

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LRGVDC Main Campus, 301 W. Railroad Street, Building B Weslaco, TX 78596

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, 12:00 noon

Audio access is available by calling +1 (312) 757-3121, Access Code: 791-016-725

Presiding: Mayor Norma Sepulveda, President

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Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve Meeting

Minutes.....President

- 1. Annual Elections Meeting of May 31st, 2023
- 2. Board of Directors Meeting of December 13, 2023

Item #3: Public Comment

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

- A. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Resolution 2024-01 Honoring Mr. David Suarez..... **President**
- B. Consideration and GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ACTION on FY 2024 Annual Report & Budget.....Mayor Norma Sepulveda
President

C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Adopt Annual Investment Report and Accept Quarterly Investment..... Crystal Balboa
Finance Director

D. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members
2. Presentation and Update on the progress and research related to the establishment of a Regional Transit Authority as stipulated by House Bill 71, ratified in 2019
3. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

**A. Community & Economic Development..... Melisa Gonzalez
Assistant Director**

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Elections of Officers for 2024. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Nomination of an Elected or Appointed Official of a Non-Entitlement Community to be considered for Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner.

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**

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Citizens Advisory Council Membership Appointment for Maria Elia Lopez.

Program Status Reports

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

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

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Action Items Cesar Merla
Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve resolutions for FY 2024- 25 Homeland Security Grant Funding.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the resolution for FY 2024-25 Coordinator for the Regional Fire Academy
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the resolution for FY 2023-24 Coordinator for the Regional Fire Academy. The dates are being updated to match updated grant policies as recommended by the governor’s Public Safety Office.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) recommendation to accept scoresheets for HSGD FY 2024-2025 grant projects.
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee recommendation to accept scoresheets for CJD FY 2024-2025 grant projects.
6. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) membership renewals. The CJAC convened on December 6, 2023, to discuss and approve reappointed members for 2024. This recommendation requires Board Approval.

Program Status Reports

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program

Regional Police Academy Program Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

Program Status Reports

- Regional Police Academy Status Reports Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Dennis Moreno
Assistant Director

Program Status Reports

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

E. **Transportation.** **Tom Logan**
Director

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Hidalgo County Active Transportation Plan Presentation
- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report..... **Luis Diaz**
RGVMPO Assistant Director

Item #6: Executive Session

- A. Personnel Matters under Section 551-074 (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee RE: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation.
- B. Reconvene into an Open Session to Consider **ACTION**, if any, on items Related to the Executive Session as described above.

Item #7 New or Unfinished Business

Item #8 Adjourn

REMINDER
Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
12:00 noon

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

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HYBRID ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 - 12:00 P.M.
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS
301 W. RAILROAD ST., BUILDING B
WESLACO, TEXAS VIA GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE & IN PERSON

PRESIDING: MAYOR AMBROSIO "AMOS" HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT

- DRAFT -

President Ambrosio Hernandez called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Roll call was taken for the General Membership and a quorum was declared. President Hernandez moved to item 2: Consider Approval of January 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes. *Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Upon conclusion of action President Hernandez moved to item #3: Caucus to Seat New Board Members and recognized Executive Director Manuel Cruz to provide the report on caucusing. Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the caucuses to seat Small Cities, Medium Cities, Educational Institutions, and Special Governmental Units were all held virtually via GoToMeeting on Tuesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 18, 2023, and the following entities were selected to have seats on the Board of Directors:

- A. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with Populations between 10,000-24,999

CITY	COUNTY
City of Alamo	Hidalgo
City of Mercedes	Hidalgo
City of Raymondville	Willacy

- B. Three (3) Directors Representing Member Cities with Populations under 10,000

CITY	COUNTY
City of La Villa	Hidalgo
City of Laguna Vista	Cameron
City of Los Indios	Cameron

- C. Two (2) Directors Representing Educational Institutions

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	COUNTY
South Texas College	Hidalgo
Texas State Technical College	Cameron

D. Two (2) Directors Representing Special Governmental Units

ENTITY	COUNTY
Delta Lake Irrigation District	Hidalgo
Willacy County Navigation District	Willacy

Mr. Cruz reported that the Grassroots Organizations caucused amongst themselves, with the following results:

E. One (1) Director Representing the Poor and Underprivileged (Grassroots Organizations)

NAME	ENTITY
Lupita Sanchez Martinez	Border Workers United

No board action required; the caucus results stand as reported. Upon conclusion of the caucus report President Hernandez moved to item #4: Act on Recommendations of Nominating Committee and recognized Mr. Jim Darling to address the following:

A. Election of Five Members-at-Large to Serve on General Membership for the 2023-2024 Term

Mr. Darling reported that the committee recommends the following individuals as at-Large Members to the LRGVDC General Membership with one vacancy yet to be filled:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. David Penoli	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mayor Pro-tem Rene Estrada	Combes	Cameron
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
VACANT		

President Hernandez opened the floor for nominations. **Mayor Javier Villalobos nominated Mr. Roy Rodriguez. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the nomination. Mr. Troy Allen nominated Mr. Rick Salinas; Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the nomination.** Mr. Jim Darling suggested taking action on the four (4) members-at-large recommended by the Nominating Committee prior to voting on the two (2) nominations from the floor. **Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the four (4) members-at-large as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Mayor David Suarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Cruz suggested voting on the nominees from the floor by a show of hands, however, Mr. Salinas withdrew his name from consideration as a member-at-large appointed by the General Membership and asked to be considered to fill the vacancy on the slate of members-at-large to be selected by the Board of Directors. **Mr. Roy Rodriguez was elected as a member-at-large to the General Membership by acclamation.** The final slate of members-at-large elected by the General Membership is as follows:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. David Penoli	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mayor Pro-tem Rene Estrada	Combes	Cameron
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Roy Rodriguez	McAllen	Hidalgo

B. Election of Officers for the 2023-2024 Term

Mr. Darling reported that the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for the 2023-2024 term:

OFFICE	NAME	COUNTY
President	Mayor David Suárez	Hidalgo
1st Vice President	Mayor Norma Sepulveda	Cameron
2nd Vice President	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza	Hidalgo
Treasurer	Judge Aurelio Guerra	Willacy
Secretary	Mr. Jim Darling	Hidalgo
Immediate Past President	Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez	Hidalgo

Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the slate of Executive Committee Officers as presented. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion. Commissioner David Garza stated that he would like to see Mayor John Cowen, the newly elected mayor of the City of Brownsville on the Executive Committee. President Hernandez pointed out that there was already a motion and a second to approve the slate of officers being presented. The motion will either have to be voted on or withdrawn. After some discussion, **Mr. Troy Allen withdrew his motion.** Commissioner Garza stated he would like the motion amended to place Mayor John Cowen on the Executive Committee as Treasurer in place of Mr. Jim Darling. Mr. Darling stated that he has been on this Board for twelve (12) years, on the Executive Committee for ten (10) of those, served as President twice, and stepped up to chair in the absence of the President four (4) times this term and whenever asked in past years, and he would still like to be involved for another year at which time he plans to retire.

Mayor Oscar Montoya stated he was unsure of the protocol in this circumstance, but even though he would like his original second that includes Mr. Darling on the Executive Committee to remain, he agreed to withdraw his second. President Hernandez stated that with the motion and second withdrawn, that new action can be taken.

President Hernandez then made a motion to replace himself as Immediate Past President with Mayor John Cowen. President Hernandez asked for confirmation that placing a newly elected official who has never been on the Board of Directors or served as President on the Executive Committee is not explicitly prohibited in the bylaws. Mr. Cruz explained that the bylaws state that the Executive Committee will be composed of these six (6) members but does not specify qualifications to hold these offices. **Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.** President Hernandez stated that titles do not matter to him, and that Brownsville Mayor John Cowen should participate on the Executive Committee. The final slate of Executive Committee members to serve the 2023/2024 term is as follows:

OFFICE	NAME	COUNTY
President	Mayor David Suarez	Hidalgo
1st Vice President	Mayor Norma Sepulveda	Cameron
2nd Vice President	Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza	Hidalgo
Treasurer	Judge Aurelio Guerra	Willacy
Secretary	Mr. Jim Darling	Hidalgo
Immediate Past President	Mayor John Cowen	Cameron

There being no further business to come before the General Membership, *President Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Troy Allen so moved, Mayor Norma Sepulveda seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.*

Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, December 13, 2023

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

PRESIDING: President Norma Sepulveda

- DRAFT -

President Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and no quorum at this time. They moved on to Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission
Commissioner Ernesto “Ernie” Garcia, Willacy County
Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County
Omar Quintanilla, City of McAllen
Alt. Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes
Mayor Ricardo Rick Guerra City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UT Rio Grande Valley
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grass Roots ORG

Absent:

Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo Texas
Mayor J.R Garza, City of Alamo
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg
Commissioner Betty Rodriguez, City of La Villa
Mayor Mike Carter, City of Laguna Vista
Mayor Jaime Gonzalez, City of Los Indio’s
Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez, City of Pharr
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Commissioner Marco “Markie” Villegas, City of San Juan
Ms. Cledia Hernandez, TSTC
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy Co. Nav Dist.
Mr. Eleazar Garcia Jr, Member at Large

Without questions from the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved to Department Reports.

Item #4: Department Reports

Item # 4C Administration Executive Report.

Mr. Cruz took the opportunity to introduce all New Hires for the past couple of months. Mr. Cruz then went on and mentioned to the Board that It's Time Texas will be taking place on Jan 8th, 2024, in Building B. He moved on to explain the Texas Digital Opportunity Plan.

President Norma Sepulveda then moved to Item # 3 Public Comment. Commissioner David Garza then had a Public Comment. Mr. David Garza talked about how the delegation from the Valley was up in Austin at the TXDOT Commission Meeting and Mr. Garza then explained how one of the items at the meeting that was passed by the Commission included the second access to the island.

President Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item #5 Health and Human Services

Item #5. Health and Human Services

Margarita started with Status Reports for Health and Human Services. Ms. Lopez then went on and explained to the board about the Annual Review they had had over the year. She spoke about Enhancing Lives and Embracing Challenges. Ms. Lopez then states that 2023 has brought a unique set of challenges head-on, overcoming staffing hurdles and fully restoring in-person services. She goes on to mention the post-COVID-19 recovery and in-person services and how they helped so many people throughout the community. Then she states how everyone in the Health and Human Services Department took part in making all that possible. Ms. Lopez explained to the Board of Clinics they had in 2023 one of them being the Veterans Festival, she mentioned that Last year in 2023 they had over 200 Veterans and 50 exhibitors. This year they hosted one in Brownsville and there they had over 300 Veterans Families and community Members and over 50 exhibitors. She goes on to mention that they had another one in Harlingen as well and there they had a huge success. They had 400 Veterans, Families, and Community members come out and 60 exhibitors. In conclusion, Ms. Lopez wants to express gratitude to the Citizens Advisory Council and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, partners, and the community for their support. Then closes by explaining their outlook for 2024-2026. She adds that AAA envisions a future marked by expanded horizons and increased impact. Their assistance to assist more individuals, enhance services, and foster growth remains unwavering. Mr. Cruz then ends by thanking Ms. Lopez and her staff for the 2nd Annual Vet Fest and Veterans Appreciation Day. He mentions that 2022 was the first Vet Fest and was a huge success as well considering it took place here in our parking lot and ran out of space. Mayor Norma Sepulveda then goes on to let the Board know that she highly recommends that everyone try and host one in their community, she was impressed by how the community came out and turned out to be a great event.

President Norma Sepulveda then moved on to Item #5A Community and Economic Development.

Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

Melisa Gonzales started by talking briefly about their Solid Waste Projects, she stated that the Solid Waste Program will start and that the RFAs will be going out in January, they are asking for all and any applicants that want to apply for Solid Waste and just for everyone to be on the lookout for that announcement to go out in January 2024. She mentioned that the Staff completed the FY2024 EDA Partnership Grant explained a little about that, and then went on to state that they are working on updating the CEDS and will be conducting public meetings to review and input on the identified economic development strategies. Melisa stated that her very first small city meeting was in Sullivan City (Hybrid). The next Regional Small Cities Coalition will be on January 18th in the Small board room in LRGVDC Building B. LRGVDC received the CEDAF contract with the Texas Department of Agriculture. Staff shall carry out specified technical assistance activities in the Contractors State planning region. She moved on to say that on November 3, 2023, the staff hosted an award ceremony and grant kick-off meeting that included TDA representatives, and four entities were awarded. Port Isabel, Primera,

Los Fresnos, and Rio Hondo, congratulations to them. They were awarded a combined grant award of \$1,949,740. Melisa then moved on to state that the Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the Texas Community Development Block Grant program. The funds will be available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Then she let the board know once more that the Solid Waste Funding cycle is just around the corner. The TCEQ Grant Application for the FY 2024-2025 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program will open Request for Applications in January 2024. Ms. Gonzales then moved on to let the Board know that the Staff continues to educate the public on water quality issues with “Americas Recycling Month” and “Be Thankful for Water” for November. Ms. Gonzalez then closes the status reports by mentioning that her Staff continues to regularly communicate with Representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as well as other entities involved in water quality to strengthen partnerships to generate further activities related to quality and to highlight the importance of it to the region. Mayor Sepulveda then let Melisa know that we had a quorum and could proceed with Action Items.

Action Item’s - Community & Economic Development

- 1) Consideration and action to Approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) members. As per the SWAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following members, as elected by the SWAC. Members shall begin term upon SWAC action item approval. Members may only be selected from the current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not a membership composition category representative). ***Jim Daling made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Members. Mr. David Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- 2) Consideration and action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Officer. As per the RWRAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the following officers, as elected by the RWRAC. Officers shall begin term upon RWRAC action item approval. Officers may only be selected from current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not a membership composition category representative). Only individuals elected may carry out the functions of the officer. At their upcoming December 12, 2023, RWRAC meeting, the committee will consider nominations to fill the CHAIR position. Because the RWRAC will meet the day before the Board is scheduled to meet, staff will provide the names of the individuals being recommended during the meeting. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWAC) officer. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- 3) Consideration and **action** to Approve Nominee Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nominations for Special Purpose District – Drainage for Hidalgo County and Special Purpose District for Irrigation Category. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is soliciting nominations for a RWRAC committee member to serve. Each nominee will be selected based on their qualifications, experience, and interest. At their upcoming December 12, 2023, RWRAC meeting, the committee will consider nominations to fill positions for representatives in the Special Purpose District Drainage and Irrigation District categories. Because the RWRAC will meet the day before the Board is scheduled to meet, staff will provide the names of the individuals being recommended during the meeting. ***Ms. Norie Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Nominee Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee nominations for Special Purpose District-Drainage for Hidalgo County and Special Purpose District for Irrigation Category. Mr. Ernie Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- 4) Consideration and action to Approve Service Terms of Committee Members Appointed in Odd Years As per the bylaws, the advisory committee officers and representatives shall be appointed to four (4) year staggered terms with elections occurring in May on odd-numbered calendar years. During the inaugural term, lots will be drawn to determine which (8) positions conclude in calendar year 2021. ***Ms. Norie Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Service terms for Committee Members Appointed in Odd Years. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

- 5) With no questions asked, Mayor Sepulveda then decided to move on to the approval of the Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2023. ***Mr. David Garza made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for October 25, 2023. Ernie Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item # 4 Administration Action Item-

- A. Consideration and Action on Date and Time for Annual Budget Committee Meeting. Mr. Cruz starts by letting the board know that this meeting technically takes place the second week of January so the dates in mind would be January 10th or 11th. He reminded the board that this meeting is to review the Annual Report and Budget for 2024. A unanimous decision was for January 10th and Mr. Cruz stated that everyone was invited and recommended attendance. A thorough review of the Budget and programs is conducted to showcase their objectives and goals for the upcoming year, 2024. ***Mr. Garza made a motion to approve the Annual Report and Budget Committee Meeting. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
- B. Consideration and Action on Vacancy of the LRGVDC Executive Committee Members. Mr., Cruz explained that since Mayor David Suarez did not win re-election that would leave a vacancy slot for President. He mentions that back in May the General Membership approved the slate of officers and per conversation, everyone ascended to the next position. According to bylaws, the first 5 spots were required for all to move up and since there was no Immediate Past President at this time, one wasn't identified, however, once we have one the board member would be added in the future. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to Approve the Vacancies of the LRGVDC Executive Committee as presented by Mr. Cruz. Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Without any further discussion or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to the next item, Item C

Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security. Program Status Report

Criminal Justice Program

Mr. Merla explained to the board that Criminal Justice Staff attended the webinar for the 2023 National Summit on K-12 School Safety on November 1-2, 2023. Staff hosted the Active Shooter/Stop the Bleed training in collaboration with the Weslaco Police Department for LRGVDC Staff. The training took place on November 3, 2023, at the LRGVDC Valley Metro Training Room, Weslaco TX. Staff participated in a webinar for Crime Stoppers School Safety on November 6-7, 2023. Staff hosted the 2nd Ready RGV Planning meeting hybrid on November 16, 2023.

Homeland Security Program

Mr. Merla then moved on to Homeland Security Status Reports. He explained to the board that the Staff attended the LEPC Emergency Planning Committee meeting on November 2, 2023, at the South Texas College-Pharr Campus. Staff attended the HAZMAT Regional Response Group meeting on November 2, 2023, at the Edinburg Fire Department. Staff attended the LRGVDC/RGVMPO Emergency Operation Planning meeting on November 7, 2023, at the LRGVDC, Ken Jones Executive Boardroom. Staff also attended the South Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (STAPT) meeting on November 8, 2023, at Donna ISD, in Donna, TX. Staff attended the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Disaster District 21 meeting on November 8, 2023, at the Weslaco DPS headquarters. Staff also attended virtual the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) meeting "Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop Guide" on November 8, 2023. Mr. Merla also mentions that Staff attended virtual the Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD) Regional Conference call on November 9, 2023. Staff participated in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) site visit on November 9, 2023, at LRGVDC Valley Metro Training Room, in Weslaco, TX. Staff attended virtual the 4th Quarter Texas Critical Infrastructure Protection (TCIP) Task Force Meeting on November 15, 2023. Staff also attended the

LRGVDC 2nd Annual Veterans Festival on November 16, 2023, at the Brownsville Event Center. Staff then went to host the 2nd Ready RGV Planning meeting hybrid on November 16, 2023. Staff attended the virtual Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) FY2024 Winter Webinar on November 28, 2023.

With no further updates or questions for Homeland Security, Mr. Cruz then moved on to the Regional Police Academy.

Regional Police Academy

Program Status Reports

Mr. Cruz Explained to the board that on Sunday, November 5, 2023, 17 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy showcased exceptional performance, successfully passing their practical exam for the Chapter 34 Professional Driving Course. He then goes on to mention that as of Wednesday, November 29, 2023, the 21 cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy had completed the mandated 72 hours for Chapter 22 Traffic Code, Crash Investigation, and TIMS, and as of Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 21 cadets from the 223rd Mission Day Academy completed the 24 hours required for Chapter 23 Standardized Field Sobriety training. Mr. Cruz last mentions that as of Wednesday, December 7, 2023, 17 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy attained comprehensive training for Chapter 40 Emergency Medical Assistance. Currently, the LRGV Academy is in the process of conducting entrance exams for the upcoming spring 2024 academy sessions. Lastly, Mr. Cruz closed by showing the board 2 pictures from the LRGV Academy 222nd Weslaco Night Academy and the 223rd Mission Day Academy and thanked Mayor Sepulveda and Harlingen PD for the creation of an LRGV Academy site in Harlingen, which will be hosting an academy sometime in 2024.

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District

Program Status Report

GIS Division

Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at www.rgv911.org. The GIS team has uploaded several informational maps that other public entities and the public can readily download. This data has streamlined our general information request process. We have created an Emergency Response map that will aid our local 9-1-1 call responding EMS agencies to respond using 9-1-1 address data. We will do the same for local Police departments that do not host a PSAP in the RGV9-1-1 region. Following our GeoSpatial Strategic plan. We have completed creating our new Address Ticketing system called Rubicon. We have begun Beta testing Rubicon to work out any potential kinks in the system. The ticketing system is expected to go Live in mid to late December. On November 16th and 17th, the GIS team members attended and assisted the annual Rio Grande Valley Arc Users Group GIS Day Event. Where team members attended workshops and met with other GIS users within the community.

Community Engagement Division

During October and November, the 9-1-1 community engagement initiatives were exceptionally bustling and dynamic. Our team was deeply involved in various community activities, fostering a strong connection with the residents. The level of citizen participation during this period was truly remarkable, with individuals enthusiastically engaging in events and programs. The collaborative efforts between the 9-1-1 community and the citizens strengthened relationships and enhanced the overall sense of community well-being. The vibrant participation demonstrated the effectiveness of our outreach efforts and highlighted the importance of proactive engagement in promoting public safety and awareness.

Donna Police Department National Out / October 5th, 2023, we take great pride in supporting our local school districts. Whether providing resources, offering expertise, or assisting in any way we can, we are always delighted to lend a helping hand to ensure the success and growth of our educational institutions. Our dedication to improving our school districts remains unwavering, and we look forward to continuing this partnership for the benefit of our community's future leaders. Donna National Night Out with Donna Independent School District

Teach Me 9-1-1 Program / October 13, 2023, in McAllen at Zavala Elementary School. RGV9-1-1, in collaboration with the McAllen Fire Department, debuted the "Teach Me 9-1-1" program at Zavala Elementary School in McAllen. This educational program aims to teach students about "When To Call," "How To Call," and "What to Say" in emergencies. The event was a resounding success, with children showing great enthusiasm and engagement. Our primary focus is to impart crucial 9-1-1 knowledge to young learners, and it was heartwarming to witness their enjoyment as they interacted with characters like Cell Phone Sally and Kid Friendly Keith during the event.

Willacy County Sheriff's Office National Night Out / October 17, 2023, RGV9-1-1 had the privilege of participating in the Willacy Co. National Night Out, thanks to an invitation from the Willacy County Sheriff's Office. This exciting event occurred in the city of Sebastian, and the turnout and community engagement were outstanding. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a fantastic gathering, fostering stronger bonds between our organization and the local community.

Elsa Police Department National Night Out / October 20, 2023, we had a wonderful time engaging with the community at the National Night Out event. Yesterday, we attended the Elsa Police Department's NNO, and it was truly an enjoyable experience. We want to express our sincere gratitude to Elsa PD for organizing such a fantastic event that brings the community together. Events like these demonstrate how 9-1-1 public education empowers citizens and strengthens the bond between the police department and the community they serve.

The City of Palmhurst National Night Out / October 24, 2023, RGV91-1 was thrilled to be a part of this incredible event, and we had the pleasure of engaging with approximately 800 people who stopped by our booth. It felt wonderful to connect with the local community and discuss the importance of getting their addresses registered with the 9-1-1 department, ensuring their safety in times of emergency. Moreover, we had the opportunity to educate children about the vital service of texting 911 in emergencies. We extend a big thank you to the City of Palmhurst for extending the invitation and for fostering a strong sense of community and safety. It was a night to remember.

Teach Me 9-1-1 Program / October 26, 2023, in the city of McAllen at Hendricks Elementary School. We are proud to announce our successful collaboration with the McAllen Fire Department in our ongoing commitment to educating children about fire safety and the use of 9-1-1. This partnership allowed us to bring vital information and skills to the younger generation. Through this initiative, RGV9-1-1 introduced the Tech Me 911 program to students, aiming to impart essential knowledge on when, how to call, and what to say in an emergency. By working with local authorities and educators, we ensure that our community's children are well-prepared and informed in potentially life-saving situations. This collaborative effort reflects our dedication to creating a safer environment for all residents of our region.

