standing passengers are safely positioned before moving and behind the white/yellow line.

7. Refusal to Comply

- Passengers who refuse to wear seatbelts without valid exemption will be denied service.
- Operators must report non-compliance incidents to dispatch or supervisors.

Medical Exemption Waiver Form

Valley Metro Medical Seatbelt Exemption Request

Passenger Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____

Transit ID (if applicable): _____

Physician's Statement: I certify that the individual named above has a medical condition that prevents the safe use of a seatbelt. This exemption is based on medical necessity and should be honored during transit operations.

Condition (brief description):

Physician Name: _____

License Number: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Passenger Signature: _____ Date: _____

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Action Item #2

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and The PossAble Dream Foundation.

Valley Metro is seeking the Board's approval of the Interlocal Agreement between LRGVDC Valley Metro and The PossAble Dream Foundation for providing a set of monthly student passes for students to have transportation access on the Valley Metro operating route system.

This Agreement establishes the terms under which LRGVDC, through its Valley Metro transit services, will provide monthly student bus passes to The PossAble Dream Foundation for eligible adult high school students. The intent is to support educational access while ensuring compliance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements for program income.

The PossAble Dream Foundation is committed to enhancing educational attainment and economic opportunities in South Texas. It operates public adult charter high schools for learners aged 18–50 who have not completed high school. The foundation provides flexible scheduling, free tuition, open enrollment, and comprehensive support services, including childcare, transportation, career counseling, and student success coaching enabling adults to earn their high school diplomas while gaining industry certifications or postsecondary credentials. Its mission is to empower adult learners to graduate and pursue college or technical training in in-demand careers, promoting personal growth and regional economic development.



TO: LRGVDC Board of Directors

FROM: Tom Logan, Transportation Director

DATE: September 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of Interlocal Agreement with The PossAble Dream Foundation – Student Bus Pass Program

Overview

Staff recommends approval of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and The PossAble Dream Foundation to provide monthly transit passes to adult high school students enrolled in the PossAble Dream program. This initiative supports educational access and regional mobility goals.

Key Terms

- **Pass Type:** Monthly unlimited ride pass valid on Valley Metro and Metro Express routes
- **Cost:** \$50.00 per pass; initial purchase of 50 passes totaling \$2,500.00
- **Distribution:** Passes issued to PossAble Dream Foundation for assignment to eligible students
- **Activation:** Passes activated upon first use
- **Replacement Fee:** \$3.00 for lost/stolen cards
- **Travel Training:** Provided to student support staff and students
- **Program Income Classification:**
 - Revenue from pass purchases will be classified as **program income**, not fare revenue, in accordance with FTA Circular 5010.1E and 2 CFR § 200.307(e)(1)
 - Program income will be used to support eligible transit activities and reported accordingly in Federal Financial Reports

Compliance

This agreement has been reviewed for alignment with FTA requirements governing program income and financial reporting. It supports Valley Metro's federally funded transit services and ensures transparent documentation for audit readiness.

Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the Interlocal Agreement as presented. Upon Board approval, LRGVDC will proceed with implementation and coordination with The PossAble Dream Foundation.

INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT ~draft~

Between

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and The PossAble Dream Foundation

Purpose

This Agreement establishes the terms under which LRGVDC, through its Valley Metro transit services, will provide monthly student bus passes to The PossAble Dream Foundation for eligible adult high school students. The intent is to support educational access while ensuring compliance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements for program income.

Article I: Authority

This Agreement is entered into pursuant to the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, and in accordance with applicable FTA regulations governing program income under 2 CFR § 200.307.

Article II: Definitions

- **Program Income:** Gross income earned by the non-Federal entity that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the Federal award, per 2 CFR § 200.307.
- **Fare Revenue:** Income collected directly from passengers for transit services.
- **Monthly Pass:** A prepaid transit card valid for unlimited rides on Valley Metro and Metro Express routes for a 30-day period.