NENA 911 Course October 27, 2023, Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communications District organized a crucial NENA 911 Association course centered on disaster planning for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). This course served as an essential primer, equipping 9-1-1 professionals with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively prepare for and navigate through catastrophic events that have the potential to disrupt a PSAP system and impede its overall operation. The training was of paramount importance in ensuring the resilience of the emergency response infrastructure, offering vital insights and strategies for managing the challenges posed by

calamities. The training was provided to the PSAPs in Hidalgo and Willacy counties, demonstrating a commitment to the safety and efficiency of these specific regions' PSAP operations and emphasizing the importance of preparedness in the face of potential disruptions. This initiative further underscored the critical role that PSAPs play in safeguarding the well-being of communities during times of crisis.

Spooktacular Festival / October 30, 2023, hosted by the City of Mission, was a mega event that brought the community together for a night of spooky fun and valuable information. RGV9-1-1 was honored to be invited and participate in this fantastic celebration. The atmosphere was electrifying, with the crowd decked out in creative Halloween costumes, adding to the festive spirit. We were there, handing out candy and taking the opportunity to inform and educate the community about the critical importance of the 9-1-1 emergency service. It was a night of Halloween magic and community outreach that we won't soon forget.

Teach me 9-1-1 Program / October 31st, 2023, in McAllen at Victor Fields Elementary School. October concluded on an exhilarating note as the RGV9-1-1 Public Education Team visited Fields Elementary, leaving a lasting impact. Teaming up with the McAllen Fire Department, we executed our dynamic Teach Me 9-1-1 program, passionately educating students on the vital aspects of when, how, and what to communicate when dialing 9-1-1 during emergencies. The enthusiasm and engagement displayed by the children at Fields Elementary were remarkable, reflecting their genuine eagerness to grasp these essential life-saving skills. The event was a triumphant endeavor, ensuring that our young participants departed with newfound knowledge and a profound sense of empowerment and responsibility in handling 9-1-1 calls effectively. This event marked a memorable and impactful conclusion to the month.

Raymondville Chamber of Commerce Dia De Los Muertos Festival / November 2, 2023, In the vibrant city of Raymondville, we joyously celebrated Dia De Los Muertos, also known as the Day of the Dead. The event, thoughtfully organized by the Raymondville Chamber of Commerce, brought the community together in a colorful and lively display of traditions. Amidst the vibrant hues and cheerful atmosphere, RGV9-1-1 was invited to share the invaluable services it offers to the community. It was a heartwarming occasion where families and friends joined hands, uniting in remembrance of their departed loved ones, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared heritage. The event honored the past and strengthened the bonds that tie this close-knit community together.

Hidalgo County Success in Transition Fair 2023 / November 4, 2023, RGV 9-1-1 was a part of the Hidalgo County Success in Transition Fair 2023. This event was specifically designed to cater to the needs of students with disabilities and their families. It served as a platform for them to connect with state and local agencies that play a pivotal role in shaping successful lives after high school. RGV 9-1-1's presence at the fair underlines their commitment to supporting and assisting this vital demographic in their transition to adulthood. The fair provided a valuable opportunity for all participants to explore resources and opportunities that can pave the way for a brighter future.

Safe School Institute Trainings online webinars on November 6 & 7, 2023. Maribel Alonzo has completed three comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing community engagement, community branding, and promoting mental health awareness. Additionally, I have acquired expertise in fostering cyber safety for teenagers. These diverse skills enable me to actively contribute to improving communities by promoting positive engagement, bolstering community identity, and addressing critical issues such as mental health and online safety among adolescents.

DIA-BEAT-IT Community Health Fair / November 8th, 2023, we joined the DIA-BEAT-IT community health fair, a highly educational event that offered valuable resources to our community. Notably, RGV9-1-1 and Cell Phone Sally actively engaged with the community through activities like Zumba, imparting crucial knowledge about the significance of texting 9-1-1 during emergencies and improving safety and communication for everyone

present. This event significantly enriched the community by increasing awareness and preparedness among its members.

College and Career Day / November 16, 2023, Mercedes ISD. We had an exceptional career day event at Travis Elementary, and we sincerely thank Mercedes ISD for the invitation. It was a fulfilling experience witnessing the children engage in various career paths, cultivating a sense of excitement and curiosity about their future endeavors. We take pride in contributing to the student's learning journey and are grateful for the opportunity to inspire and shape their career aspirations.

2nd Annual Vet Fest / November 16, 2023, in Brownsville. We participated in a special event to honor our veterans, recognizing their selfless service and sacrifice. The occasion featured engaging activities such as raffles and entertainment, creating an atmosphere of appreciation and gratitude. Amidst the festivities, we remained committed to education, emphasizing the importance of 9-1-1 awareness to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. This event was hosted by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), marking this as the 2nd Annual Vet Fest.

Texas Law Enforcement Peer Network (TLEPN) Peer-to-Peer Training / November 29 & 30, 2023, in Pharr. This initiative aims to establish a comprehensive program across Texas, ensuring that our Public Safety personnel can avail themselves of support from specially trained peers addressing stressors, trauma, fatigue, and other challenges. The program involves the training and mentoring of police officer volunteers to effectively assist their colleagues in managing stressors, both within and outside the scope of their duties.

With No further updates on the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District, they then moved on to Valley Metro, with Mr. Tom Logan.

Transportation Valley Metro

Action Items Valley Metro

- 1) Consideration and action to Approve the update of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro. Staff requests Board approval for the update of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro. Section updates will comply with FTA's PTASP program stipulations. **Commissioner Ernie Garcia made a motion to approve the update of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Valley Metro, Jim Darling seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
- 2) Consideration and action to Approve the purchase of Bus Shelters and associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Staff requests Board approval to purchase Bus Shelters and associated equipment under TXDOT Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant # 5310-2023-LRGVDC-00086 and FTA Grant # TX-2022-057. Bus Shelters will update current bus shelters and Valley Metro will also partner with interested cities throughout the Rio Grande Valley. **Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Purchase of Bud Shelters and associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Richard Saldana seconded the motion and upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
- 3) Consideration and action to Approve the purchase of Hardware and Bus bus-associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Staff requests Board approval to purchase Bus associated hardware and equipment such as bus monitors, brackets, wiring, etc. under FTA Section 5310 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Grant # TX-2019-114 and FTA CARES Act Grant #'s TX-2020-125 and TX-2020-126. Hardware and Equipment will provide the necessary upgrades and program public notice of events for LRGVDC Valley Metro. **Mr. David Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of Hardware and Bus bus-associated equipment through LRGVDC Procurement policies. Richard Saldana seconded the motion and upon vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Valley Metro provides regional transportation service of both **Rural** and **Urban** transit systems in the five-county region of the Rio Grande Valley. The **Urban System** is provided in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties and includes UTRGV Ridership. Services run Monday – Saturday from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. The **Rural System** operates in the rural areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties. Services run Monday – Sunday from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

RTAP Sub-committee held a workshop on November 28, 2023. Assessment of the needs and gaps of the 5-Year Transit Plan was discussed in detail. Committee members provided input and suggestions on how to accomplish those needs. LRGVDC Valley Metro was awarded a TXDOT grant for \$40,000 to continue assessing and meeting the needs and gaps of the 5-year Transit Plan. The sub-committee meets bi-monthly.

Valley Metro’s Planning Department staff continues to hold public involvement events. The events highlight the modes of travel available to the public within their perspective city and region. We are currently working on realigning routes to incorporate the new San Juan Terminal.

With no further updates to Transportation Valley Metro. They then moved on to RGVMPO with Luis Diaz.

Rio Grande Valley MPO

Program Status Report

Luis Diaz started by giving an update on their current open 5310 program call, this program aims to improve mobility for the elderly community as well as disabilities. This program closes on Dec 20th. Which is mostly geared towards the transit providers. Luis also shared with board members that they went under public involvement for MTP, which is our 25-year plan for all roadway and mobility projects, and our four-year plan which is our TIP. So, we will be in Public Involvement through January 11th, he mentioned that they do have a couple of spots already reserved for doing our public involvement, and that would be on December 20th. He stated that they will be at McAllen Transit also doing Public Involvement. They will be sharing all the information about the plan and all that is coming. He also mentions that they will be in Brownsville for an event that they’re holding called Pancakes with Santa on the 22nd. Then on January 9th, they will be back in the Ken Jones lobby.

Item #6 New and Unfinished Business

There being no further business to come before the Board, ***Jim Darling made a motion to adjourn at 1:01 pm.***

Mayor Norma Sepulveda

ATTEST:

Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

ITEM #4. A.

ADMINISTRATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

January 31, 2024

Item #4 Administration

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution 2024-01 Honoring Mr. David Suarez..... **President**



Regional Council of Governments & Economic Development District serving Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy County

RESOLUTION 2024-01

HONORING DAVID SUAREZ

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC was established on August 2, 1967, and therefore has served the Rio Grande Valley for almost 57 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is the regional Council of Governments serving and representing over 1.3 million residents of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties and the surrounding region; and,

WHEREAS, in the history of the LRGVDC there have been four (4) Executive Directors, (Mr. Robert Chandler, Mr. Kenneth N. Jones, Jr., Mr. Ron Garza, and Mr. Manny Cruz), with whom Mr. Suarez has served with (3): Mr. Kenneth N. Jones, Jr., Mr. Ron Garza, and Mr. Manny Cruz.

WHEREAS, Mr. David Suarez has faithfully served the people of the Rio Grande Valley as a member and officer on the Executive Board with distinction for 7 years, since 2015; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. David Suarez has moved the LRGVDC & Region forward in a number of areas, including: response to the pandemic, improving public health and safety, supporting economic growth, protecting our environment, and supporting and continuing to advance our transportation resources and services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. David Suarez's tenure has been defined by his calm, steady, and collaborative leadership style, along with his commitment to inspiring public confidence in local government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. David Suarez took it upon himself to lead the way with great tact and dependability towards continuing our goals in making this organization, this committee, and our region stand out above the rest by demonstrating the values that this committee stands for in his everyday work as a member; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors thanks Mr. David Suarez for this dedicated service and wishes him well as he continues to represent our community and the Rio Grande Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors and staff honors and commends Mr. David Suarez for his 7 years of distinguished, dedicated service to the Rio Grande Valley and its citizens, and unwavering leadership as a faithful member and officer of the LRGVDC.

Passed and adopted by the LRGVDC Board of Directors this 31ST day of January, 2024 by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, President

ITEM #4. B.

ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ACTION ON ANNUAL REPORT AND BUDGET

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #4 Administration

- B. Consideration and **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ACTION** to approve FY 2024 Annual Report & Budget.....Mayor Norma Sepulveda
President

(2024 Performance Goals, 2023 Performance Outcomes, & 2024 Budget)

The Annual Report offers the general membership, board of directors, and members of the public a detailed outline of the LRGVDC's composition, organizational structure, and programmatic responsibilities.

The Annual Report outlines LRGVDC's 2024 performance goals and 2024 budget for the current year as well as productivity outcomes for FY2023.

Budget Summary:

- The 2023 Annual Budget is \$40,210,162: reflecting an increase of \$1,443,833 from the 2023 budget due to additional funding awards, such as RGV9-1-1, FTA, TXDOT, and HHS.
- 2024 Annual Budget does not reflect an increase in Membership dues.
- 2024 Fringe Benefit rate is 50.57% and reflects a decrease of 0.31% over the 2023 fringe benefit rate of 50.88%.
- The 2024 (Total Budget Expenditure) Indirect Rate is 13.37%, reflecting the State's revised guidance for calculation. Utilizing the revised calculation method, the 2024 indirect rate reflects an increase of 1.35% from the 2023 amount of 12.02%. As per the Texas Local Government Code (Sec. 391.0115.e), an RPC may not spend an amount more than 15% of the commission's total expenditures, less capital expenditures, and any subcontracts, pass-throughs, or subgrants.
- 2023 Salary Recommendations for Staff include a 3% performance-based salary increase for those employees who have successfully achieved all standards per the annual evaluation process and a 2% labor market adjustment.

Thank you for your consideration of this item; your final recommendation will be presented for approval at our Board, General Membership, & Corporation meeting scheduled for January 31, 2024.

ANNUAL REPORT & BUDGET

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

2024



Prepared By :
LRGVDC STAFF

Presented To :
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



(956) 682-3481 |

www.lrgvdc.org

| 301 W. Railroad,
Weslaco, TX 78596

ITEM #4. C.
ADMINISTRATION

QUARTERLY &
ANNUAL
INVESTMENT
REPORT

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting
January 31, 2024

Item #4: Administration

- C. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve to Adopt Annual Investment Report and Accept Quarterly InvestmentCrystal Balboa
Finance Director

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Annual Investment Report
January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

This annual report of pooled fund investments is in full compliance with the written investment policy and investment strategy approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors and is in full compliance with the relevant portions of the Public Funds Investment Act.

Recorded Interest Income for the year \$484,246.38

	Beginning 01/01/23	Ending 12/31/23
Investments in TexPool Prime:		
Water Plan	\$64,240.73	\$67,687.53
9-1-1	81,397.83	2,688,197.13
TCEQ	366,954.76	154,520.06
Transit	96,259.40	101,424.18
TWDB	6,722.03	210,333.66
GLO-Closing Cost	100,996.29	106,415.32
Kari's Law	63,537.08	66,946.13
Tire Project	23,338.51	24,590.70
Tourism	285,829.37	301,165.46
RGV Explorer	57,720.61	60,817.58
Investments in TexPool:		
FIF – TWDB – Escrow Account	7,103,652.52	5,860,077.19
FIF – TWDB	57,147.01	150,347.04
Total	\$8,307,796.14	\$9,792,521.98

Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Quarterly Investment Report

October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

This quarterly report of pooled fund investments is in full compliance with the written investment policy and investment strategy approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors and is in full compliance with the relevant portions of the Public Funds Investment Act.

Recorded Interest Income for the quarter \$136,953.31

	Beginning 10/01/23	Ending 12/31/23
Investments in TexPool Prime:		
Water Plan	\$66,741.33	\$67,687.53
9-1-1	4,146,131.82	2,688,197.13
TCEQ	99,559.03	154,520.06
Transit	100,006.36	101,424.18
TWDB	37,357.47	210,333.66
GLO-Closing Cost	104,927.78	106,415.32
Kari's Law	66,010.29	66,946.13
Tire Project	24,246.96	24,590.70
Tourism	296,955.47	301,165.46
RGV Explorer	59,967.42	60,817.58
Total	\$ 5,001,903.93	\$3,782,097.75

TexPool Prime Rate as of December 31, 2023 – 5.6106%

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Quarterly Investment Report

October 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

	Beginning 10/01/23	Ending 12/31/23
Investments in TexPool:		
FIF – TWDB – Escrow Account	\$6,142,813.83	\$5,860,077.19
FIF – TWDB	127,910.75	150,347.04
Total	\$6,270,724.58	\$6,010,424.23

TexPool Rate as of December 31, 2023 – 5.3836%

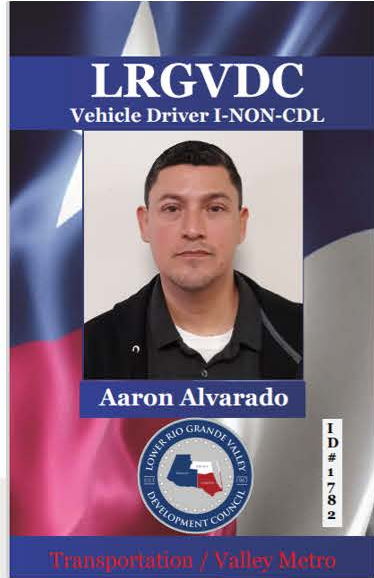
Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

ITEM #4. D.


ADMINISTRATION

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
REPORT**


New Staff Members



LRGVDC
Vehicle Driver I-NON-CDL



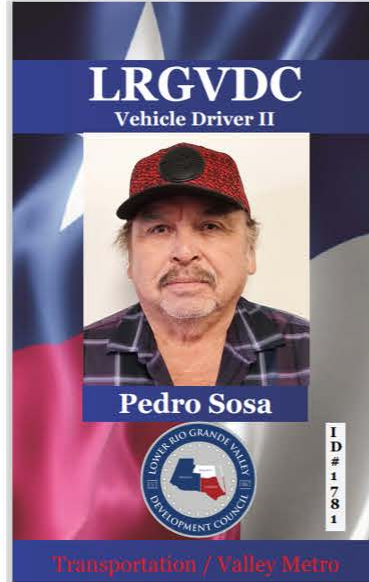
Aaron Alvarado




ID # 1782

Transportation / Valley Metro


Aaron Alvarado
Vehicle Driver I-
Valley Metro Non-
CDL



LRGVDC
Vehicle Driver II



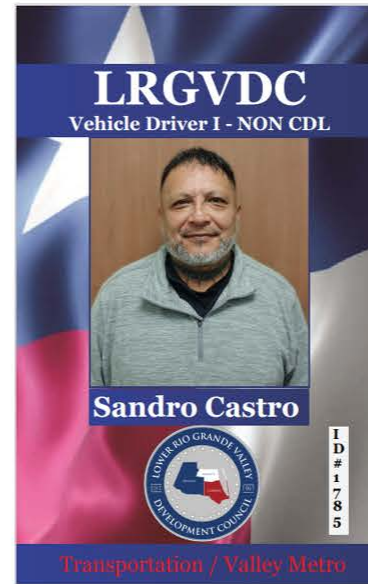
Pedro Sosa




ID # 1781

Transportation / Valley Metro


Pedro Sosa
Vehicle Driver II
Valley Metro



LRGVDC
Vehicle Driver I - NON CDL




Sandro Castro




ID # 1785

Transportation / Valley Metro

Sandro Castro
Vehicle Driver I-
Valley Metro Non-CDL



LRGVDC
Assistant Director



Javier Solis



ID # 1784

Public Safety / RPA

Javier Solis
Assistant Director
Public Safety - RPA



**CHARTING THE FUTURE:
ESTABLISHING A BLUEPRINT FOR
THE FORMATION OF A REGIONAL
TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

This report delves into the historical context of the various transit agencies operating in the Rio Grande Valley, explores the directives provided by House Bill 71 to outline the subsequent phases in establishing a Regional Transit Authority, and examines the ways in which the LRGVDC Members can contribute to the creation of such an agency for the region.

REPORT OVERVIEW

Aligning with the directives set forth in House Bill 71, this report provides a detailed roadmap for the Members of the LRGVDC and their pivotal role in the formation of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) within the Rio Grande Valley. It outlines strategic steps, collaborative initiatives, and key considerations for successfully establishing the RTA, emphasizing the importance of coordination, public engagement, and legislative advocacy.

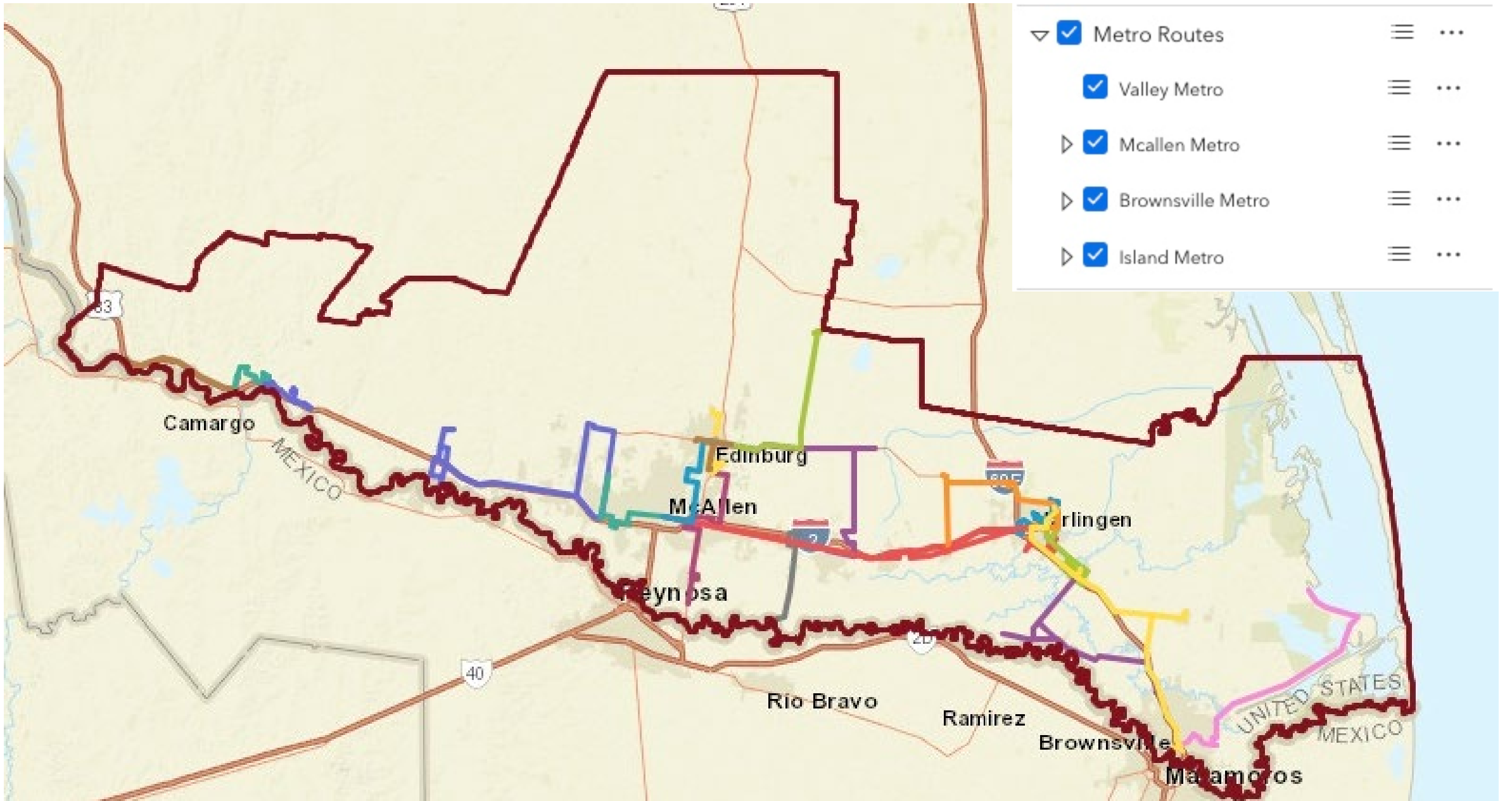
Key Sections:

- Legislative Framework Review:
 - High level overview of House Bill 71's language and implications for RTA formation.
 - Funding strategies under House Bill 71
 - HB 71 Compliance:
 - Ensuring adherence to all requirements outlined in House Bill 71 during the planning and implementation phases.
 - Assistance in establishing a diverse and representative governing board for the RTA.
- Discretionary Grants and Opportunities
 - Recommendations for communicating progress and garnering support from state legislators and officials.
- LRGVDC's Members Roles and Assistance
 - Strategies to foster sustained collaboration between Planning Partners and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
 - Formation of RTA Board
 - Assistance in establishing a diverse and representative governing board for the RTA.

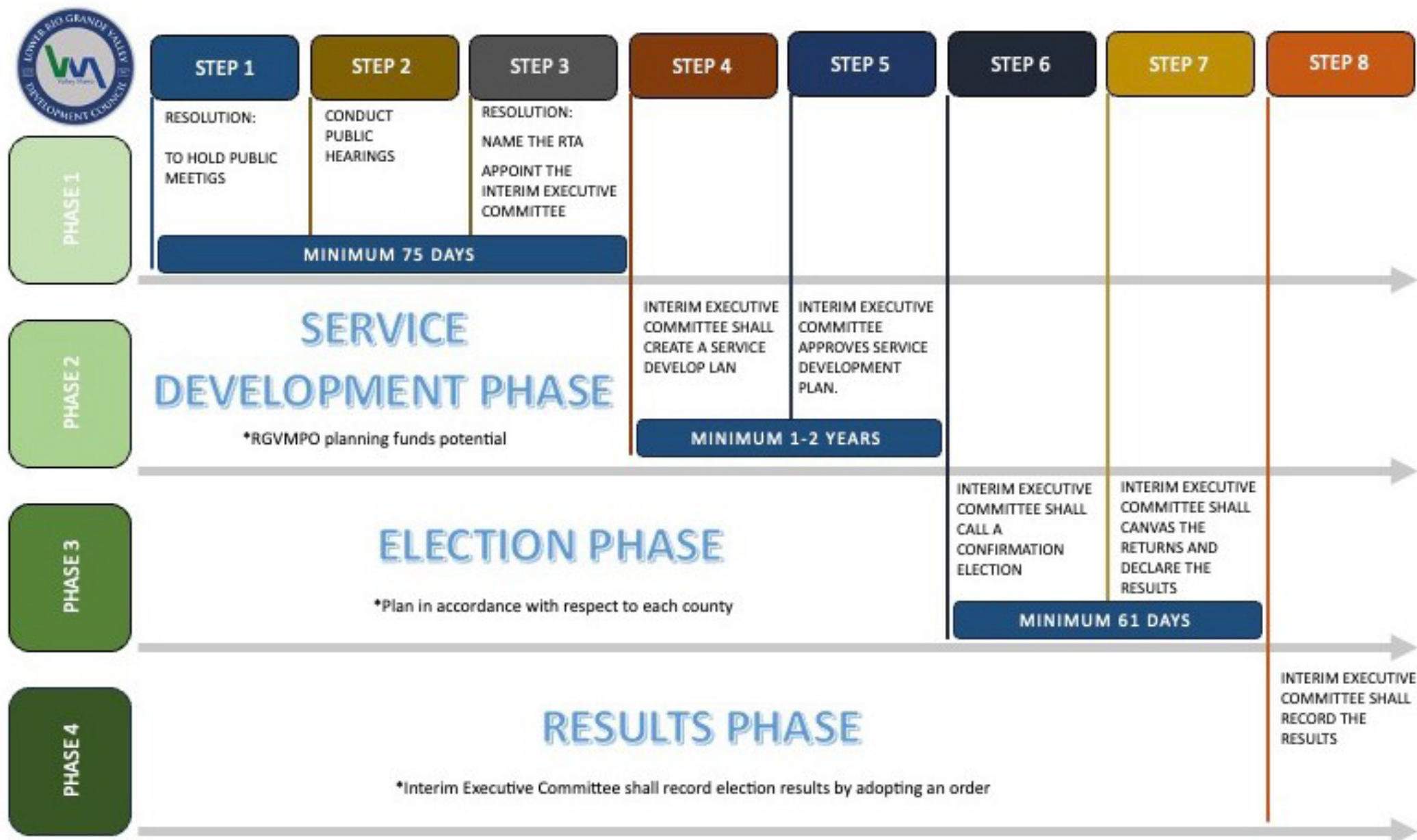
Acknowledgments:

We extend our appreciation to all stakeholders, experts, and contributors who have played a crucial role in shaping this comprehensive guide.

RGV METRO ROUTES



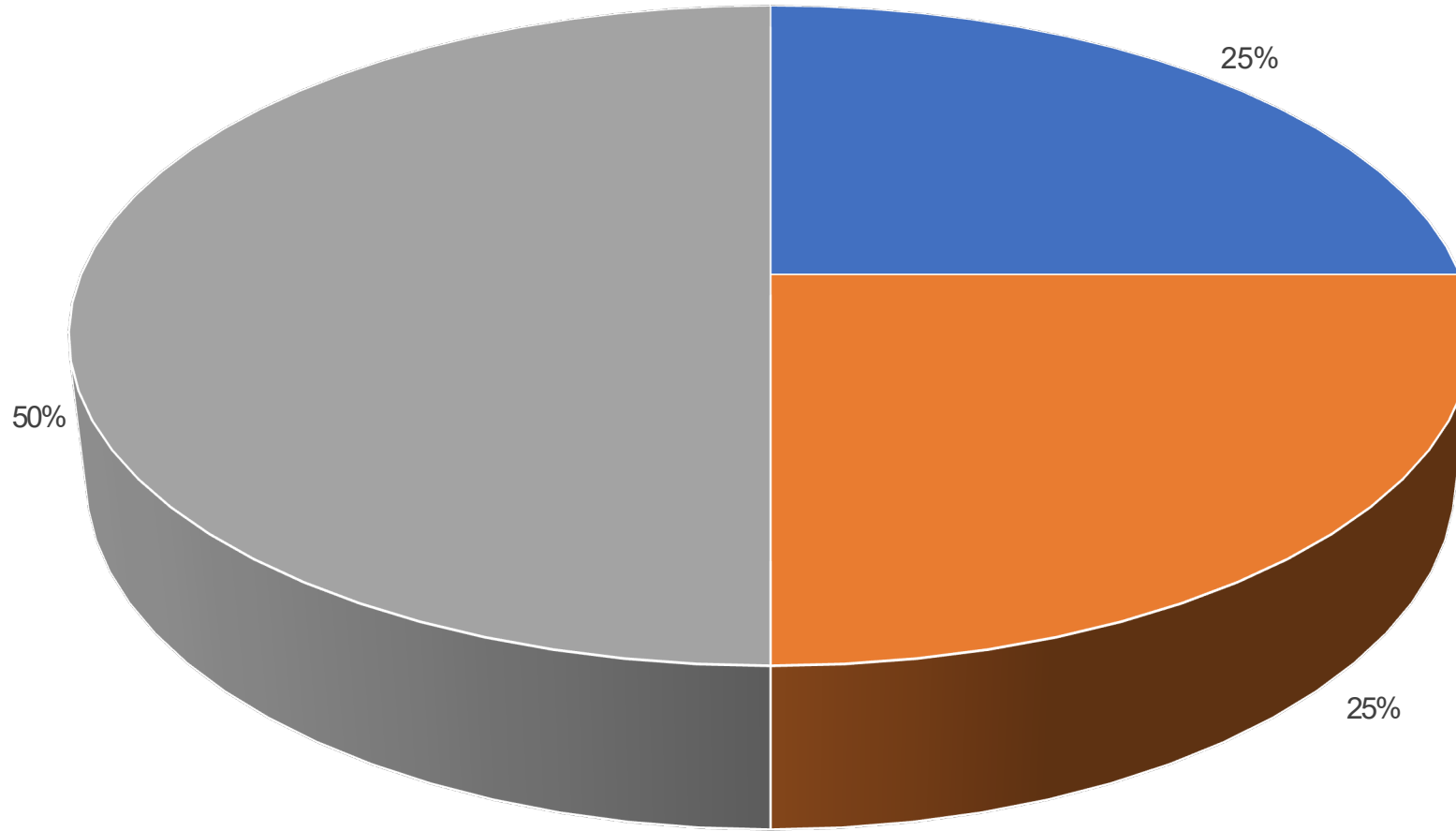
RGVRTA | TIMELINE



HB 71 Section 463.069

- Not more than \$1 for passenger vehicles
- Not more than \$2 for commercial motor vehicles
- Not more than 25¢ for pedestrians

RGV RTA Fee Structure HB 71 - 2019



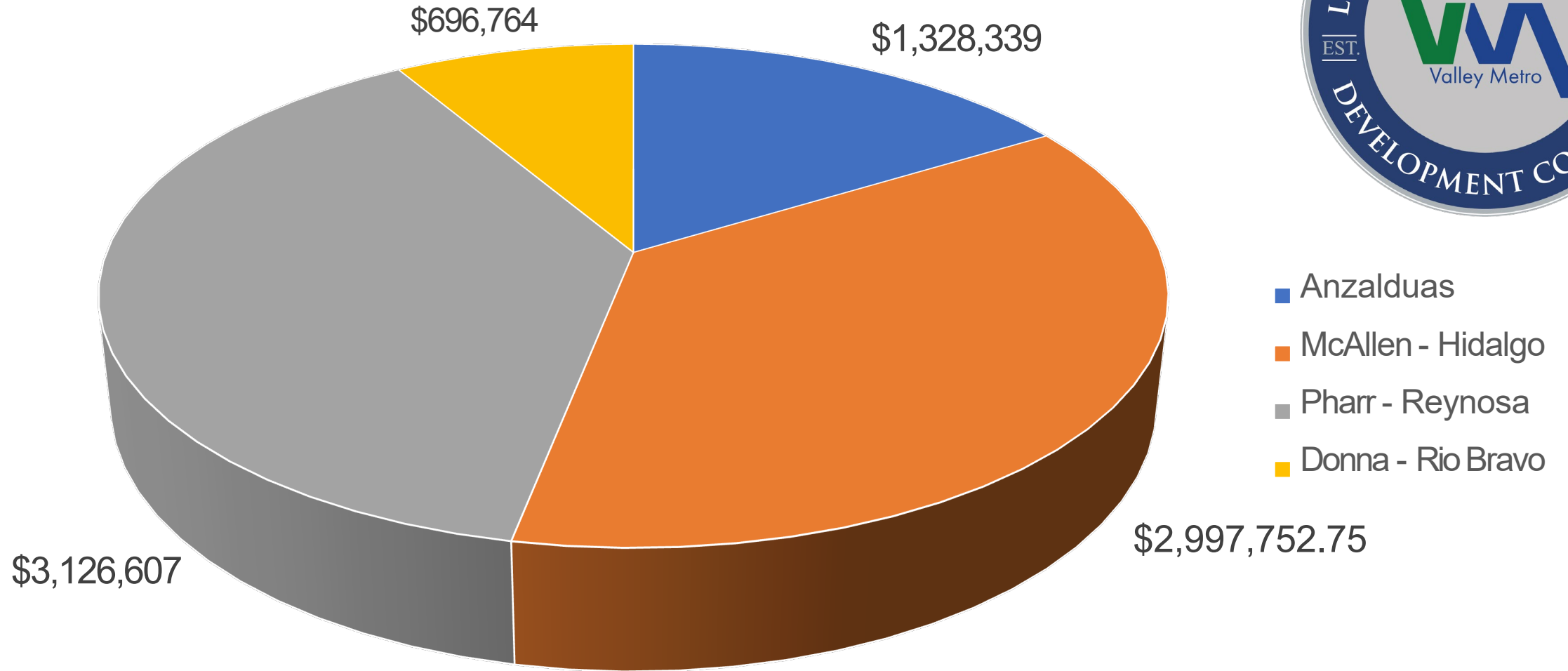
■ Operating Entity ■ RTA Bus Distribution ■ RTA Rail Distribution



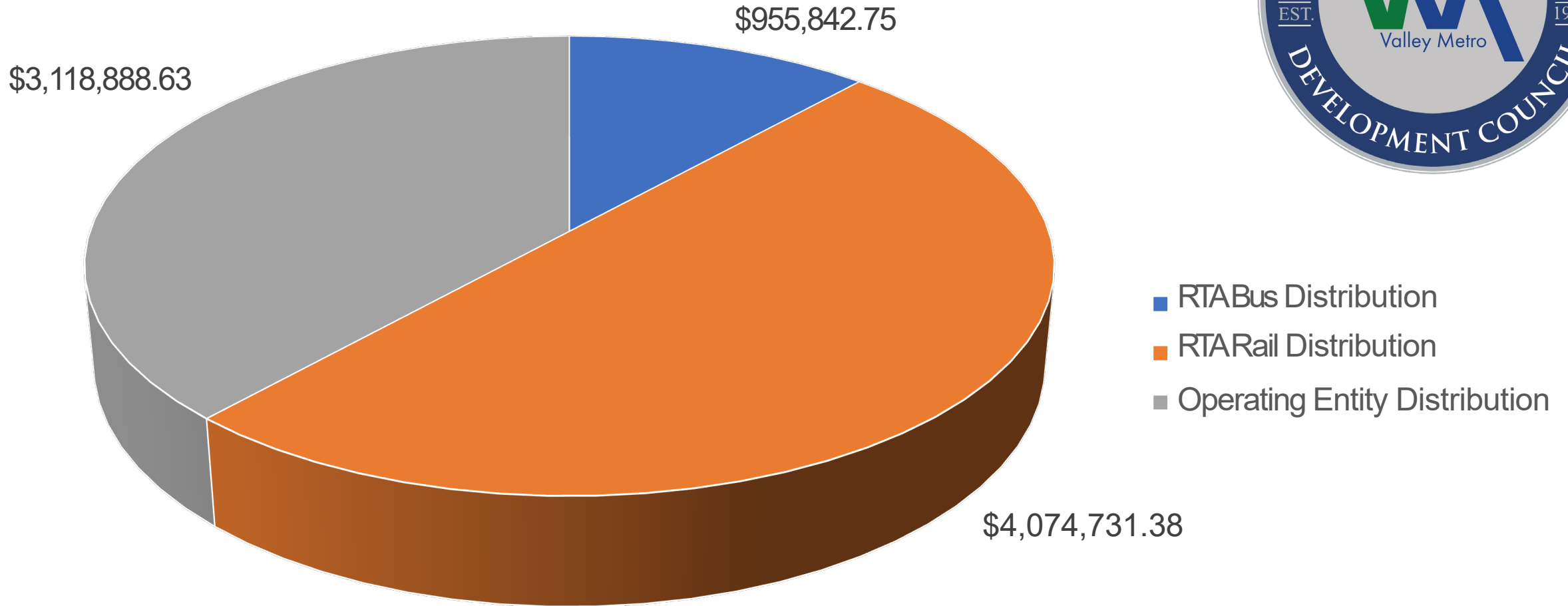
The entity that operates the international bridge may retain the last 25% if

- The entity is a mass transit provider
- Mass transit was provided in the municipality in which the international bridge is located on or before January 1st, 2019
- Ex: McAllen and possibly Brownsville

RGV RTA Expected Fees FY 23



RGV RTA Expected Fees FY 23 Distribution



GRANTS

Agency/Office ↕	Program Name And Description ▼	Transportation Type(s)
USDOT / Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	<p>Low- or No-Emission Grant Program</p> <p>The Low- or No-Emission Grant Program supports the purchasing or leasing of low- or no-emission buses, their power source(s), and related equipment, as well as the construction, leasing, or rehabilitation of new or existing public transportation facilities for low- or no-emission buses.</p>	Transit
USDOT / Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	<p>Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning</p> <p>The Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning funds the integration of land use and transportation planning, economic development, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity, and mixed-use development in new capital projects.</p>	Bike/Ped Roadway Transit

“ The Tidwell Transit-Oriented Development Plan is the first step toward identifying potential improvements to the transit center property and the surrounding area. The Tidwell Transit Center is expected to be the northern end of the line for the proposed 25.3-mile METRORapid University Corridor Project

Part of the METRONext Moving Forward Plan, this project aims to:

- Provide an actionable plan to re-imagine Tidwell Transit Center and the surrounding area to support community goals.
- Identify improvements to mobility, housing, economic development and quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors of the Eastex-Jensen neighborhood.
- Foster a community-led process for the future of the area around the Tidwell Transit Center”.

- Example of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Funded Project:

TX	Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)	The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County will receive funding to plan for TOD at the Tidwell Transit Center in Houston's Eastex/Jensen neighborhood. The transit center will be served by the proposed METRORapid bus rapid transit University Corridor. The TOD plan will enhance connectivity, promote walkability and sustainability, and support equity through economic development and affordable housing.	\$376,000
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GRANTS CONTINUED

USDOT / Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	<p><u>Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program</u></p> <p>The Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program supports capital projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, and begin or maintain public- or privately-operated intercity passenger rail service.</p>	Railway
USDOT / Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	<p><u>Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program</u></p> <p>The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program funds capital projects which replace, rehabilitate, or modify bus facilities, as well as the purchase of buses, vans, and related equipment.</p>	Transit
USDOT / Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	<p><u>Corridor Identification and Development Program</u></p> <p>Corridor ID is a comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning and development program that will help guide intercity passenger rail development and create a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for implementation.</p>	Railway



125 EAST 11TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 | 512.463.8588 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

October 5, 2022

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) supports stakeholder interest in considering federal funding options for conventional intercity passenger rail expansion. Please accept this letter of interest filed in response to docket number FRA-2022-0031. In addition to the September 8, 2022, letter from the Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas Departments of Transportation supporting the Heartland Flyer extension, we appreciate the opportunity to offer expressions of interest to determine the potential viability of service expansion on the corridors listed below:

- Additional train sets on the Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City Amtrak Station to Fort Worth Central Station.
- Additional train sets on existing Texas Eagle and Sunset Limited routes between Houston Amtrak Station, Amtrak Station San Antonio, and Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas.
- Renewed intercity service between Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas and Houston Amtrak Station.
- New and enhanced, conventional intercity service options studied in the Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study that would include connecting Amtrak Station San Antonio to the Rio Grande Valley.
- New service east of Marshall, TX connecting the Eddie Bernice Johnson Union Station in Dallas to the Meridian, Mississippi Union Station.

I respectfully request consideration of these corridors through the Corridor Identification Program and look forward to working with your team in the coming years. If you have any questions, please call me at (512) 305-9515, or you or your staff may contact Jeff Davis, Director, Rail Division Director at Jeffrey.Davis@txdot.gov or (512) 927-9648.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Williams P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Brandye Hendrickson, Deputy Executive Director, Planning and Programming
Caroline Mays, Director, Planning and Modal Programs
Jeffrey Davis, Director, Rail Division

CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Overview: The Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program is a comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning and development program that will help guide intercity passenger rail development throughout the country and create a pipeline of intercity passenger rail projects ready for implementation.

Funding Available: For each selected Corridor, FRA initially awards the grantee \$500,000 for eligible activities related to the initiation of a grantee's Corridor development efforts to include the development of a scope, schedule, and cost estimate for preparing a service development plan (SDP) for a Corridor. See the Corridor ID Program Notice for more details about funding available for subsequent activities.

Funding: Under this notice, FRA will select Corridors for participation in the Corridor ID Program.

For each selected Corridor, FRA will initially award the grantee \$500,000 for eligible Step 1 activities. The initial award will not be subject to any cost sharing. Should the completion of eligible Step 1 activities not require the use of the full \$500,000 of the initial award, any remaining funds will be carried forward to the Step 2 award for Step 2 activities.

Upon FRA's determination that the grantee has successfully completed Step 1, FRA will award the grantee funds for eligible Step 2 activities (subject to the availability of funding). FRA will determine the funding amount for Step 2 based on the cost estimate developed in Step 1. As described in section (C), there is a minimum 10 percent cost sharing requirement for Step 2 activities.

Following FRA's determination that the grantee has successfully completed Step 2 and is ready to advance to Step 3 as described in section (A)(4)(b), and subject to the availability of funding, FRA may award the grantee funds for eligible Step 3 activities. The amount and sequence of Step 3 funding will be based on the SDP, including cost estimates for completing Project Development for a phase of the Corridor. Step 3 funding may be provided through multiple awards, with each award funding Step 3 activities for a specific Implementation phase. As described in section (C), there is a minimum 20 percent cost sharing requirement for Step 3 activities. If there is not sufficient Federal funding available under the Corridor ID Program to award the maximum 80 percent share of Step 3 costs, FRA may allow a phase to advance to Step 3 if the grantee has other funding available to complete the Step 3 activities for the phase.