Article III: Scope of Services

LRGVDC shall:

- Provide up to fifty (50) monthly student bus passes at a rate of \$50.00 per pass.
- Issue passes to The PossAble Dream Foundation for assignment to eligible students.
- Activate passes upon first use by the student.
- Provide travel training to student support staff and students.
- Maintain route coordination and travel logs for monitoring attendance and usage.

Article IV: Financial Terms

- The PossAble Dream Foundation shall remit \$2,500.00 to LRGVDC for the initial purchase of 50 monthly passes.

- These funds shall be classified by LRGVDC as **program income**, not fare revenue, in accordance with FTA Circular 5010.1E and 2 CFR § 200.307(e)(1), as the purchase is made by a third-party organization to support a federally funded transit program.
- Program income shall be used to further eligible transit activities and reported in Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) as required.

Article V: Compliance and Reporting

LRGVDC shall:

- Maintain documentation of program income transactions.
- Ensure internal controls and accounting systems comply with FTA financial management requirements.
- Include program income in quarterly and annual grant reporting as required by FTA.

Article VI: Term and Termination

This Agreement shall be effective upon execution and remain in effect through the duration of the student pass program unless terminated by either party with thirty (30) days written notice.

Article VII: Miscellaneous

- Any lost or stolen cards may be replaced with a fee of \$3.00.
- Co-branding and public relations efforts shall be coordinated jointly.
- Additional passes may be purchased under the same terms with written notice.

Signatures

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

By: _____

Manuel Cruz, Executive Director

Date: _____

The PossAble Dream Foundation

By: _____

Darcia G. Cuellar, Executive Director

Date: _____

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 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 August 2025: **794,120**

Breakdown of Ridership per system:

Ridership breakdown:

Rural and Small Urban areas: **121,097**

Large Urban areas: **673,023**

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

- Total ridership: **121,097**
Valley Metro (Small Urban): 119,640 riders
TSTC: 1,457 riders

Large Urban Ridership (Sept 2024 - Aug 2025):

- Total ridership: **673,023**
UTRGV: 459,961 riders
Valley Metro: 207,961 riders
STC: 5,101 riders

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

RTAP Sub Committee Meeting Summary

Date: August 26, 2025

RTAP Subcommittee Meeting Highlights

The RTAP Subcommittee convened to review progress on the Five-Year Continuation Plan, highlighting achievements made to date and outlining remaining priorities as the plan approaches its final year.

Members discussed the successful collaborations with social service organizations that have enhanced access to transportation for underserved populations across the region. They also noted recent advancements in regional trip planning tools, which are expected to improve route coordination and help riders better plan their trips.

Ongoing and Upcoming Initiatives: the subcommittee shared that the micro-transit study in Brownsville is moving forward, with a public outreach campaign scheduled for December 2025 to gather community input. Transportation network company partnerships remain under review as members evaluate potential benefits and challenges of integrating such services into public transit operations. The group also examined several Transit Service Enhancements, including the expansion of inter-county routes to improve regional connectivity and fare adjustments aimed at better aligning costs with community needs. An emphasis on bilingual service materials and travel training programs was discussed to enhance accessibility and promote public understanding of available transit options.

Operational Collaboration: Members explored a proposal to establish a unified regional call center to streamline customer service and dispatch functions. They also discussed the potential for joint recruitment and training of transit drivers, which could help address workforce shortages while standardizing service quality across agencies.

Infrastructure and Funding Needs: The subcommittee underscored the urgent need for increased capital funding for vehicle projects and stressed the importance of tracking service improvements to ensure transparency and accountability.

Accessibility and Compliance: Gennie Garcia, Brownsville Metro, provided an update on ADA-compliant bus stop installations, noting progress made and identifying remaining locations in need of upgrades. The meeting also touched on Strategic Partnerships, with a recommendation to engage the Rio Grande Valley MPO (RGVMPO) for grant writing support to enhance regional funding opportunities. In addition, Mobility Hub Development was discussed, focusing on plans to improve connectivity between transit agencies and consideration of how new developments in Port Isabel may impact existing transit infrastructure.

The meeting concluded with agreement on next steps, scheduling a follow-up meeting on October 28 to continue discussions on the final year of the FY 2024–2025 Five-Year Continuation Plan.