FY 22 CORRIDOR ID EXPRESSION OF INTEREST MAP

28 existing corridors

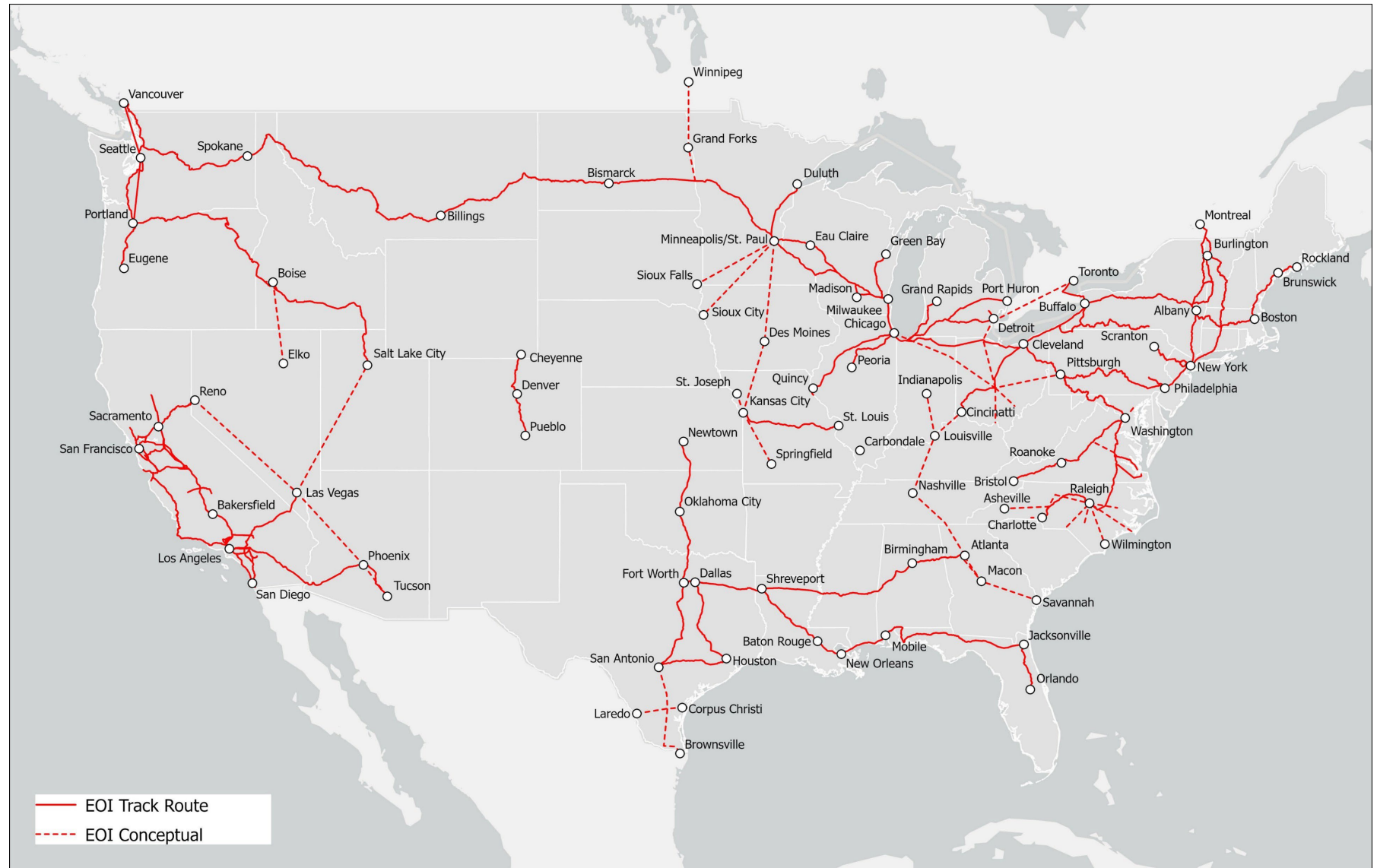
25 EOs from state
3 from other entities

13 extensions

10 EOs from states
3 from other entities

70 new corridors

41 EOs from states
29 from other entities



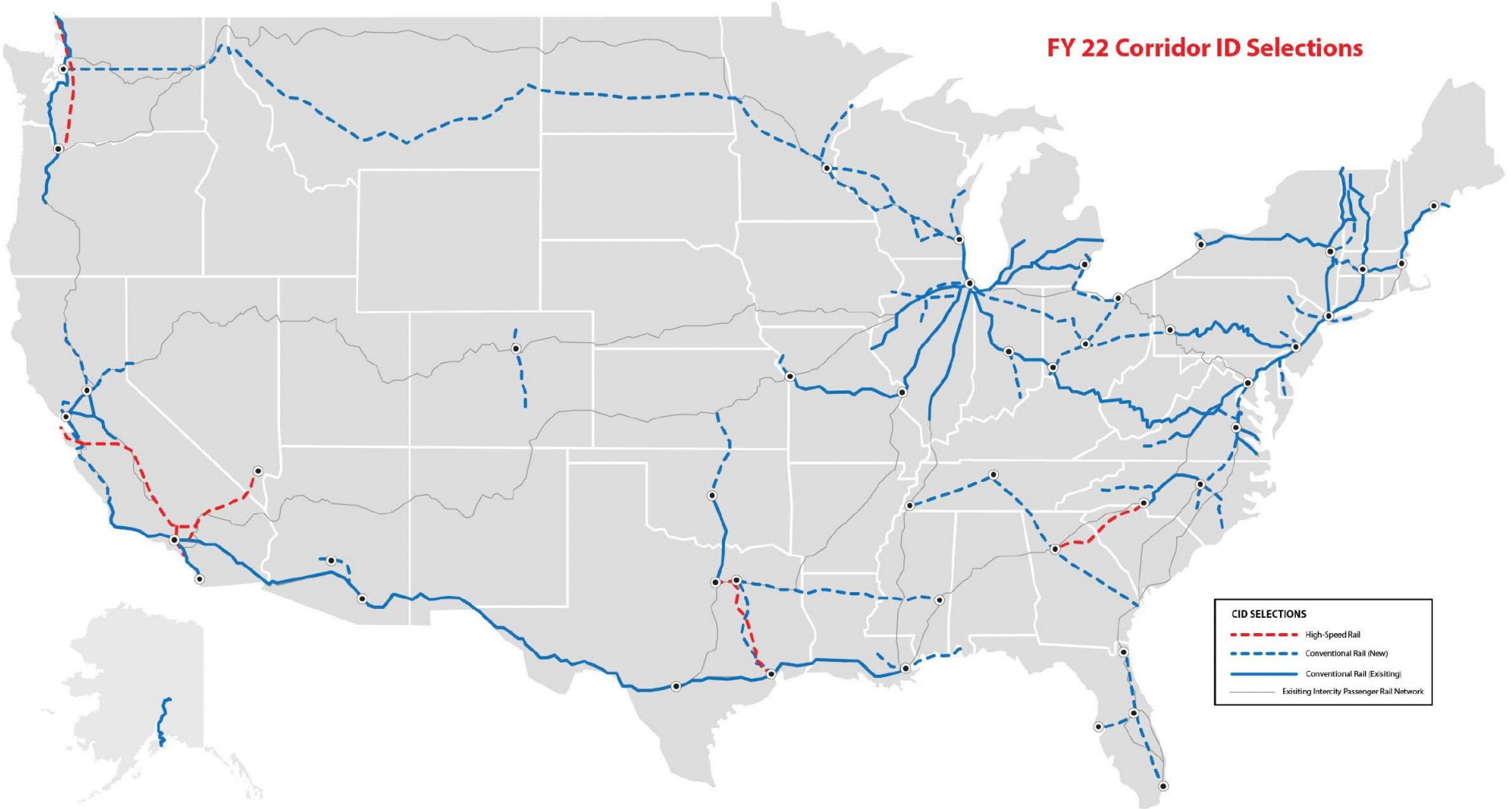


Investments to Enhance Intercity Passenger Rail

Laying the foundation for world-class rail in America

Selections are organized into four categories:

- **New High-Speed Rail.** Services planned to operate at speeds of up to 186 mph or greater, primarily or solely on new, dedicated alignment.
- **New Conventional Rail.** Services generally planned to operate at speeds of up to 79-125 mph, and primarily on existing rail alignments shared with other railroad operations (freight and/or commuter).
- **Existing Routes with Extensions.** Existing intercity passenger rail services with planned extensions, operating at speeds of up to 79-125 mph and primarily on existing shared rail alignments.
- **Existing Routes.** Existing intercity passenger rail services with planned improvements to frequencies, trip times, stations, or other characteristics.



DISCLAIMER: This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of cities, project locations, and routes. Cities shown on the map are added to provide geographic reference and are not intended for any other purpose. Every effort has been made to ensure the highest accuracy of all data on this map, but some errors can occur.

CONCLUSION

This one-page overview outlines key initiatives through which the Members of the LRGVDC can significantly contribute to the successful establishment of the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) in the Rio Grande Valley.

1. Advocacy with Elected Officials:

- Advocate for the RTA with state and local elected officials.
- Strengthen relationships with legislative representatives to garner support for regional transit initiatives.

2. Participation in RGVMPPO Passenger Rail Feasibility Study:

- Actively engage in the RGVMPPO Passenger Rail Feasibility Study kick-off meeting in February 2024.
- Collaborate with the study team, providing valuable insights and local perspectives on transit needs and opportunities.

3. Assistance with Consultants:

- Assist consultants in the Passenger Rail Study by providing information on county programs subject to sunset with each election cycle.
- Ensure timely and accurate data to facilitate informed decision-making during the study.

4. Research on Creative Funding Strategies:

- Spearhead research initiatives to identify innovative and creative ways to fund the RTA.
- Explore public-private partnerships, grant opportunities, and sustainable funding models.

5. Collaboration with Other Transit Agencies:

- Play a pivotal role in bringing together other transit agencies to initiate discussions on formalizing the transition to an RTA.
- Foster collaboration, share insights, and address collective challenges for a unified approach.

6. Allocation of Funds and Operational Support:

- Begin researching strategies to allocate funds that will aid the RTA's operational launch within the first 6 months.
- Explore the possibility of providing a loan to the RTA, with terms designed for repayment as the authority becomes operational.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Members proactive involvement in these key areas will not only enhance the success of the RTA but also contribute to the overall development and prosperity of the Rio Grande Valley. By strategically aligning efforts, the Members plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of regional transit, fostering connectivity, and improving the quality of life for its residents.

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Elections of Officers for 2024. As per the RSCC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of Chair, Vice-Chair & Secretary.

At the January 18, 2024, RSCC meeting, the committee recommended the following members for the following positions:

- Chair: Mayor Yvette Cabrera, City of Granjeno
- Vice Chair: Celina Gonzales, City of Primera
- Secretary: Mayor Jose Solis, City of Lyford

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

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

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

At the January 18, 2024, RSCC meeting, the committee recommended the following members for the following positions:

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

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Updating CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) - Staff are working on updating the CEDS and will be conducting surveys, and public meetings to review & present the identified economic development strategies. Staff will be reaching out and utilizing the C&ED advisory committees: Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC), Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC), including stakeholders and community members. A survey is scheduled to be released this month. Be on the lookout! We look forward to your feedback.

EDA has published Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). Public Infrastructure & Economic Adjustment Assistance key elements:

- EDA's standard project Application
- Funds planning, construction, and land acquisition
- Cost share can be 80% grant / 20% non-federal match
- Cost share can vary depending on (1) the 24-month unemployment rate and (2) per capita income
- Examples of projects funded:
 - Industrial Park infrastructure (water, sewer, utilities, roadway)
 - Entrepreneurial programs (business incubators/RLF)
 - Quality of life project (nature center)

There are no application submission deadlines and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Visit the following links for more information on this funding opportunity, [Public Works](#), [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#).

Staff are available to provide technical assistance, project development, and grant administration on EDA proposals and projects. For any assistance or information on EDA in general, contact the Community & Economic Development Department. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to disseminate information accordingly. Staff also continues to coordinate efforts with other governmental entities on their economic development related activities to maximize benefits of all projects and

objectives for the region and avoid any duplication of efforts and resources. For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

- Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

A RSCC Hybrid Meeting was held on January 18, 2024, in the LRGVDC Small board room 301 W. Railroad Weslaco, TX at 9:30 AM. Presentations from the Texas PACE Authority and Co-Step were provided with much significant information to the small cities.

Other updates were mentioned during the meeting:

- FY 2024/2025 Solid Waste Grant Application: Opened: January 8, 2024, and closes February 16, 2024, at 12:00 pm (noon).
- Solid Waste Grant Application Virtual Workshop: January 23, 2024, at 2:00pm (link can be found on LRGVDC calendar of events)
- CEDS updates
- Criminal Justice and Homeland Security RFA open

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

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

At the January 18, 2024, RSCC meeting, the committee nominated a member for the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) position and alternate. The USC is responsible for determining objective scoring factors for all regions in accordance with the requirements of this section and the current TxCDBG Action Plan. The USC must establish the numerical value of points assigned to each scoring factor as described in the Committee Guidelines provided by the department.

Staff continue to carry out specified technical assistance activities in the Contractor's state planning region. Staff will also be responsible for disseminating program information to keep TxCDBG eligible communities informed of information, promote Fair Housing, provide support to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and host a grant kick off meeting of TDA funding opportunities.

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.

- Solid Waste Management Program

The Solid Waste funding cycle has officially opened! The TCEQ Grant Application for the FY 2024/2025 Regional Solid Waste Grant Program has been posted to the LRGVDC website, www.lrgvdc.org/solidwaste.html & on our Community & Economic Development Facebook page. A Solid Waste Grant Virtual Workshop was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 2:00 PM. The SWAC committee also met on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 10:00 am.



**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
(LRGVDC)**



**2024-2025 SOLID WASTE
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

OPENS TODAY JANUARY 8, 2024

12:00 NOON

**VISIT THE LRGVDC WEBSITE UNDER
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT SOLID WASTE TAB**



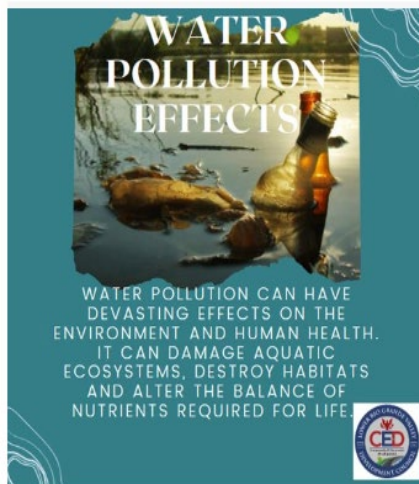
Solid Waste Grant Application Closing Date: February 16, 2024, by 12:00 pm (noon).

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 continue to educate the public on water quality issues with monthly themed Facebook posts. Give a thumbs up or leave a comment! Outreach efforts for this program include staff attending in-person events, and or in partnership of the AAA department. This allows for great C&ED program promotion opportunities for the community. Informational reading material and promotional items on water quality are distributed at these events.

December messages:



Staff also continues 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)

A Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting was held on December 12, 2023, and an upcoming meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for a RWRAC committee member to serve in the **Special Purpose District – Irrigation Category**. Each nominee will be selected based upon their qualifications, experience, and interest. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on the environmental, economic, and other social impacts of existing, new, or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding water resources management. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to melisa.gonzales@lrgvdc.org, by February 29, 2024.

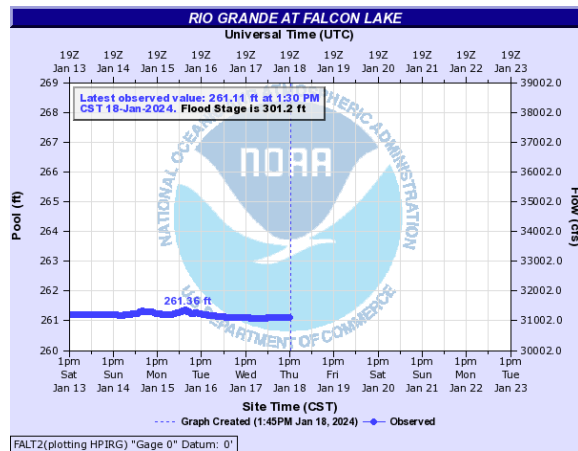
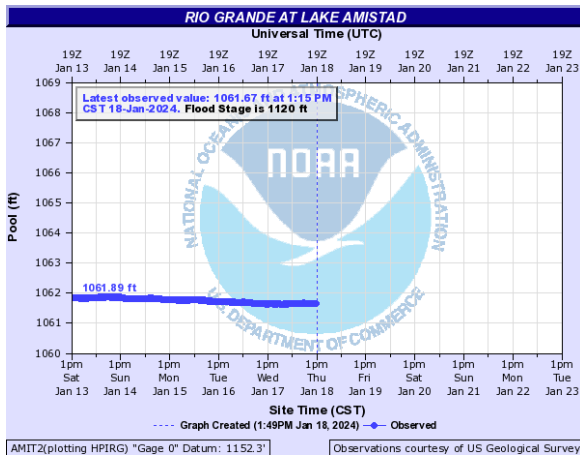
Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The Region M Group meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2024, at 9:30 am. The meeting information can be found on the Region M website.

For more information on Region M, please visit website: <http://riograndewaterplan.org>

- Reservoir Levels as of January 18, 2024.



ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action ItemMargarita Lopez, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Citizens Advisory Council Membership Appointment for Maria Elia Lopez.

Mrs. Lopez will be appointed to fill the vacancy of a citizen aged 60 or above from Willacy County, aligning with the category of older individuals in rural areas. The following experiences showcase Maria as a strong candidate for the Citizens Advisory Council:

- Graduated from Harlingen High School, Valley Baptist Vocational School, and Del Mar College School
- Became a Registered Nurse
- Attended Pediatric Nurse training at T.W.U in Dallas
- Worked as R.N. in Kingsville M.H.M.R.
- Outreach and Long-Term Care Consultant for R.G.V.
- Served as Kingsville Public Health Director and Home Health Administrator
- Currently the Director and Advisor for an Allied Health School in San Benito (pro-bono)
- Crowned Ms. Coastal Bend Senior in 2010
- Ambassador representing senior citizens in the Coastal Bend Region
- Member of the Mayor's Council on Aging

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

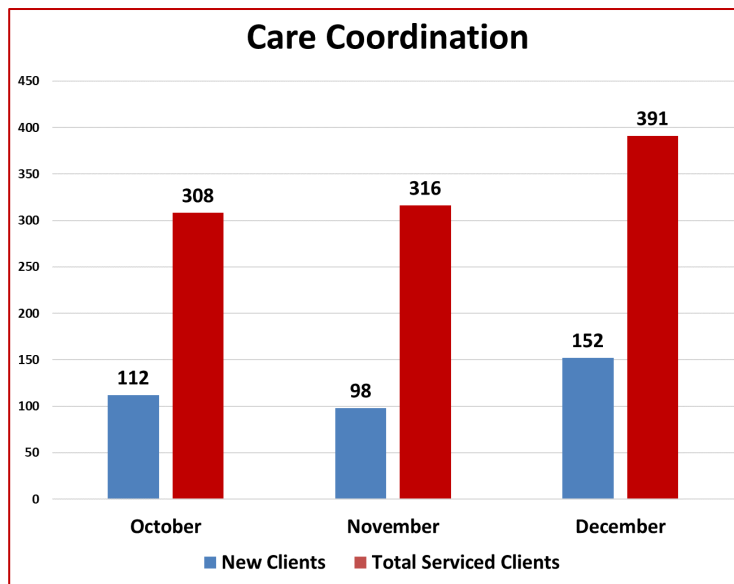
B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

This document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's 1st quarter report for FY 2024, encompassing data from October 2023 to December 2023.

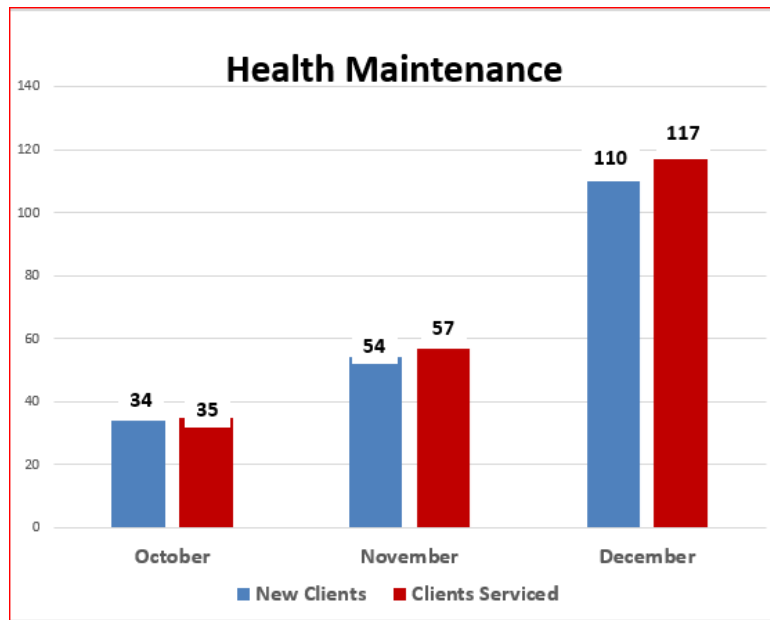
• **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination Program**

- The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 362 new clients.
- A total of 1,015 individuals were provided with case management assistance.



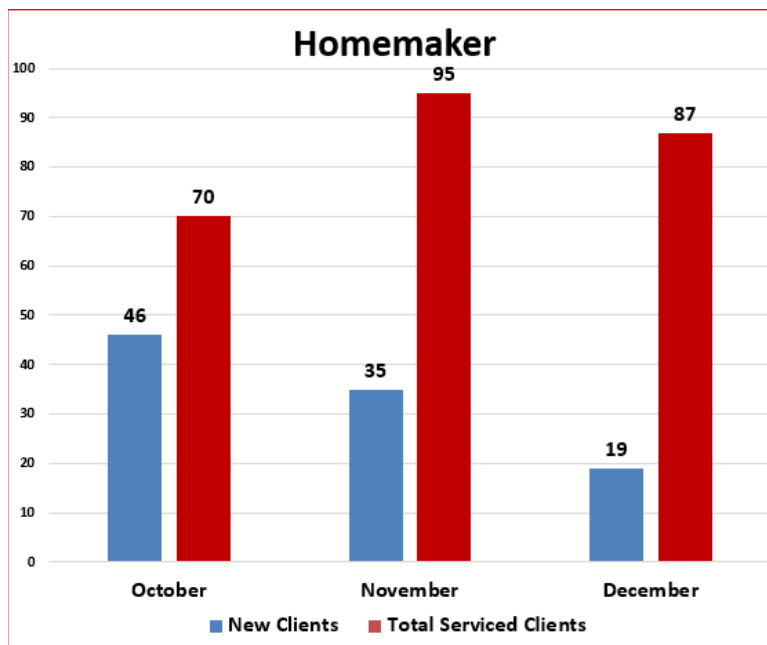
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**

- A total of 198 new clients were assisted in the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment.
- A total of 209 individuals were assisted by health maintenance services.



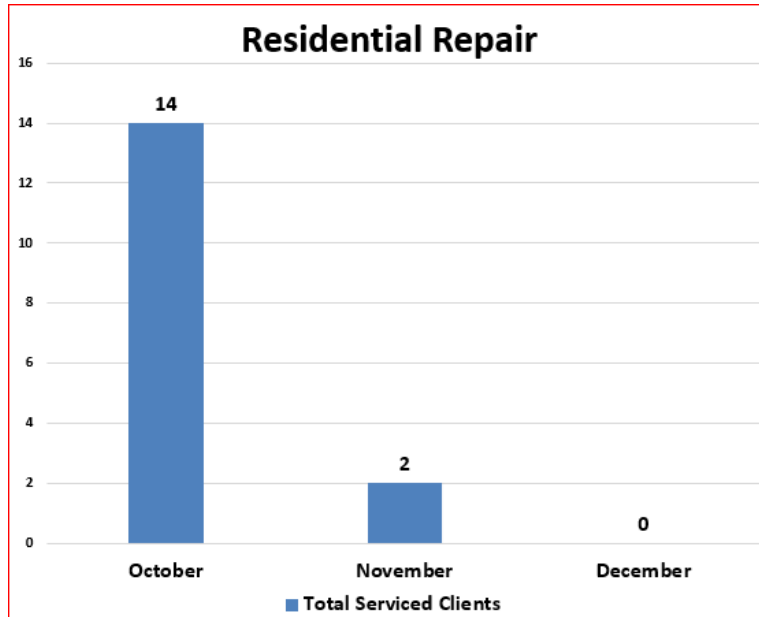
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Homemaker Services**

- A total of 100 new clients were provided with light housekeeping duties, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, by homemaker services.
- In the first quarter, 252 individuals received homemaker service.



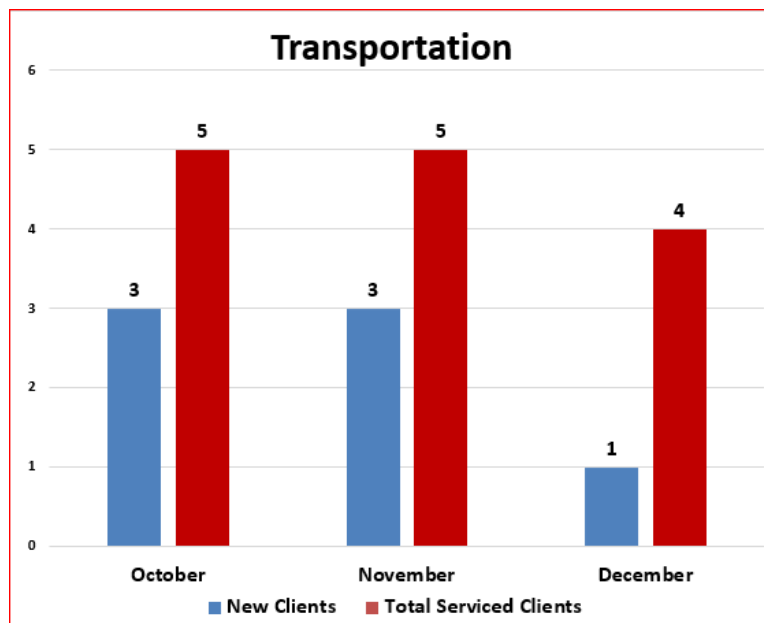
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Residential Repair Services**

- A total of 16 individuals were provided with assistance with home modifications, such as grab bars, ramps, and removing tubs and installing walk-in showers to reduce the risk of falls and improve access and mobility.



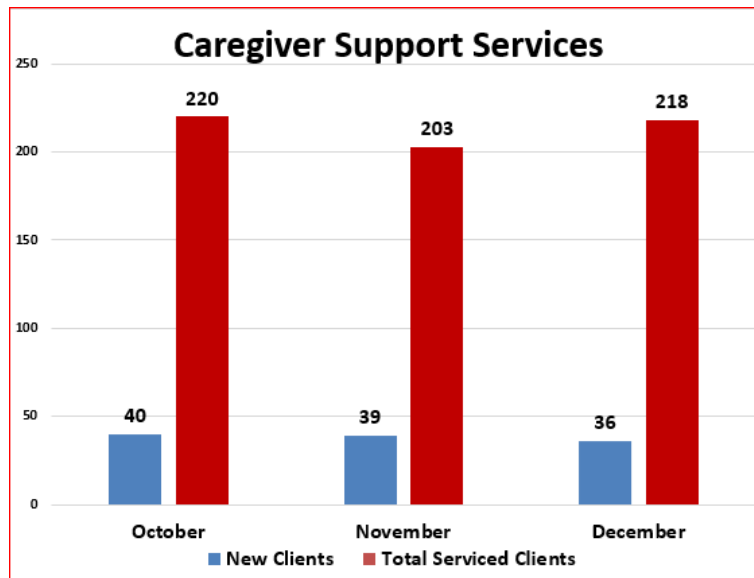
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Transportation Services**

- A total of 7 new clients were provided transportation services to medical related appointments.
- In the first quarter, 14 individuals received transportation services.