ACCELERATOR2025

THE STATE OF HEALTH

presented by

AltaCair
FOUNDATION

HEALTHIER
TEXAS

UTRGV
UT Health
RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Tom Logan, Director of Regional Transit and Nancy Sanchez, Planning & Mobility Program Supervisor, participated in the AltaCair Foundation Seminar on September 04, 2025, at the Harlingen Convention Center to highlight the critical role transportation plays in supporting access to healthcare across the Rio Grande Valley.

As the Regional Public Transit provider, Valley Metro's goal in attending was to represent the transportation sector's perspective on non-medical drivers of health, share how Valley Metro's services help reduce barriers to care, and collaborate with local partners working to improve health outcomes. This engagement allowed us to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and ensure transportation remains a key part of community health planning discussions.



Nancy Sanchez
Planning & Mobility Program
Supervisor II for LRGVDC
Valley Metro



Ankit Sanghavi
Executive Director at Texas Health
Institute (THI)



Omar I. Rodriguez
Director of Grants &
Government Relations at the
Food Bank of the
Rio Grande Valley



**Representative
Armando Martinez**
House District 39 in Hidalgo
County



**Sandra De la Cruz-
Yarrison**
Executive Director,
Holy Family Services



Dr. Gladys E. Maestre, MD, PhD
Director of the Rio Grande
Valley Alzheimer's Disease
Resource Center for Minority
Aging Research



John R. Mach, Jr., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Ceresiti Health



Ann Awalt, MPA
Executive Director
Community Action
Corporation of South Texas



Diana Chapa, MD
Chair of Neuro & Behavioral
Health, Assistant Professor of
Psychiatry



Thomas F. Logan
Director of Regional Transit for
Valley Metro

Valley Metro Monthly Outreach Report – August 2025

The monthly outreach report highlights Valley Metro's community engagement activities throughout August 2025. These efforts demonstrate the organization's ongoing commitment to accessibility, public safety, and meaningful partnerships with local stakeholders. Key activities included participation in community events, support for vulnerable populations, and contributions to regional planning initiatives.

Harlingen Walmart Re-Grand Opening

On August 8, 2025, Valley Metro participated in the grand reopening of the Harlingen Walmart. As a vital link for residents who rely on public transportation for shopping and daily errands, Valley Metro's presence emphasized the importance of accessible transit options for all community members. The event provided an opportunity to engage with riders directly and reaffirm the agency's commitment to improving mobility throughout the region.

Region 1 McKinney-Vento Workshop

Valley Metro also took part in the Region 1 McKinney-Vento Heart, Mind, and Hands event, which focuses on supporting vulnerable youth experiencing housing instability. The agency highlighted its efforts to provide reliable transportation to ensure students have consistent access to education. Participation in this event underscored Valley Metro's dedication to equity and safe transit access for all children.

2025 TNOA K9 Competition Participation

Valley Metro joined the 2025 Texas Narcotic Officers Association (TNOA) K9 Competition, an event that brought together law enforcement K-9 units from across the state. This participation strengthened relationships with local and state partners and promoted awareness of Valley Metro's transit services. It also reinforced the agency's support for initiatives that enhance safety within the Rio Grande Valley.

RTAP Subcommittee Meeting Insights

On August 26, 2025, Valley Metro attended the RTAP Subcommittee Hybrid Meeting, which focused on regional transit services and future initiatives. The discussion included the five-year continuation plan, successful collaborations with social service organizations, and advancements in regional trip planning tools. Additional topics included progress on micro-transit studies, transportation network company partnerships, and the importance of operational collaboration and infrastructure funding to enhance service accessibility.

Laguna Madre Vet Fest Engagement

Valley Metro participated in the Laguna Madre Vet Fest, an event featuring over 50 organizations offering resources to veterans and their families. The agency's involvement demonstrated its ongoing commitment to serving and engaging with the local veteran community, ensuring they are aware of and have access to available transit services.

Community Education and Outreach Commitment

Valley Metro remains dedicated to educating the public about available transportation options and helping residents navigate transit services effectively. Community members seeking additional information or assistance can contact the Planning & Mobility Department at 1-800-574-8322.

Harlingen Walmart Re-Grand opening



Region 1 McKinney Vento: Heart, Mind & Hands



Laguna Madre Vet Fest



2025 TNOA K9 competition



Valley Metro Helpful QR Codes

Follow Valley Metro

**VM
Transit
Website**



Route maps with locations

**Ride
Systems**



Track our buses in real time!



ValleyMetro Weslaco



VM Regional Call Center

1-800-574-8322



CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

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





VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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



Types of Systems Provided

- **21 Fixed Routes**
Providing service in the counties of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Rio Grande City. (with advanced notice, most routes may deviate up to 1/2 mile of the main route)
- **3 RGV Metro Express (limited stops)**
Connecting Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Port Isabel
- **5 Demand Response**
Serving Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties
- **5 Microtransit-Fast Ride**
Serving Cameron and Hidalgo County, City of Edinburg, Mission to Sullivan City, and San Benito to Brownsville on Military Road.
- **B-Cycle**
Available in McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville.

Serving the RGV's Five-County Region:

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata



VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

Proudly serving:

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

Valley Metro Fares:

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

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

VM Transit Website



Route Maps with locations



ValleyMetro Weslaco

Ride Systems



Track our buses in real time



VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

ITEM #5. D.

RGVMPO

THE RGV MPO

WHO WE ARE

Background

The RGV MPO is the planning entity that makes decisions about your experience with transportation in the RGV. We organize the federal funding we receive to improve and maintain highways, transit operations, major corridors, and active transportation facilities in Hidalgo, Cameron, and parts of Starr counties.

The MTP

We produce the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which outlines the next 25 years of transportation projects. This document is how we keep track of funding, project details, and how we can enhance the transportation experience in the region.

The UTP

The Unified Transportation Program (UTP) is the first ten years of the MTP and is intended to guide the development of transportation projects. This document must be financially constrained and must list the estimated allocation of funds and all projects and programs that the MPO intends to develop.

The TIP

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the first four years of the MTP and must be updated with the Texas Department of Transportation every two years. Revisions to the TIP, such as funding reallocation or changes to a project's limits, require public notice and an open comment period.

VISIT US



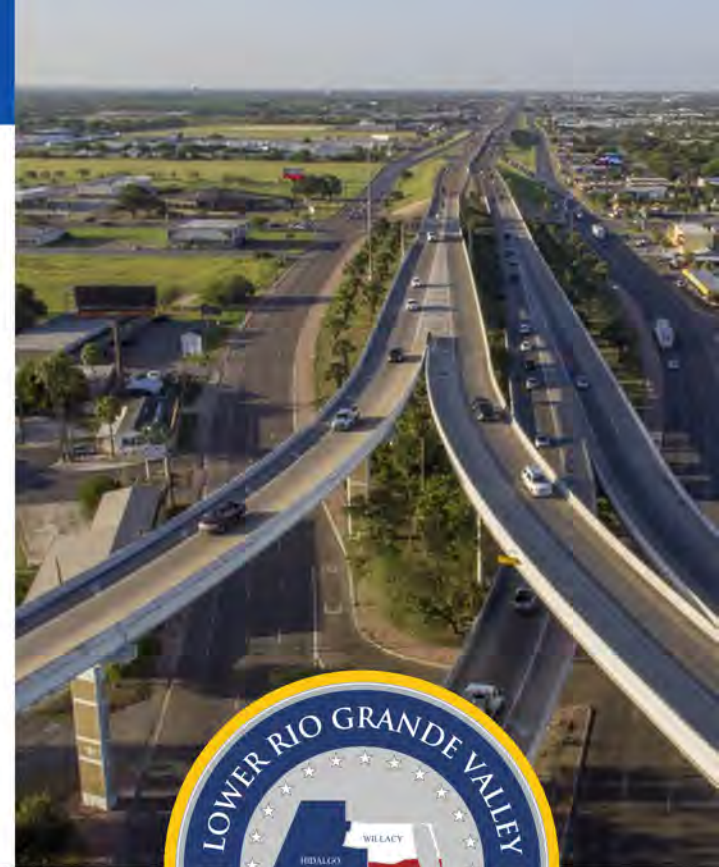
617 W University Dr,
Edinburg, TX, 78539



info@rgvmopo.org



www.rgvmopo.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



The PPP outlines the policies and principles that guide the RGVMP's communications and coordination with transportation providers, elected officials, and other members of the public. Additionally, the PPP serves as a tool for planners and decision-makers to engage residents, community groups, organizations, and businesses in the process of planning the transportation system.