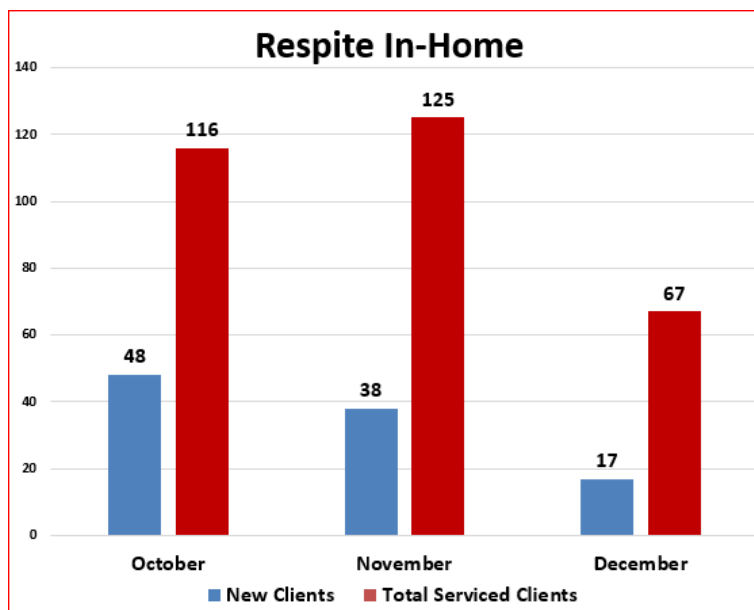
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support Services Program**

- The Caregiver Support Services Program serviced a total of 115 new clients.
- A total of 641 individuals were provided with assistance.



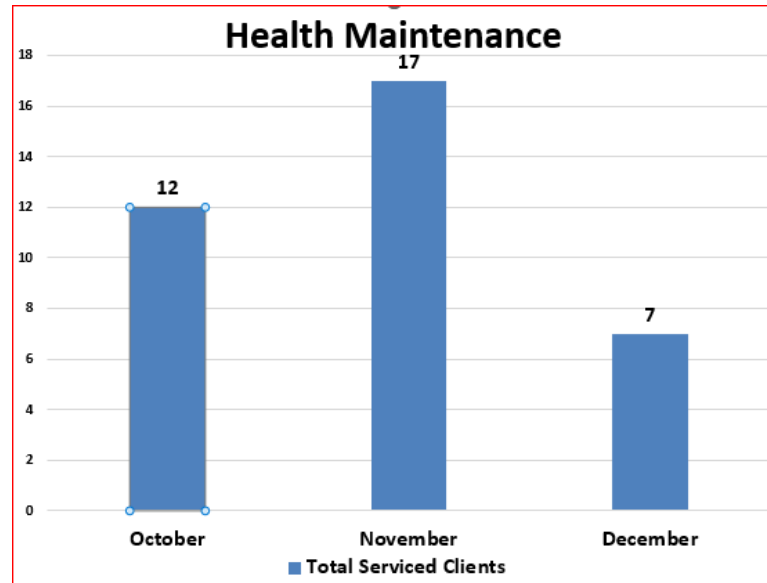
- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Respite In-Home Services**

- A total of 103 new clients were provided with respite in-home services, such as light housekeeping, personal care, feeding, grooming, and transferring from bed to chair.
- A total of 308 individuals were provided with respite in-home services.



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Health Maintenance Services**

- A total of 36 clients were assisted through the Caregiver Support Program for the purchase of medical supplies, medications, and medical equipment to support the care recipient. This one-time service is typically allocated for a single encounter.
- A total of 36 new clients were served, representing the final count of individuals assisted through this one-time service, typically allocated for a single encounter.

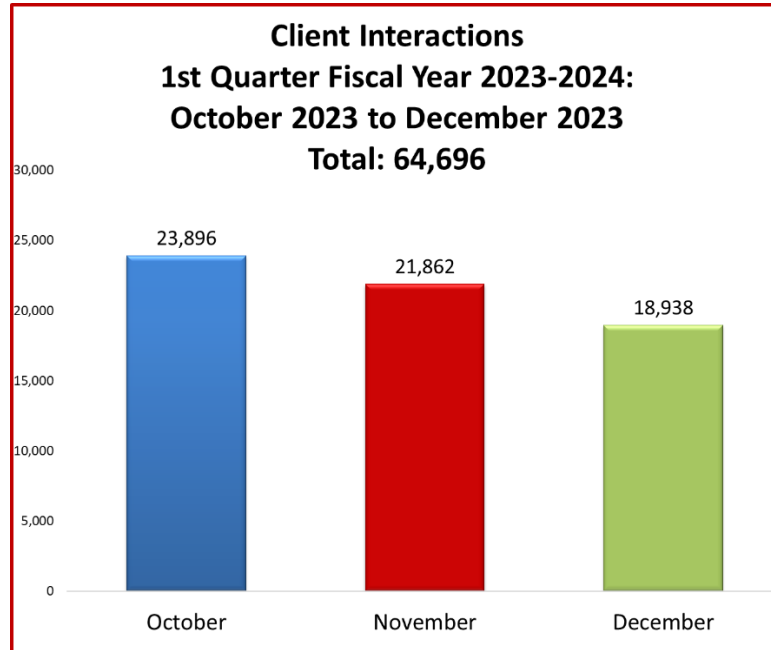


- **Direct Consumer Services – Interest List**

As of January 5th, 2024, over 1,236 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging, underscoring the strong and impactful presence of the senior population in the community. The increased demand is attributed to heightened outreach and collaborative efforts, as well as ongoing staffing matters, for which we are actively recruiting to address. This reiterates the pressing need for the essential services we provide.

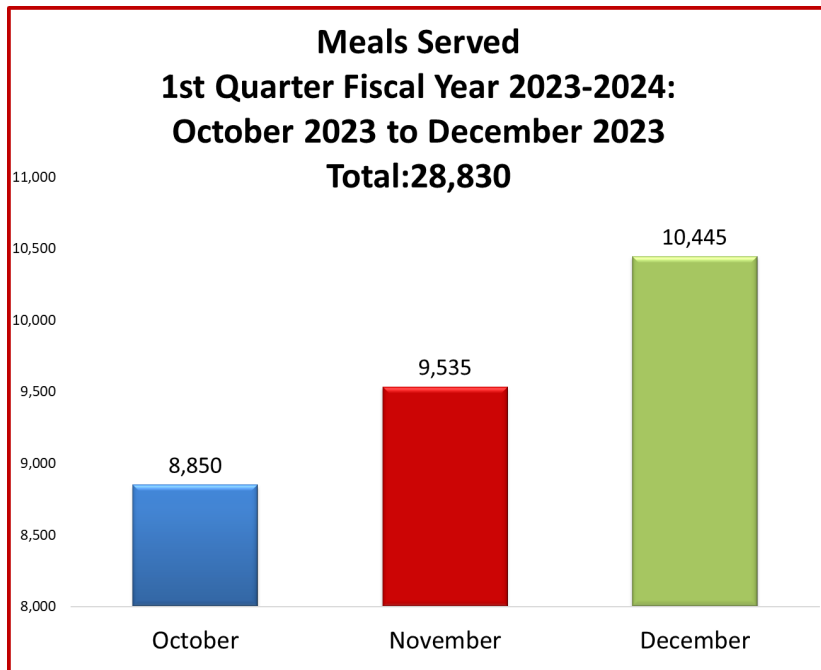
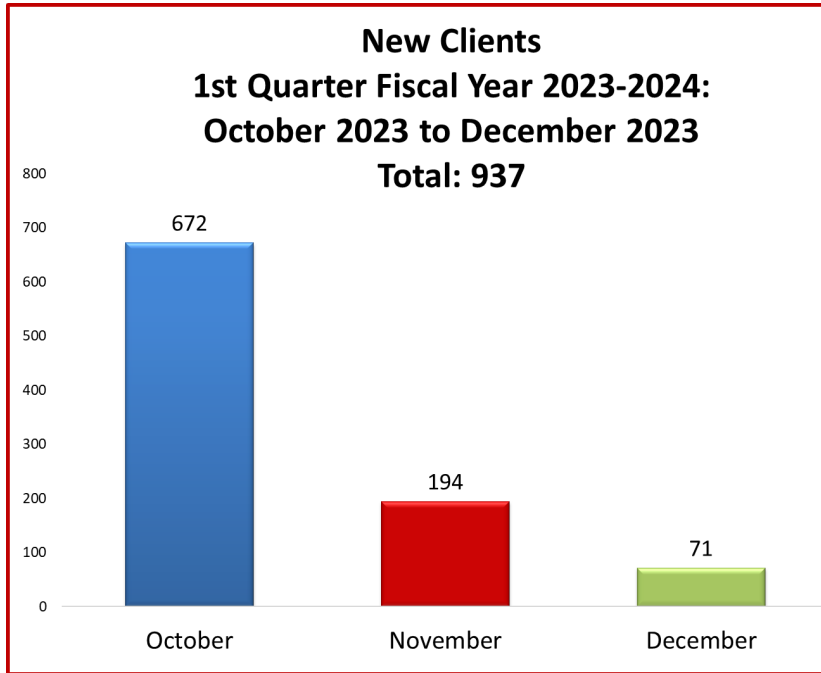
- **Senior Center Operations Report**

- Program successfully enrolled 1,755 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 64,696 activities with their clients.



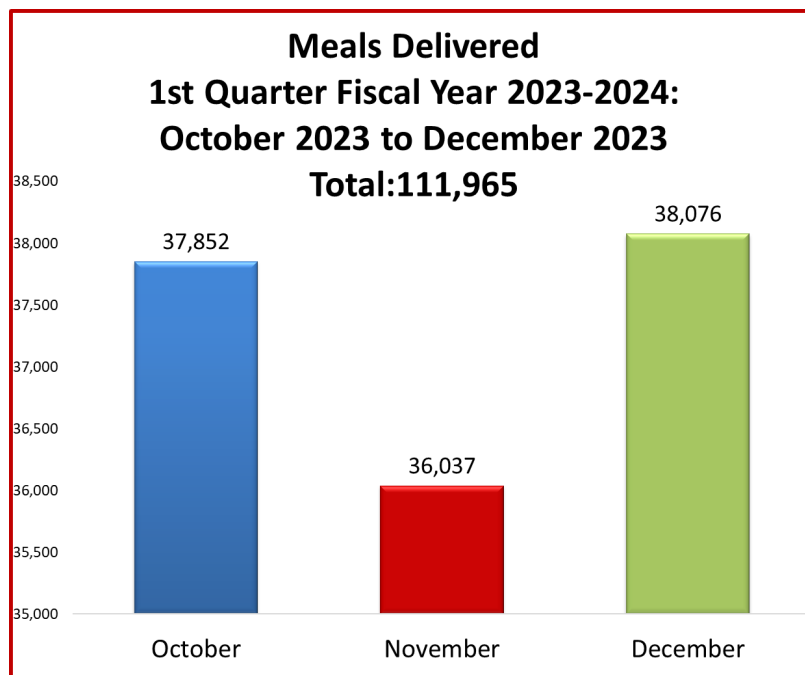
- **Nutrition Program Report – Congregate Meals**

- Program successfully enrolled 937 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Program successfully administered 28,830 Congregate meals.



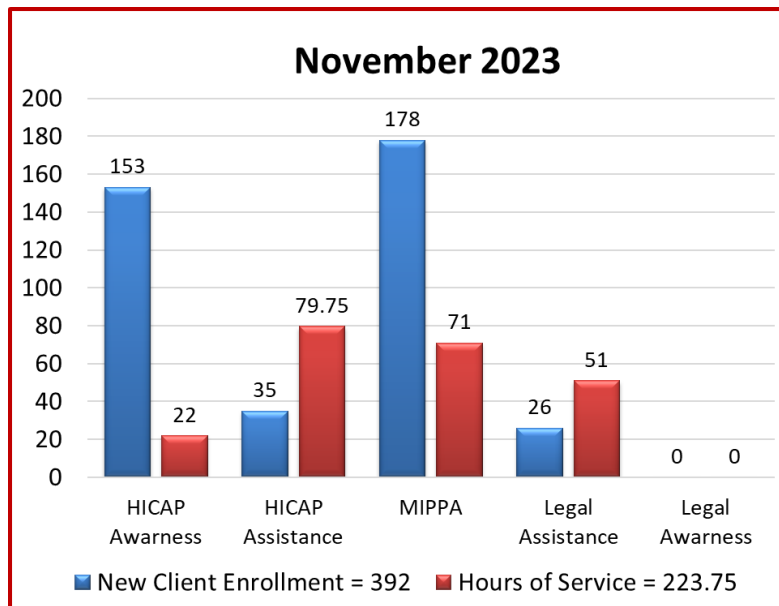
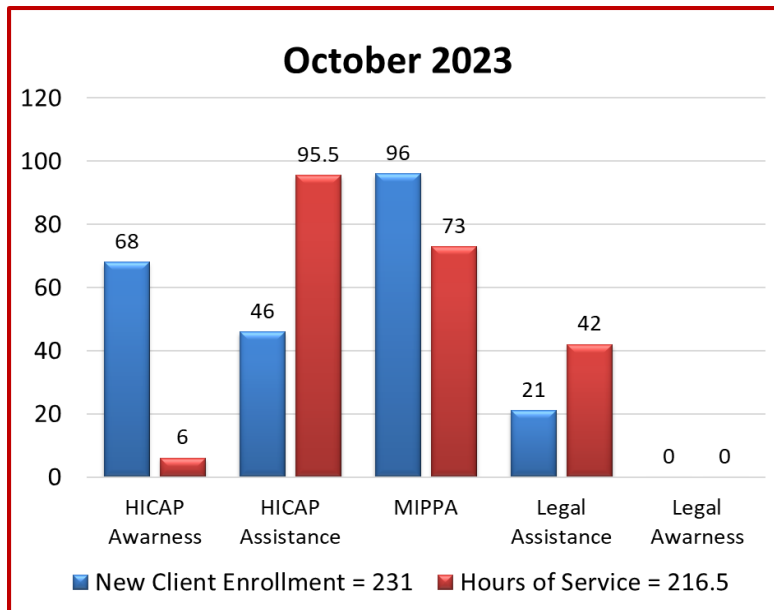
- **Nutrition Program Report – Home Delivered Meals**

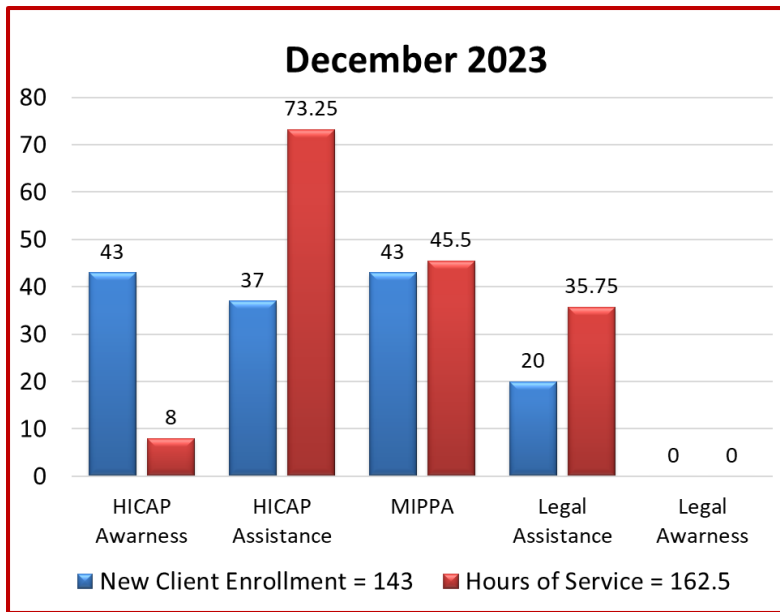
- Successfully enrolled 2,111 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program.
- Successfully served 111,965 Home Delivered meals.



- **Special Services Report – Benefit Counselors Program**

- Achieved the enrollment of 766 new clients and established 602.75 contacts.

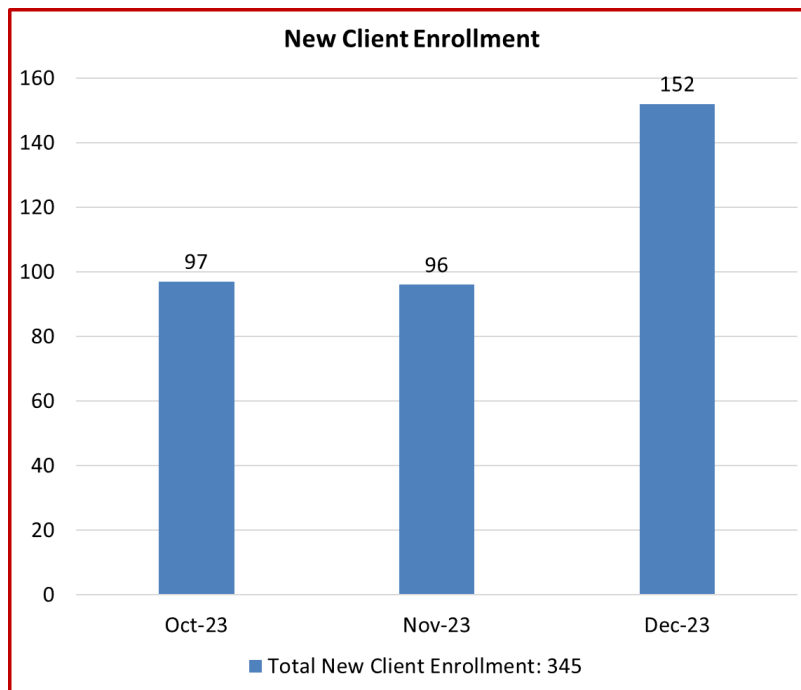


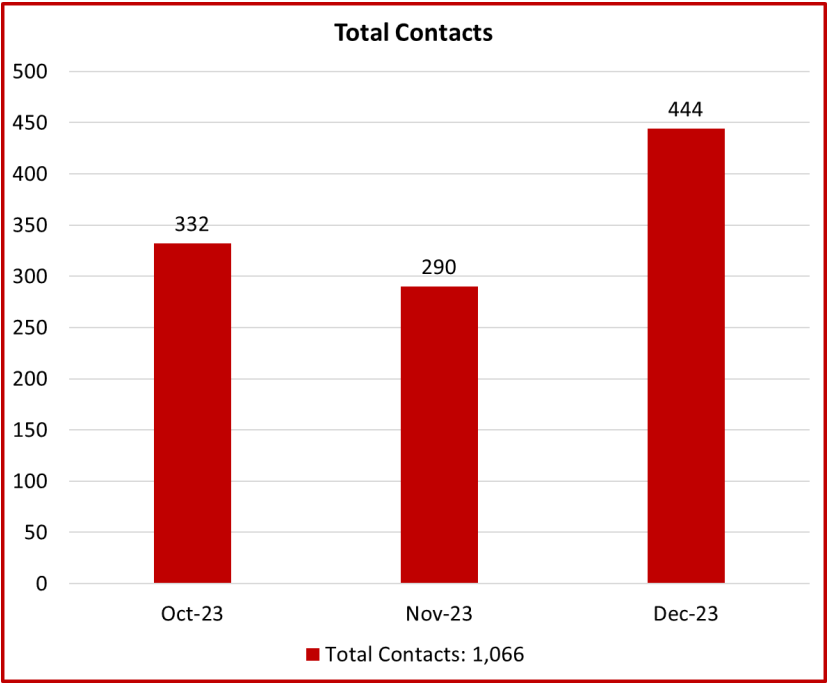


* Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)
 * Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)

● **Special Services Report – Care Transition Intervention (CTI)**

- During the 1st quarter, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 345 new clients.
- They made 1,066 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

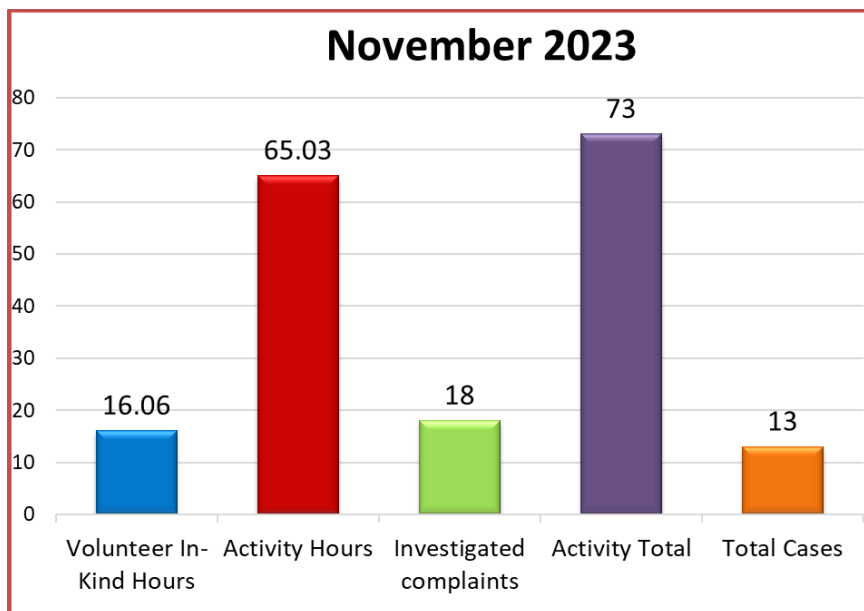
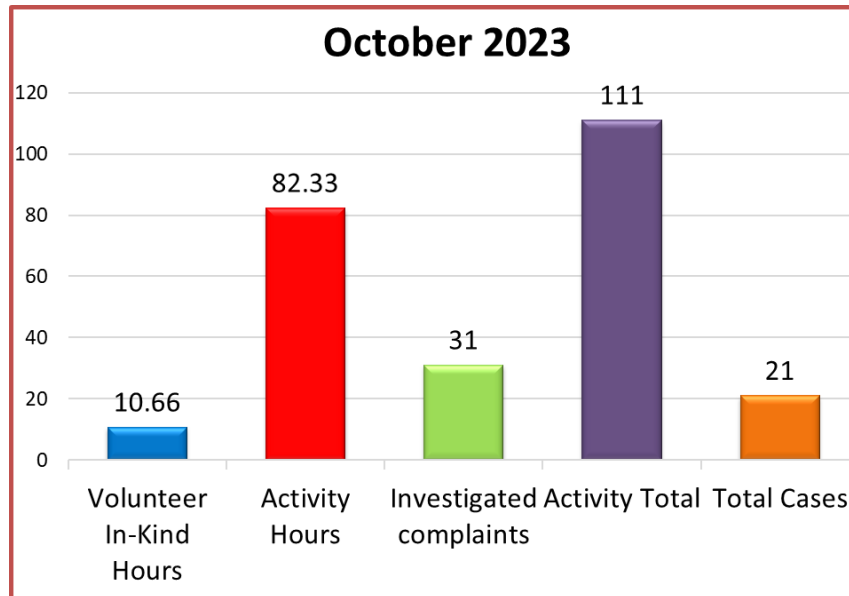


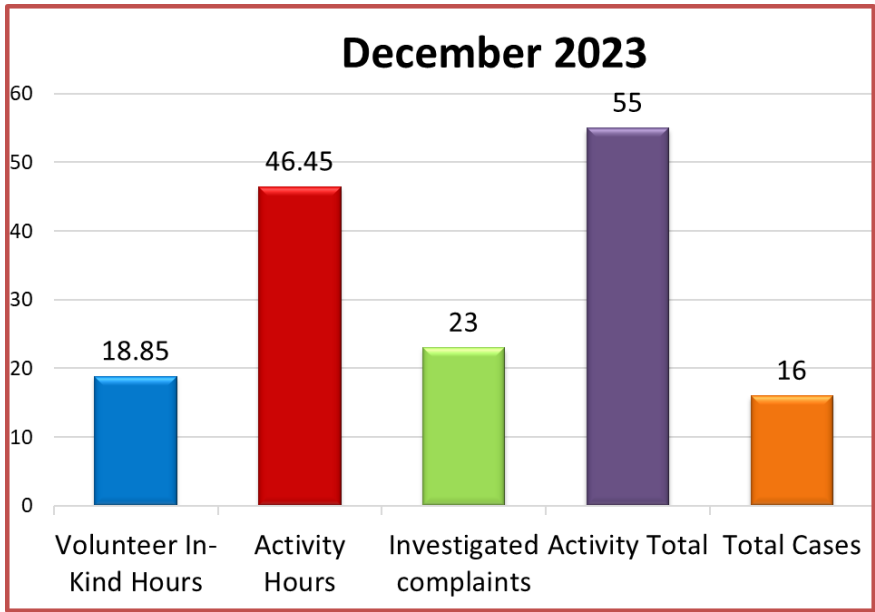


*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, and Mission Regional Medical Center

- **Special Services Report – Ombudsman Program**

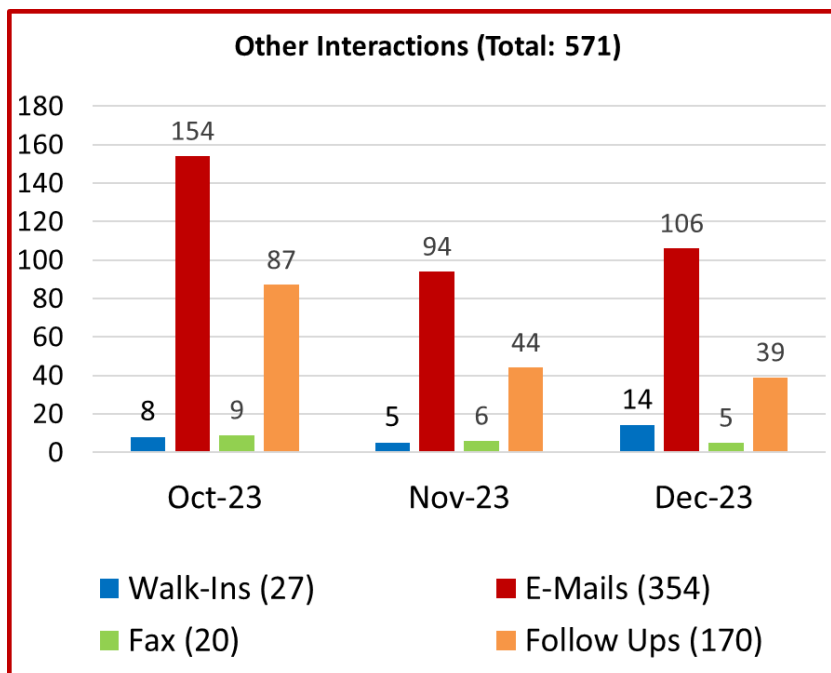
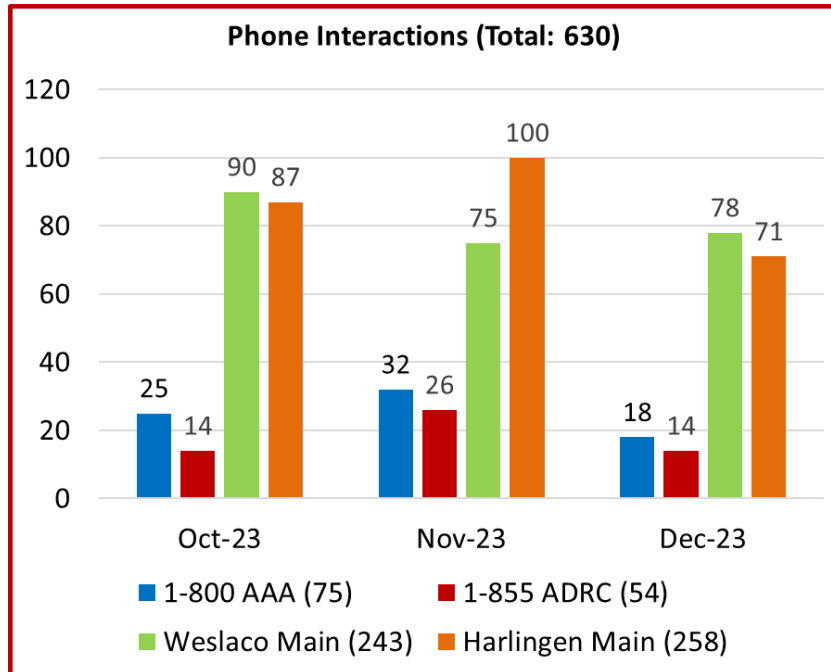
- The Ombudsman handled 72 complaints, successfully resolving 50 cases, with the remaining 22 not found to have a valid cause.
- They dedicated 193.81 activity hours and recorded 239 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 45.57 in-kind hours.

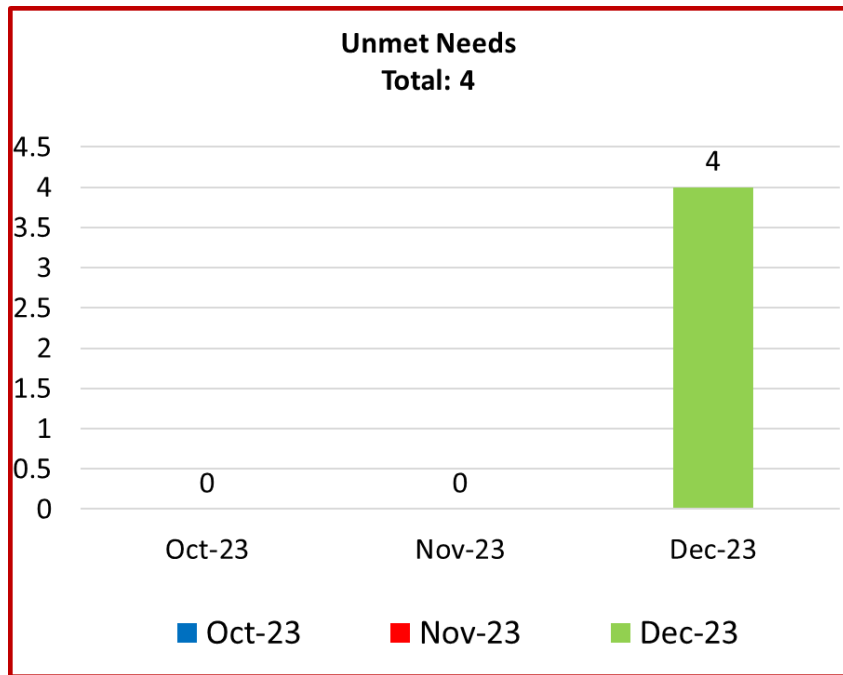




- **ADRC Report – Information Referral and Assistance**

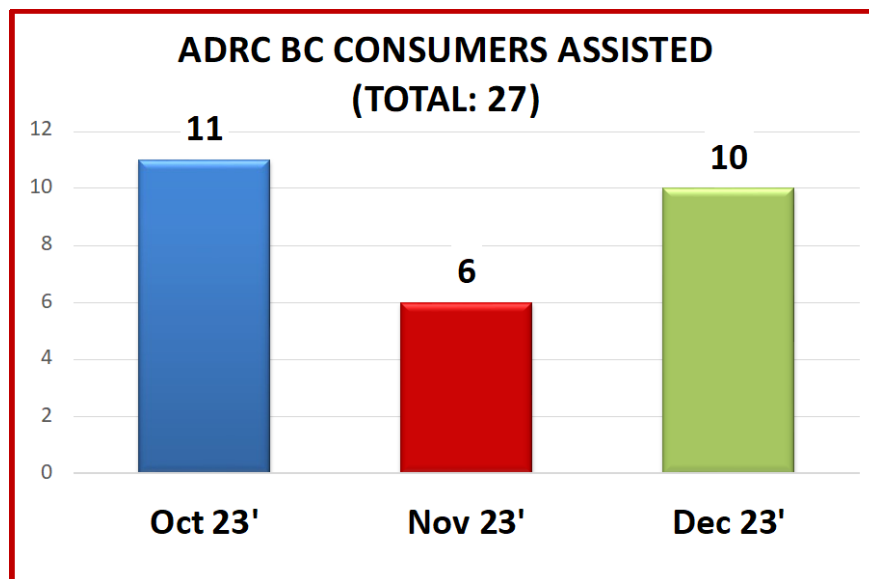
- The intake team had a total of 1,201 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- The IR&A identified a total of 4 individuals with unmet services as a result of passing away.

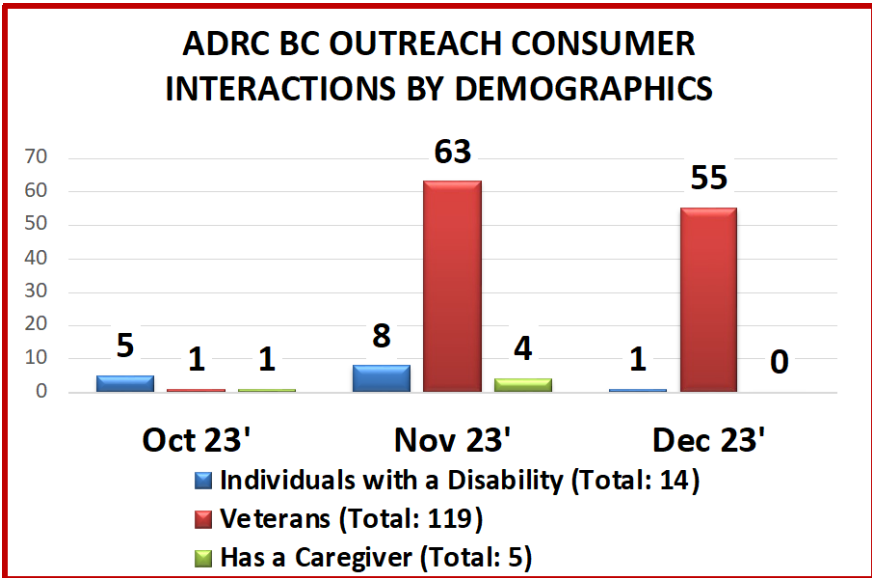
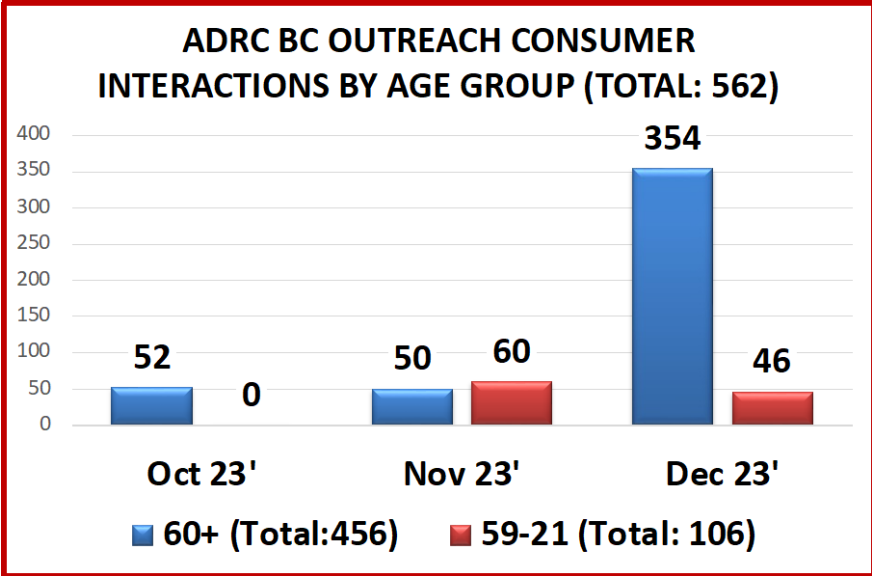




- **ADRC Report – Benefits Counseling**

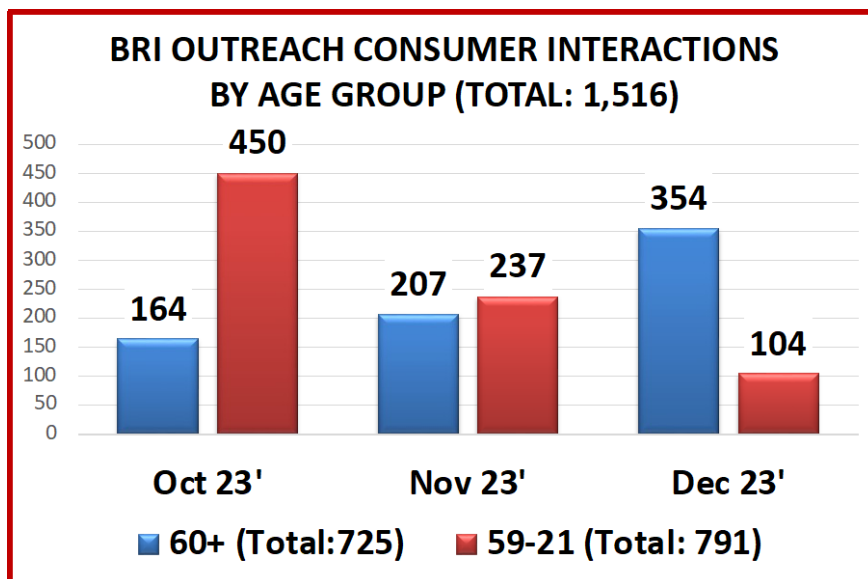
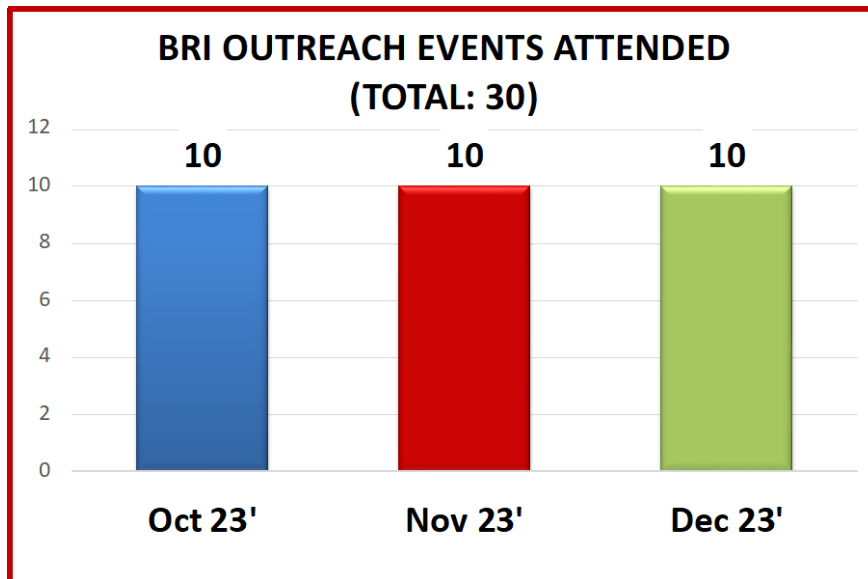
- Assisted 27 consumers by providing assistance with MIPPA, HICAP, and Legal Assistance cases.
- Engaged with 562 individuals, 456 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 106 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 14 individuals with a disability, 119 Veterans, and 5 individuals with a Caregiver.

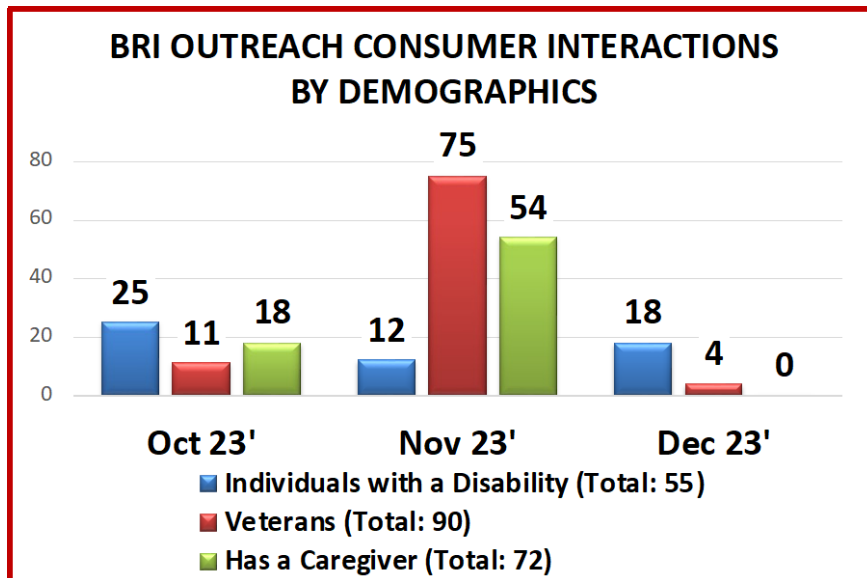




- **ADRC Report – Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant**

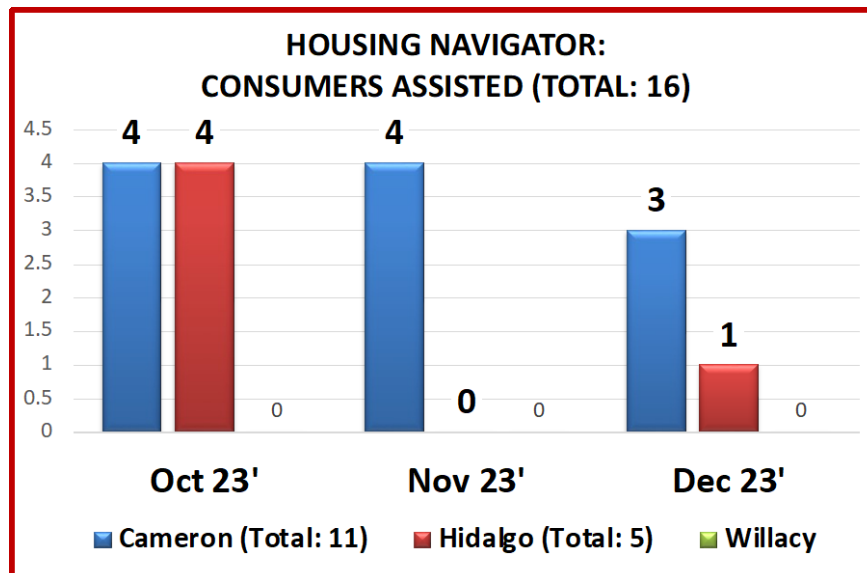
- Actively participated in 30 events, meetings, and coalitions, including two BRI Care Consultation Trainings reaching a total of 1,516 individuals, 725 were 60 years of age and above, 791 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 55 individuals with a disability, 90 Veterans, and 72 individuals with a Caregiver.



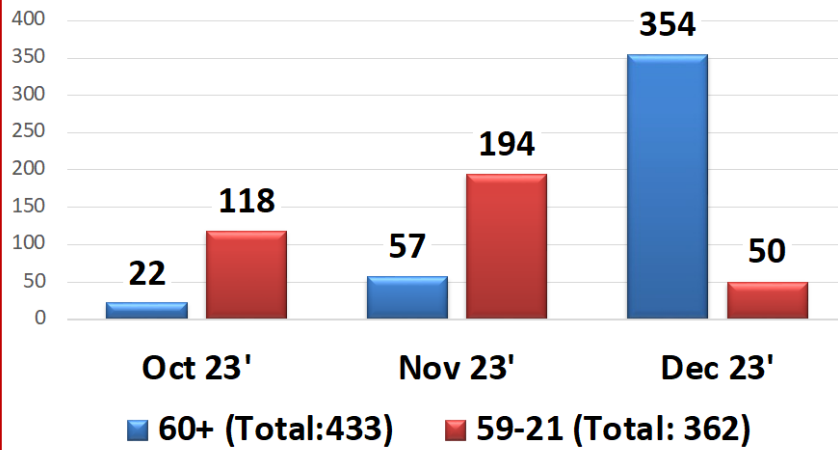


- **ADRC Report – Housing Navigator**

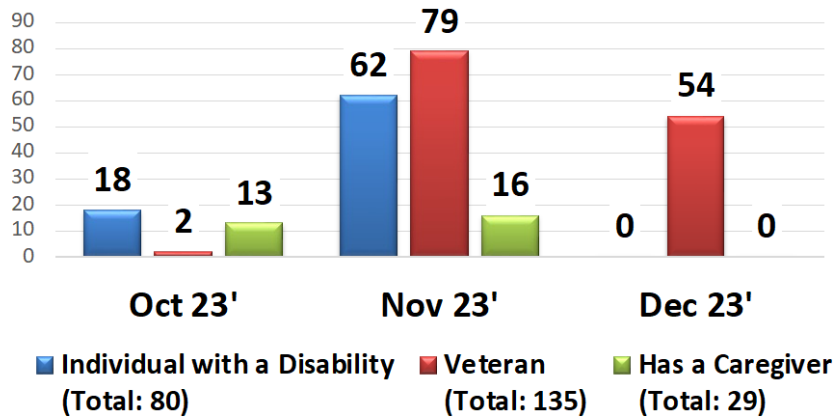
- Assisted 16 consumers with housing inquiries, offering tailored resources, showcasing the agency's excellence, and providing valuable support to community members facing housing challenges.
- Engaged with 795 individuals, 433 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 362 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 80 individuals with a disability, 135 Veterans, and 29 individuals with a Caregiver.