Scan the QR code above to learn more!

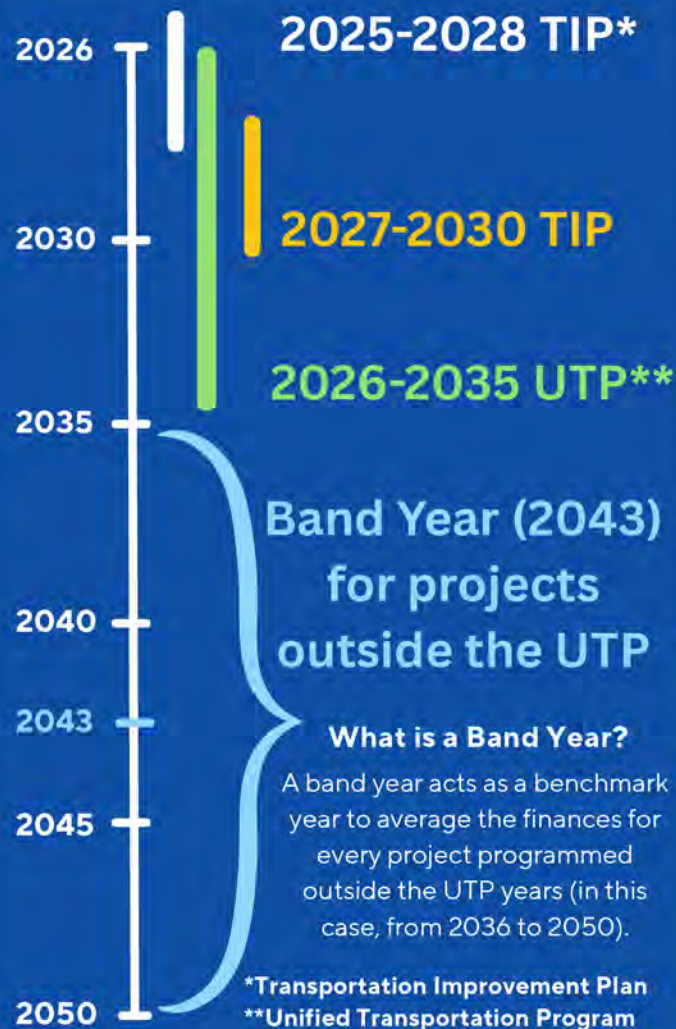
The RGVMP has approved the use of...

- an electronic project request form (ePRF),
- project readiness report (PRR),
- project schedule,
- project financial summary, and
- a sponsoring agency resolution

when requesting access to federal and/or state funds.

2050 MTP WHAT'S NEXT?

- Adoption of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is expected in December 2025.
- The public comment period, an opportunity for all members of the public to offer feedback, will extend from October 14, 2025, to November 13, 2025.
- The timeline below demonstrates the entire span of the 2050 MTP and breaks down the short term plans that make up the MTP.



UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Background

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the federally mandated biennial statement of work and fiscal plan for the RGVMP. The UPWP contains a description of the planning work, expected products, who will perform the work, time frames for completion, sources of funding, and costs.

The UPWP accounts for Special Studies to be conducted within the region. In the FY 26-27 UPWP, the RGVMP is planning to conduct the following studies:

- International Border Crossings System-Wide Analysis
- Regional transit Authority Feasibility Study
- Transit Oriented Development - Bus Rapid Transit Study
- Hidalgo County West Loop Planning Environmental Linkages Study

Scan this QR code to learn more about the RGVMP's Unified Planning Work Program!