HOUSING NAVIGATOR: OUTREACH CONSUMER INTERACTIONS BY AGE GROUP (TOTAL: 795)

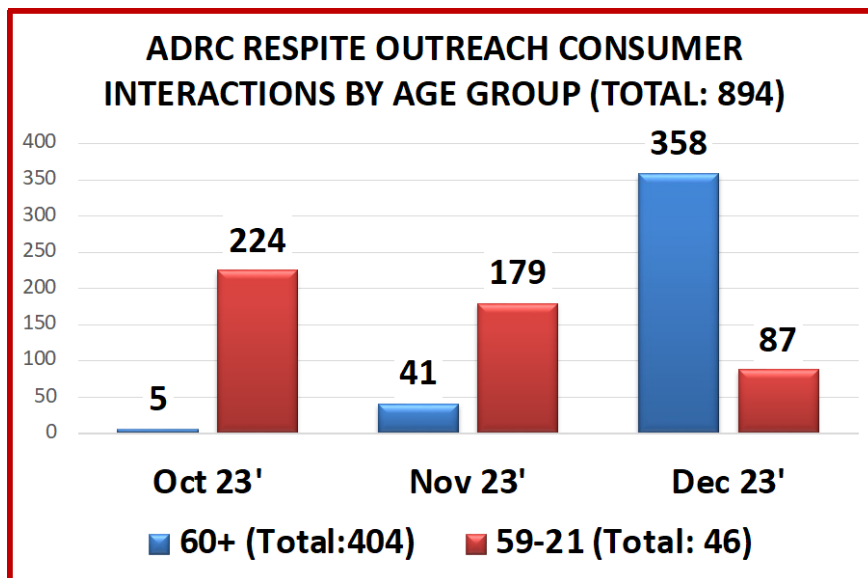
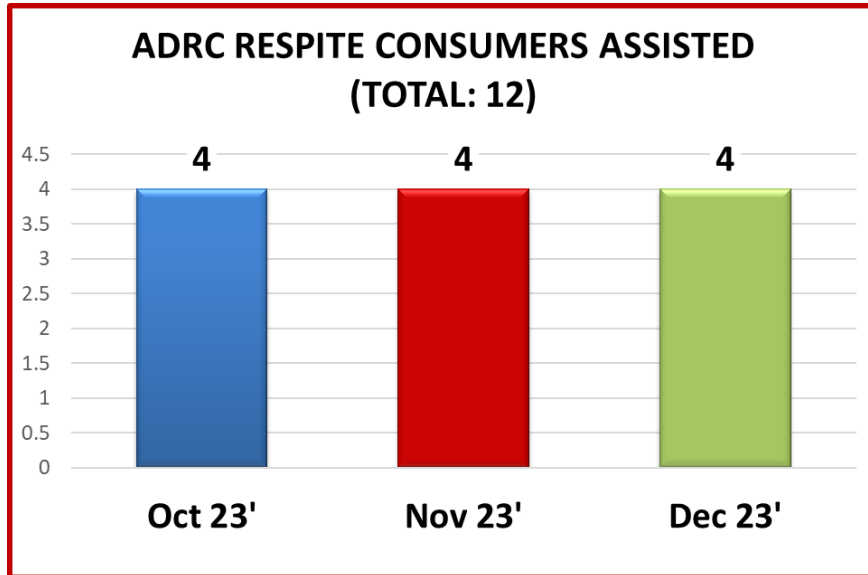


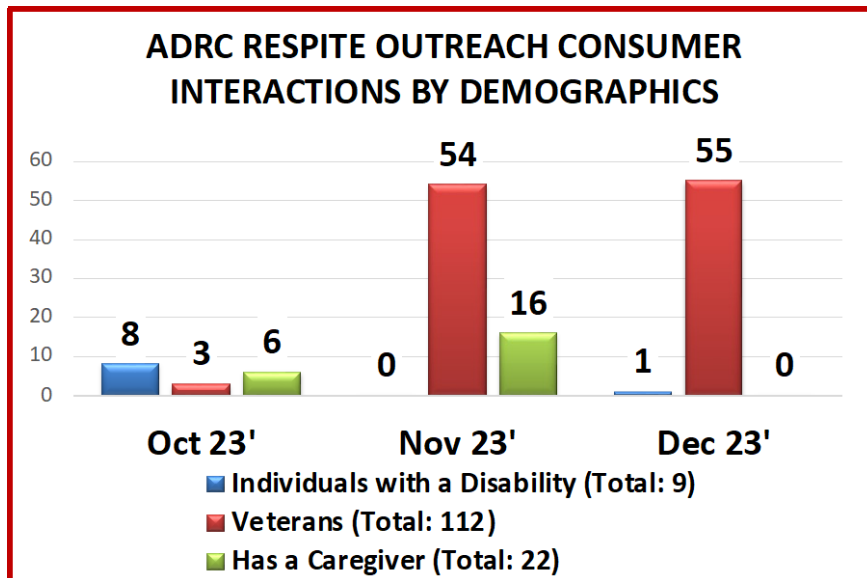
HOUSING NAVIGATOR OUTREACH CONSUMER INTERACTIONS BY DEMOGRAPHICS



- **ADRC Report – Respite Services**

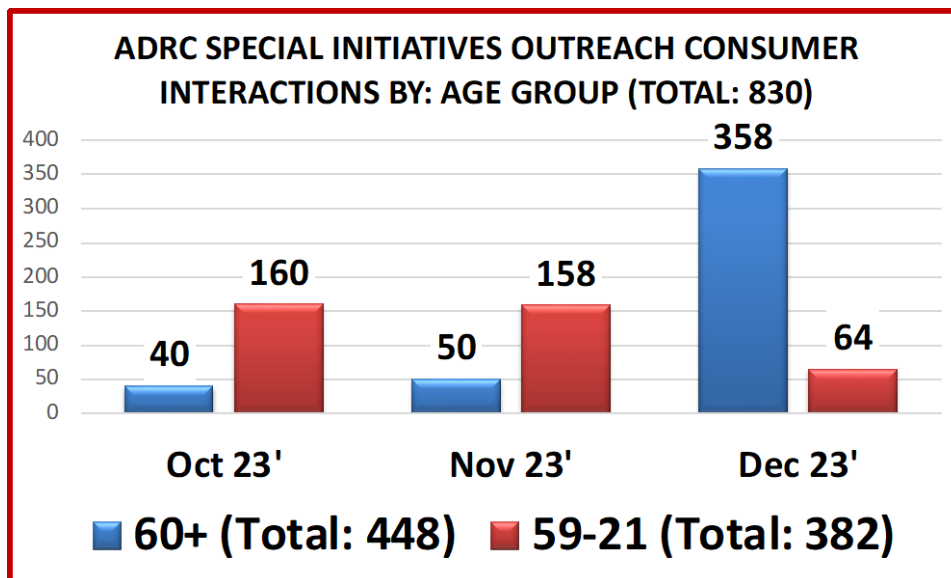
- Assisted 12 consumers seeking respite assistance.
- Engaged with 894 community members, 404 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 46 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 9 individuals with a disability, 112 Veterans, and 22 individuals with a Caregiver.

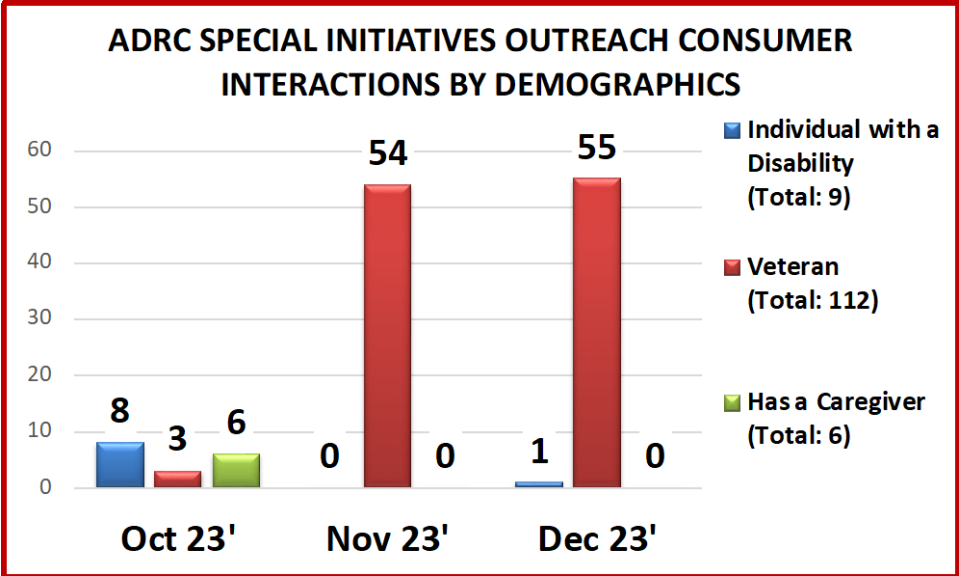




- **ADRC Report – Special Initiatives**

- Engaged with 830 individuals, 448 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 382 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 9 individuals with a disability, 112 Veterans, and 6 individuals with a Caregiver.





The AAA and ADRC's 1st quarter highlights encompassed a Veteran Fest in Brownsville attended by 300 individuals, a Veteran Appreciation Celebration in Harlingen with 400 attendees, and the distribution of over 150 heaters.

ITEM #5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve resolutions for FY 2024-25 Homeland Security Grant Funding.

As part of the Public Safety Office's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) grants guidelines, the application must include a resolution that contains information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of an application.

The LRGVDC Homeland Security program will manage the following grant projects:

- a) COG-21 Homeland Security Regional Planning
- b) Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resolution: COG-21 Homeland Security Regional Planning

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the COG-21 Homeland Security Regional Planning project to be operated for 09/01/2024 – 8/31/2025.

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the COG-21 Homeland Security Regional Planning project.

Passed and approved this 31st day of January 2024.

Signed by:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the resolution for FY 2024-25
Coordinator for the Regional Fire Academy.

As part of the Public Safety Office's Regional Fire Academy grant guidelines applications from nonprofit organizations must include a resolution that contains specific information, such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of the application to HSGD. Upon approval, the resolution will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline of February 8.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resolution: Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy project to be operated for 11/01/2024 – 10/31/2025.

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy project.

Passed and approved this 31st day of January 2024.

Signed by:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the resolution for FY 2023-2024 Coordinator for the Regional Fire Academy. The dates are being updated to match updated grant policies as recommended by the Governor's Public Safety Office.

As part of the Public Safety Office's Regional Fire Academy grant guidelines applications from nonprofit organizations must include a resolution that contains specific information, such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of the application to HSGD. Upon approval, the resolution will be uploaded in eGrants on or before the grant deadline of February 8.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resolution: Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC region that the Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy project to be operated for 11/01/2023 – 10/31/2024.

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the Coordinator for Regional Fire Academy project.

Passed and approved this 31st day of January 2025.

Signed by:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, LRGVDC President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) recommendation to accept scoresheets for HSGD FY 2024-2025 grant projects.

The HSAC met on January 4 and recommended approval of the attached recommendation to accept scoresheets for HSGD FY 2024-2025 grant projects.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee recommendation to accept scoresheets for CJD FY 2024-2025 grant projects.

The CJAC met on January 10 and recommended approval of the attached recommendation to accept scoresheets for CJD FY 2024-2025 grant projects.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

6. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) membership renewals.

The CJAC convened on December 6, 2023, to discuss and approve reappointed members for 2024. This recommendation requires Board Approval. As per the CJAC bylaws, member terms are for two (2) years. The recommendation requires Board action.

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Membership Reappointments:

- David K. Longoria
- Gloria Ocampo
- Laura Soule
- Luis Sáenz
- Antonio “Rick” Gonzalez
- Carla Rodríguez
- Patrick Kelley McCormick – Vice Chair
- Annette Hinojosa – Parliamentarian
- Benjamin Clinton
- Raul Garza

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety Cesar Merla, Assistant Program Director

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting on January 10, 2024, in the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff hosted the Grant Workshop Webinar for the Criminal Justice Department on December 29, 2023.
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting on December 6, 2023, in the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff attended the TEEEX Active Shooter Training on December 5, 2023, at the Region One Education Center in Edinburg, TX,

Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Ready RGV Conference Planning Meeting #3 on January 25, 2024, at the LRGVDC Small Boardroom.
- Staff hosted the RGV Regional Response Group on January 25, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff attended webinar for FEMA “Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Resources for Artist and Art and Cultural Institutions” on January 23, 2024.
- Staff attended virtual meeting with Sam Houston State University, Institute of Homeland Security Department in Huntsville, TX on January 17, 2024.
- Staff attended the virtual Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD) Regional Conference call on January 11, 2024.
- Staff attended the LEPC Emergency Planning Committee meeting on January 10, 2024, at the Cameron County/Brownsville, TX,

- Staff attended the training for the Coordinated Response Exercise Pipeline Safety on January 8, 2024, in Brownsville, TX.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting on January 4, 2024, in the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff hosted the Grant Workshop Webinar for the Homeland Security Department on December 29, 2023.
- Staff attended virtual the Homeland Security Grant Division (HSGD) Regional Conference call on December 14, 2023.
- Staff attended Sam Houston University Drone Demo on December 13, 2023, at the Texas Southmost College in Brownville, TX.
- Staff hosted the Sam Houston University Sim Table Demo on December 11, 2023, in the Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff hosted the Regional Response Working Group meeting 2 on December 7, 2023, in the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board Room.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting on December 7, 2023, in the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom.
- Staff attended the Veteran Appreciation Day on December 6, 2023, at the Harlingen Convention Center, Harlingen, TX.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting, General Membership & Corporation Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

LRGV Academy Status Reports

- In December, the 17 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy completed active training courses, including Emergency Medical, Baton, and Body-Worn Cameras.
- As of Thursday, December 7, 2023, the 21 cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy fulfilled the mandated 24 hours for Chapter 23 Standardized Field Sobriety training, conducted by DPS instructors Rodriguez and Gonzalez.
- On December 28th and 29th, the 21 cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first LRGV Academy session to complete ALERRT training, conducted by DPS. This training is of utmost importance as it will be mandated in the upcoming curriculum update.
- In the final months of 2023, the LRGV Academy Staff closely collaborated with subcontractors to implement mandated curriculum updates by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) in preparation for the transition into the 1000736 Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) Curriculum.
- As of January 12, 2024, the 17 cadets from the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy successfully completed Chapter 41 Firearms training course, marking the conclusion of the BPOC Session. The graduation ceremony was held on January 26, 2024, at the El Tabernacle Church located in San Juan, Texas.
- In the third week of January, recruiting presentations were conducted by the Pharr Police Department and the Nueces County Sheriff's Office for both active 222nd and 223rd Cadets.
- As of January 23, 2024, the 21 cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy completed the mandatory 40 hours of Chapter 31 Arrest and Control active training.
- In January, the LRGV Academy staff successfully finalized the Interlocal Academy Site Agreements with both the Harlingen Police Department and the Mission Police Department. Anticipated tentative academy sessions in collaboration with these departments are planned for Spring 2024.
- Currently, the LRGV Academy is in the process of conducting entrance exams for the upcoming Spring 2024 academy sessions.

Pictured below are the cadets of the 222nd Weslaco Night Academy after successfully completing Chapter 41 Firearms Training



Pictured below are the cadets of the 223rd Mission Day Academy before preparing to tackle Chapter 31 Arrest & Control



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

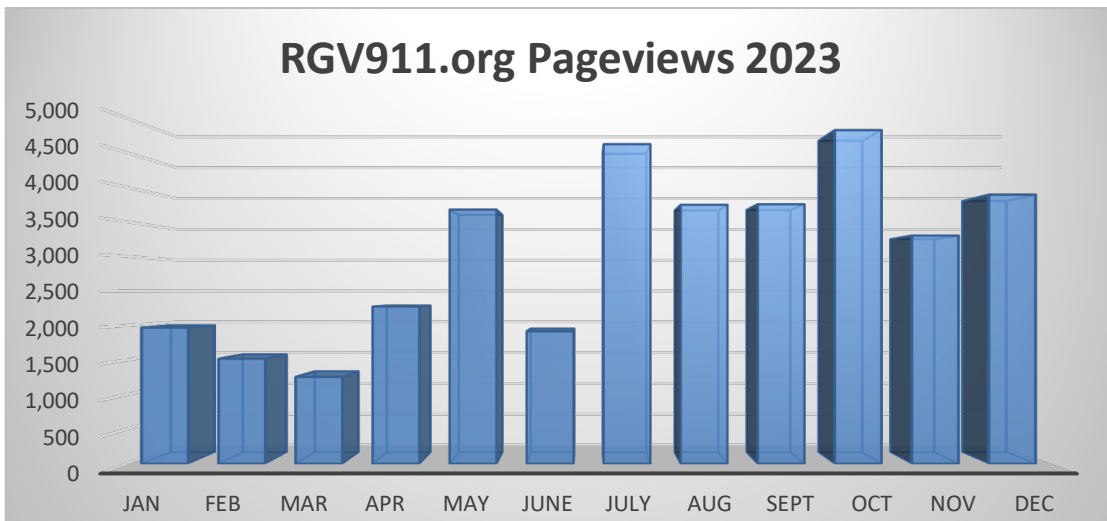
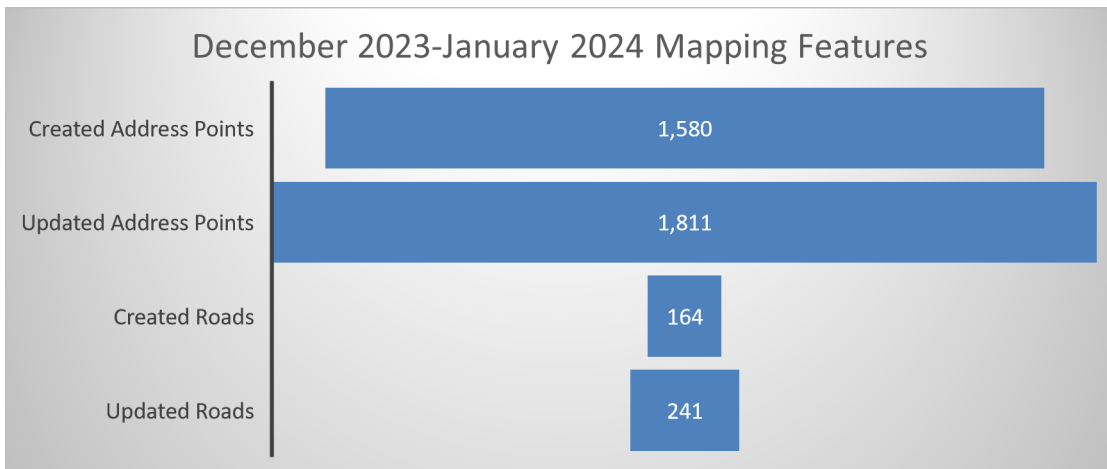
Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at www.rgv911.org. The GIS team has uploaded several informational maps that other public entities, and the public can readily download. This data has streamlined our general information request process. Following our GeoSpatial Strategic plan. We have completed creating our new Address Ticketing system called Rubicon. We have begun Soft Launch of Rubicon to work out any potential kinks in the system. This will let us make sure the entire process is streamlined before adding the request functionality to our www.rgv911.org website.



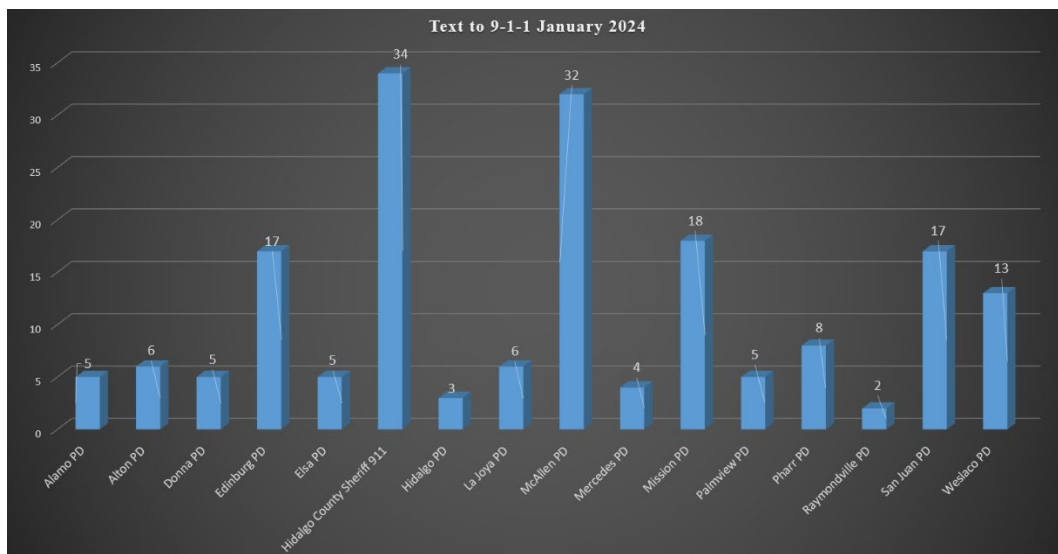
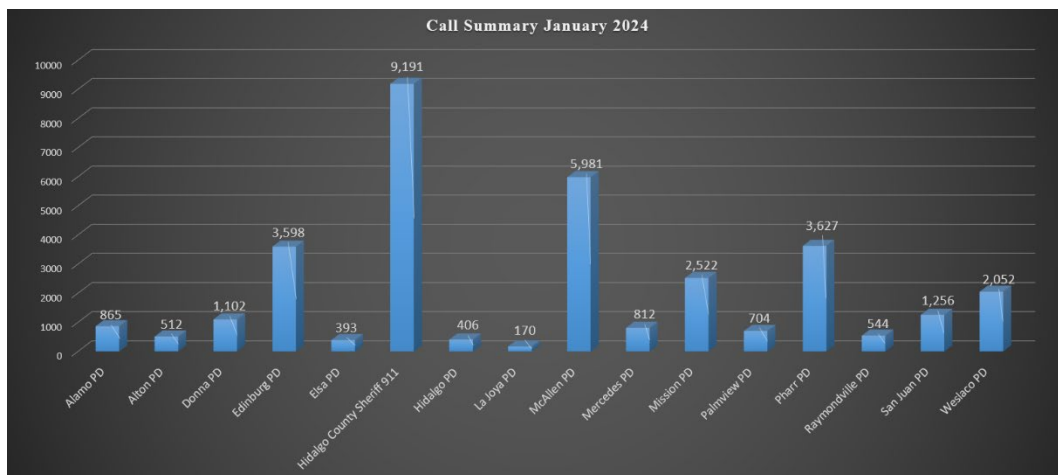
- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The 9-1-1 | Information Technology team is into the final steps of our UPS upgrade project; previous electrical assessments required our Mission PSAP backroom to undergo an upgrade to the electrical infrastructure and we are collaborating with our vendors to have this final piece completed by mid-February.

We have completed our first quarter audit cycle at each of the 17 PSAPs, going through the various 9-1-1 equipment checking for any issues, basic upkeep, inventory assessments and keeping up with the PSAP staff and any issues they may need taken care of to keep operations in optimal running order.

We will be scheduling our quarterly PSAP committee group meeting with all the PSAP supervisors in the coming weeks. As outlined, our plan is to start the meetings in the first quarter 2024 and continue throughout the year to help address any concerns and update them on projects that directly affect them.

Our continuing goal is to ensure our 9-1-1 call delivery systems are in optimal working order to maintain 99.9% operational efficiency to serve our public safety partners and the community.



- Community Engagement Division

December, the year's final month, is undoubtedly a fun and bustling period, brimming with festive activities. The events during this time are imbued with the spirit of Christmas and joy, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Amidst the celebrations, it's noteworthy that we remained steadfast in our commitment to keeping the community informed about the crucial importance of 9-1-1. Despite the merriment, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community through awareness and information has been a priority throughout the joyful December festivities.

2ND Annual Vet Fest, December 6, 2023, in Harlingen.

We enjoyed attending the LRGVDC 2nd annual VET FEST in Harlingen, which is dedicated to honoring our veterans. The event was a fantastic blend of games, entertainment, and meaningful conversations with the community, mainly focused on promoting awareness about texting 9-1-1 and Kari's Law. It was an uplifting experience, bringing together people to express gratitude for our veterans' sacrifices while highlighting important initiatives for community safety.

Mission Police Department's Pictures with Santa, December 9th, 2023. We experienced an absolute blast of fun. The atmosphere was filled with joy as children engaged in coloring activities, showcasing their creativity. During the festivities, we took the opportunity to impart crucial knowledge to the kids, emphasizing the importance of learning their addresses and essential phone numbers. Additionally, we educated them on the significance of texting 9-1-1 in case of emergencies. It was a wonderful occasion where laughter, learning, and the holiday spirit merged seamlessly, creating lasting memories for the children and the community.

Weslaco Christmas Parade, December 9th, 2023. We're excited to share that we participated in the Weslaco Christmas parade, and oh my, what fun we had spreading holiday cheer! Our theme for the parade was inspired by the classic tale, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and the crowd loved it. Dressed as the Whos from Whoville and the mischievous Grinch himself, our team marched through the streets, engaging with the community, and bringing smiles to both young and old faces. It was a celebration, and we're grateful for the opportunity to share the season's spirit with everyone in Weslaco.

Career Day at J.P. Lenoir Elementary School in Donna, December 15, 2023. Career Day for elementary children is crucial as it provides young minds with valuable insights into various professions, helping them explore their interests and aspirations early on. Today, RGV9-1-1 played a significant role in this educational endeavor by participating in Career Day at J.P. Lenoir Elementary School in Donna. By engaging with professionals from the emergency response sector, the students not only gained knowledge about the vital work of 9-1-1 operators but also instilling a sense of inspiration and fostering awareness, the participation of RGV9-1-1 in Career Day at J.P. Lenoir Elementary School exposed students to the array of potential career paths awaiting them in the future.

LRGVDC 2nd Annual Vet Fest Harlingen



We had the pleasure of attending the LRGVDC 2nd annual VET FEST in the city of Harlingen, dedicated to honoring our veterans. The event was a fantastic blend of games, entertainment, and meaningful conversations with the community, particularly focused on promoting awareness about texting 9-1-1 and Kari's Law. It was an uplifting experience, bringing together people to express gratitude for the sacrifices of our veterans while also highlighting important initiatives for community safety.



Mission Police Department's Picture with Santa



We experienced an absolute blast of fun. The atmosphere was filled with joy as children engaged in coloring activities, showcasing their creativity. During the festivities, we took the opportunity to impart crucial knowledge to the kids, emphasizing the importance of learning their addresses and essential phone numbers. Additionally, we educated them on the significance of texting 9-1-1 in case of emergencies. It was a wonderful occasion where laughter, learning, and the holiday spirit merged seamlessly, creating lasting memories for both the children and the community.



Weslaco Christmas Parade



Happy holidays from everyone at RGV9-1-1! We're excited to share that we participated in the Weslaco Christmas parade, and oh my, what fun we had spreading holiday cheer! Our theme for the parade was inspired by the classic tale, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and the crowd absolutely loved it. Dressed as Whos from Whoville and the mischievous Grinch himself, our team marched through the streets, engaging with the community and bringing smiles to the faces of both young and old. It was a joyous celebration, and we're grateful for the opportunity to share the spirit of the season with everyone in Weslaco.



J.P. Lenoir Elementary School Career Day



Career Day for elementary children is crucial as it provides young minds with valuable insights into various professions, helping them explore their interests and aspirations early on. Today, RGV9-1-1 played a significant role in this educational endeavor by participating in Career Day at J.P. Lenoir Elementary School in the city of Donna. By engaging with professionals from the emergency response sector, the students not only gained knowledge about the vital work of 9-1-1 operators but also instilling a sense of inspiration and fostering awareness, the participation of RGV9-1-1 in Career Day at J.P. Lenoir Elementary School exposed students to the array of potential career paths awaiting them in the future.

ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION



Selected Consultant

Hidalgo County Active Transportation Plan

Presented by: Emmanuel Escobedo

Update #1



Items to be Discussed:

1. Hidalgo County Active Transportation Plan Overview
2. Projected Timeline
3. Met and Upcoming Milestones
4. Request for Information

Hidalgo County Active Transportation Plan Overview

Main Goal:

To Implement a comprehensive system encouraging biking and pedestrian activity throughout the region.

- ▶ Intent of this Plan:
 - ▶ To identify opportunities for the development of a regional network of bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
 - ▶ To display a comprehensive network of trails and facilities utilizing existing and planned roadway infrastructure.
 - ▶ To analyze existing marketing and programming for active tourism
- ▶ Anticipated completion in 12 months **(December 2024)**

Projected Timeframe

PROJECTED TIMEFRAME (12 months)												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
PHASES												
Project Management	*											
Phase 1: Startup, Define Study Areas, Existing Conditions												
Phase 2: Public Engagement			•		◊	•		•		•		•
Phase 3: Needs Assessment												
Phase 4: Strategies and Recommendations												
Phase 5: Strategies and Recommendations												
Phase 6: Active Tourism Recommendations												

*NTP (anticipated on or before 11.1.2023)

• Steering Committee Meetings

◊ Stakeholder

Milestones Met

November 2023	Notice to Proceed Executed
December 2023	Kick-off meeting
Q4 2023 & Q1 2024	Early coordination meetings between HALFF/VM/LRGVDC/RGVMPO/TxDOT

Upcoming Milestones

Monthly	Requests for Reinbursements
January 2024	Selection of Steering Committee members
Q1 2024	Request for Information (RFI) Completion
February 2024	First Steering Committee Meeting
March 2024	Public Engagement



Request for Information

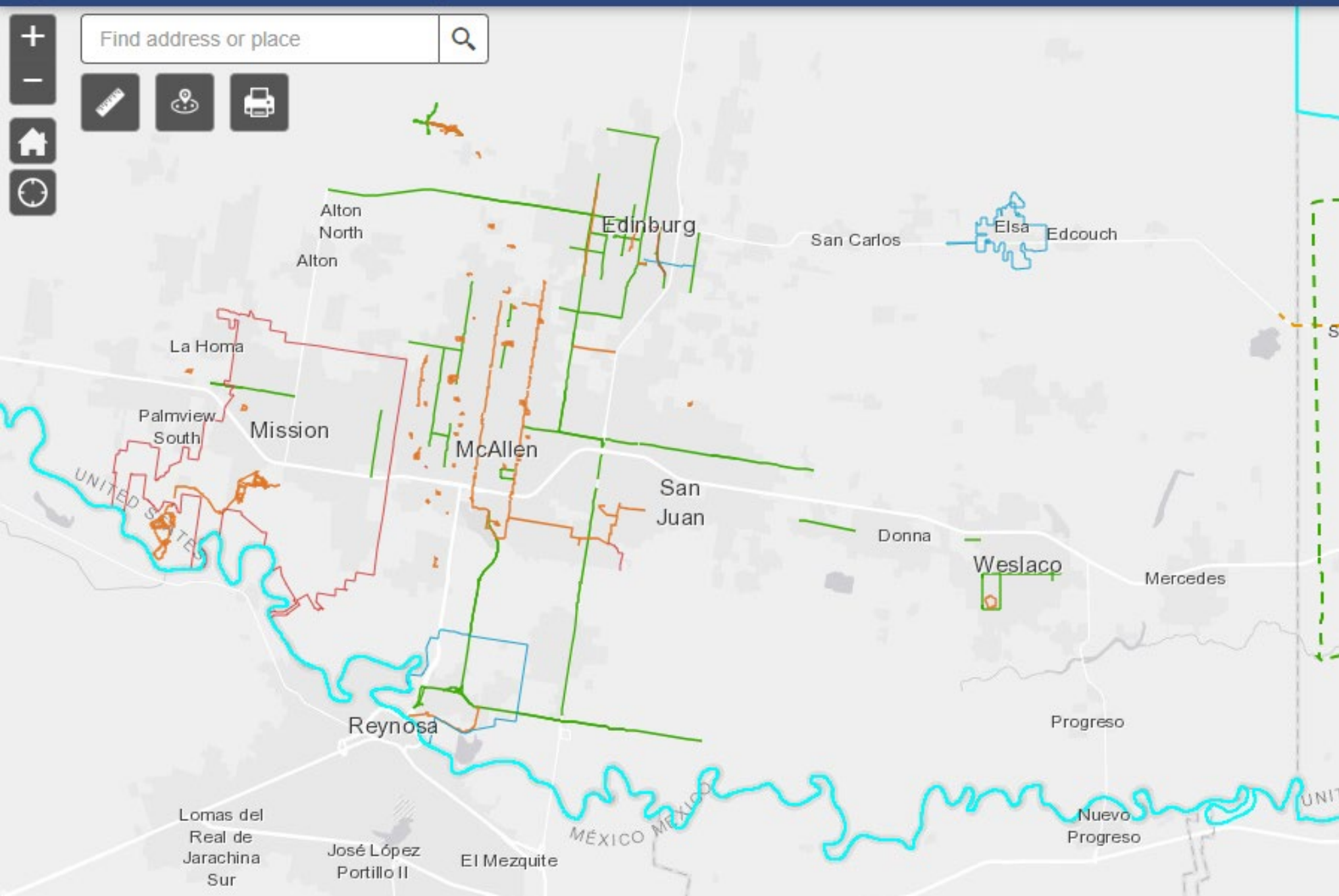
Kindly requesting all entities in Hidalgo County to share documents and data relevant and pertinent to the development of a thorough Plan.

Examples include:

- Public/Community Facilities
- Infrastructure Information
- Demographics data
- Capital Improvement Plans
- Images of Active Transportation
- Studies
- Reports
- Policies
- Agreements
- Resolutions
- Grants



Find address or place



RGVMPO TASA Projects

- Program Call
- 2023-2024
- 2021-2022

Off Street Trail



On Street Bike Facility



Caracara Trails Map

- Planned Multi-Use Trail
- - - Planned USBR
- Existing Multi-Use Trail
- - - Planned Paddling Trail
- Existing Paddling Trail

RGVMPO MAB



Thank you!



Project Manager

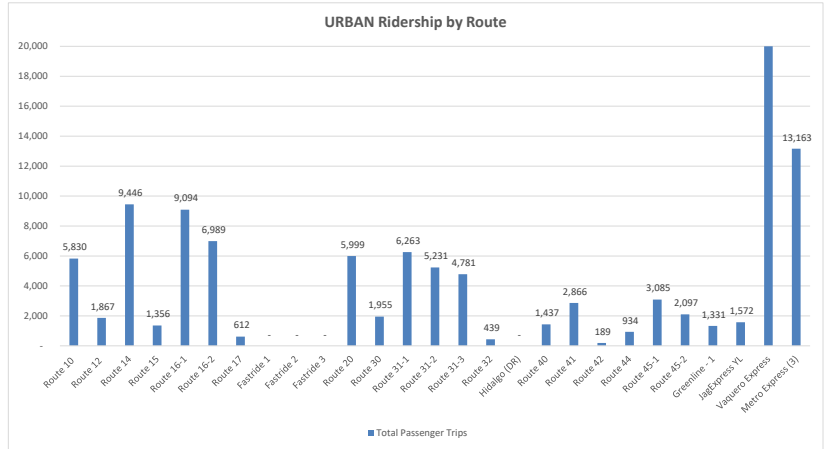
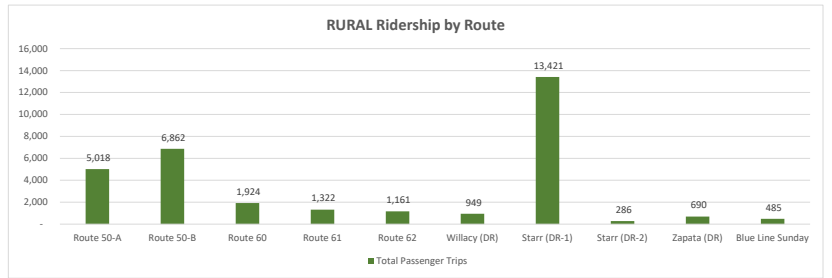
Emmanuel Escobedo

Email: eescobedo@lrgvdc.org

**RIDERSHIP COUNT
YEAR TO DATE FY 2024 (December)**

Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
RURAL			
Route 50-A	5,018	2%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
Route 50-B	6,862	2%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
Route 60	1,924	1%	Roma, Rio Grande City
Route 61	1,322	0%	Rio Grande City
Route 62	1,161	0%	Rio Grande City
Willacy (DR)	949	0%	Willacy County
Starr (DR-1)	13,421	4%	Starr County
Starr (DR-2)	286	0%	Starr County
Zapata (DR)	690	0%	Zapata County
Blue Line Sunday	485	0%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
URBAN			
Route 10	5,830	2%	Edinburg
Route 12	1,867	1%	Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg
Route 14	9,446	3%	Edinburg
Route 15	1,356	0%	Edinburg
Route 16-1	9,094	3%	Courthouse Circulator
Route 16-2	6,989	2%	Courthouse Circulator
Route 17	612	0%	Edinburg T-line
Fastride 1	-	0%	Edinburg
Fastride 2	-	0%	Hidalgo County
Fastride 3	-	0%	Cameron County
Route 20	5,999	2%	Mission
Route 30	1,955	1%	Pharr, San Juan
Route 31-1	6,263	2%	Cameron-Hidalgo County
Route 31-2	5,231	2%	Hidalgo-Cameron County
Route 31-3	4,781	1%	Cameron-Hidalgo County
Route 32	439	0%	Donna
Hidalgo (DR)	-	0%	City of Hidalgo
Route 40	1,437	0%	Harlingen
Route 41	2,866	1%	Harlingen
Route 42	189	0%	San Benito
Route 44	934	0%	Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa
Route 45-1	3,085	1%	Cameron County
Route 45-2	2,097	1%	Cameron County
Greenline - 1	1,331	0%	Rio Grande City
JagExpress YL	1,572	0%	Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen
Vaquero Express	212,325	64%	Edinburg
Metro Express (3)	13,163	4%	Rio Grande Valley
TOTAL	330,979	100%	

**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized



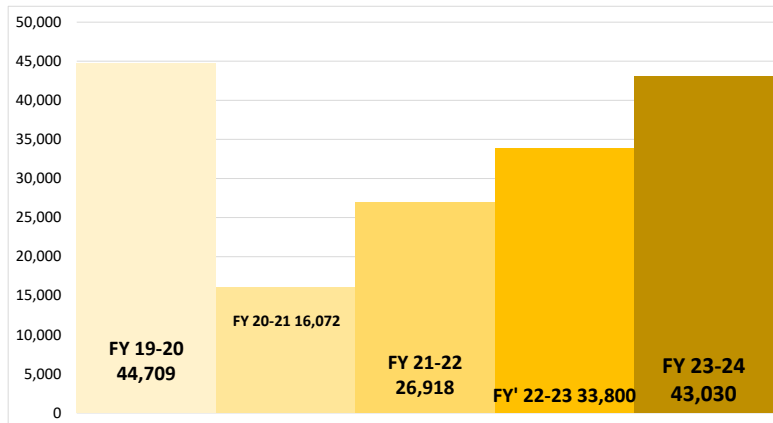
Active Routes	Rural	Urban	Total
Flex Routes	6	17	23
Demand Response	6	0	6
Fixed-Metro Express	0	3	3
	12	20	32

YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT

Year to Date - December 2023	Year to Date - December 2022	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
330,979	232,922	98,057	42%

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

* Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas



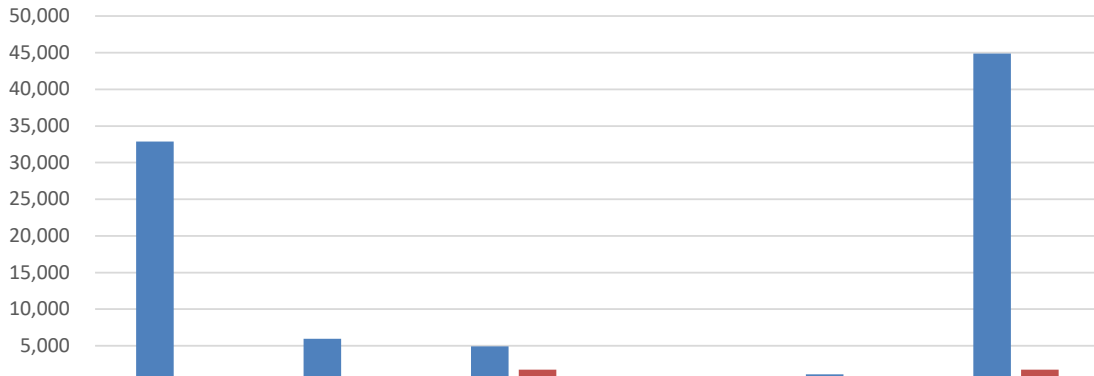
Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	Difference	%Change
FY' 2019-2020	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY' 2020-2021	17,149	19,332	16,190	16,072	16,620	14,611	19,300	18,169	18,080	19,842	19,774	31,381	226,520	-608,386	-73%
FY' 2021-2022	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	35,091	24,384	430,484	203,964	90%
FY' 2022-2023	69,699	71,269	58,154	33,800	47,975	66,785	62,828	63,687	36,978	34,870	33,997	50,988	631,030	200,546	47%
FY 2023-2024	106,620	100,219	81,110	43,030	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330,979	-99,505	-23%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	36,921	28,950	22,956	9,230	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	330,979	330,979	100%
Percent Change	53%	41%	39%	27%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-48%	-150%	-149%

Year to Date 2023-2024

Distribution of Revenue Hours

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	32,878	5,956	4918.93	-	1127.12	44,880
Demand Response	-	0	1,746			1,746

FY 23-24 YTD Revenue Hours



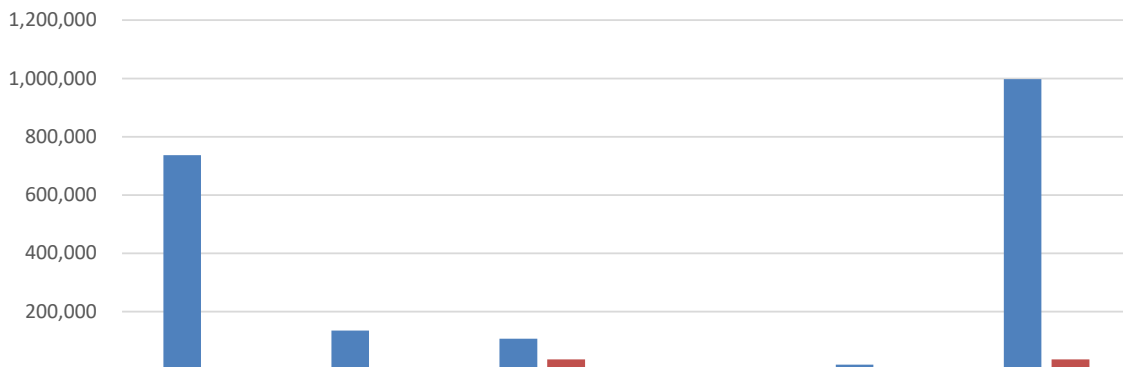
	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	32,878	5,956	4918.93	-	1127.12	44,880
Demand Response	-	0	1,746			1,746

Year to Date 2023-2024

Distribution of Revenue Miles

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	737,112	135,343	106,760	-	18,397	997,612
Demand Response	-	-	35,775			35,775

FY 23-24 YTD Revenue Miles



	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	737,112	135,343	106,760	-	18,397	997,612
Demand Response	-	-	35,775			35,775



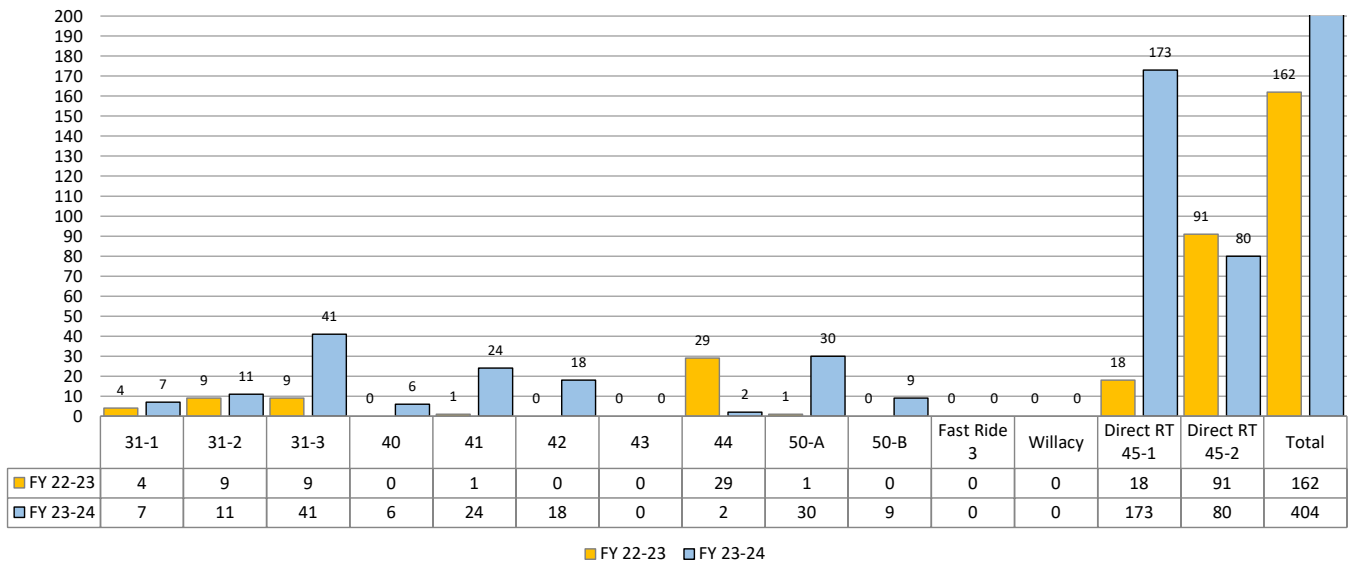
FY 2023-2024 Valley Metro

TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	31-3	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	0	0	7	2	6	0	0	1	7	2	0	0	83	28	137
October	1	0	2	3	5	8	0	0	5	3	0	0	62	29	119
November	0	7	19	1	9	5	0	1	9	1	0	0	7	15	74
December	6	4	13	0	4	5	0	0	9	3	0	0	21	8	74
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	7	11	41	6	24	18	0	2	30	9	0	0	173	80	404
FY 2023-2024	4	9	9	0	1	0	0	29	1	0	0	0	18	91	162
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	9	6	23	18	0	-27	29	9	0	0	155	-11	242

	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	111	91	148	22	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	401
Indirect Routes	25	27	27	52	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	176
Monthly Total	136	118	175	74	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	577

2023 - 2024 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board
of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status ReportTom Logan, Director of Regional Transit

- Ridership Report

Valley Metro provides regional transportation service of both **Rural** and **Urban** transit systems in the five-county region of the Rio Grande Valley. The **Urban System** is provided in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties and includes UTRGV Ridership. Services run Monday – Saturday from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. The **Rural System** operates in the rural areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties. Services run Monday – Sunday from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Breakdown of Ridership per system:

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM					
Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	40,791	29,294	24,112	22,483	116,680
UTRGV	65,221	70,258	56,528	20,318	212,325
STC	472	549	396	155	1,572
TSTC	136	118	74	74	402
Total	106,620	100,219	81,110	43,030	330,979

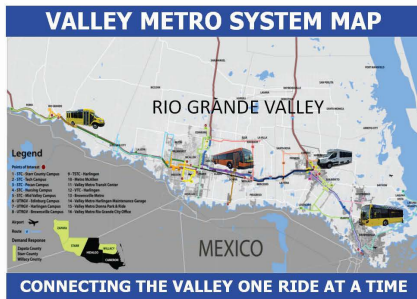
Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:

- RTAP Sub-committee will hold its next meeting on January 23, 2024, November 28, 2023. Assessment of the needs and gaps of the 5-Year Transit Plan is ongoing and discussed in detail. Committee members have provided suggestions on how to accomplish those needs. LRGVDC Valley Metro was awarded a TXDOT grant in the amount of \$40,000 to continue assessing and meeting the needs and gaps of the 5-year Transit Plan. The sub-committee meets bi-monthly.
- Valley Metro’s Planning Department staff continues to hold public involvement events. The events highlight the modes of travel available to the public within their perspective city and region. We are currently working on realigning routes to incorporate the new San Juan Terminal.



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

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 TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

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 #6
Executive
Session

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #6 Executive Session

- A. Personnel Matters under Section 551-074 (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee RE: Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Item #6 Executive Session

B. Reconvene into an Open Session to Consider **ACTION**, if any on the items Related to the Executive Session as described above.