

**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, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 12:00 Noon**

Audio access is available by calling: +1 (646) 749-3122, Access Code: 717-153-789

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 for  
(April 24, 2024).....President

**Item #3: Public Comment**

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

**A.** Consideration and **ACTION** on Recommendations from Nominating  
Committee.....**President**

- 1. Selection of Five (5) Persons for election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership
  - 2. Selection of Three (3) At – Large members to be elected to the 2024/2025 Board of Directors
- B.** Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the LRGVDC’s participation in the Texas Passenger Rail  
Advisory Committee and sign the Committee’s charter. .... **Manuel Cruz**  
**Executive Director**

C. Executive Director Report

- 1. Introduction of New Employees
- 2. 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 RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) Bylaws.
- 2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) membership.
- 3. Consideration and ACTION to Approve EDAC Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) elections of Officers. As per the RSCC EDAC Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the Chair and Vice-chair.
- 4. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Texas Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2025-2026.
- 5. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Grant Between LRGVDC and TCEQ.
- 6. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the Interlocal Agreement of Contracting Services Agreement between Cameron County and the LRGVDC and Hidalgo County and the LRGVDC.

Program Status Reports

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

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

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

Program Status Reports

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program

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

1. Consideration and ACTION to accept the appointment of all current LRGV Academy Advisory Committee Members as of March 20, 2024.
2. Consideration and ACTION to accept Raymondville Chief of Police Uvaldo Zamora as Vice Chair for the LRGV Academy Advisory Committee.
3. Consideration and ACTION to amend the update sections in the LRGV Academy BPOC Rules, Policies, and Procedures Handbook.
4. Consideration and ACTION to amend the requirements for documentation and retention of all LRGV Academy police in-service training files.
5. Consideration and ACTION to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Alton Texas by and through the Alton Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

- Program Status Reports
- Regional Police Academy Status Report

R Emergency Communication District ..... Dennis Moreno  
Assistant Director

- Program Status Reports
- GIS Division
  - 9-1-1 | Information Technology
  - Community Engagement Division

- D. Transportation ..... Tom Logan  
Director
1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Software Subscription Renewal for LRGVDC Valley Metro.
- Valley Metro Status Reports
- Ridership Report
- Rio Grande Valley MPO Action Item.....Luis Diaz  
Interim Executive Director
1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the procurement of replacement loggers, batteries, and software subscription for the Rio Grande Valley Bicycle & pedestrian Counter Program.

Item #7 New or Unfinished Business

Item #8 Adjourn

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, June 26, 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 sign up to do so before the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to address issues or topics under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC. For issues or topics that are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, LRGVDC members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action or discussion shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the posted agenda for the meeting. Public members 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**  
**MEETING OF THE**  
**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT**  
**COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, April 24, 2024

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

- DRAFT

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was attained. They moved on to Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present:** Mayor Norie Gonzalez

Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large  
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville  
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg  
Omar Quintanilla, City of McAllen  
Ruben Saldana, City of Mercedes  
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville  
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San Benito  
Mr. Richard Sanchez, UTRGV  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College  
Luke Lucio, TSTC  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake ID  
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy County Navigation Dist.  
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large

**Absent:**

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen  
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County  
Mayor Adrian Gonzalez, City of Weslaco  
Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County  
Mayor J.R Garza, City of Alamo  
Commissioner Betty Rodriguez, City of La Villa  
Mayor Mike Carter, City of Laguna Vista  
Mayor Jaime Gonzalez, City of Los Indios  
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, City of Pharr  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan  
Mr. Eleazar Garcia Jr, Member at Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Without questions from the board, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #2.

#### Item #2: Meeting Minutes

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2024. **Richard Sanchez motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2024. Ms. Ellie Torres seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Item #3: Public Comment: No Public Comment, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item #4.

#### Item #4: Administration

1. Presentation and **ACTION** to Accept Quarterly Investment Report. The presentation and report were in the packet provided to go over. **Troy Allen made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.**
2. Presentation on Texas Gas Service Case. Marie Michels presented a few slides of all the details for informational purposes only. This is just to share information with you for the filing that you will be seeing next month. Ms. Marie Michels explained all the slides shown to the board.

No comments or questions Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza then moved on to the Executive Director Report.

3. **Executive Director Report:** Mr. Cruz started by first and foremost introducing all new staff and all promotions. Mr. Cruz then moved on to the RMAC invitation letters and emails that were sent out to Cities & Board Members in early April. Reminded everyone that the Board had acted unanimously and we in consensus that mass transit was needed here in the Rio Grande Valley. He explained that this was the beginning stage of educating all Board Members and everyone on the current situation with transportation in the region. He then stated that he was hopeful for assistance from the legislators to try and update the current bill (SH 71) or formulate a bill to pass before future legislation sessions. Lastly, just a reminder that the invitation is for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10A.M. here at the Main LRGVDC Main Campus. Everyone is invited elected officials, city managers, judges, commissioners, economic development corporations, and bridge directors who received or will receive this letter.

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

#### Item #5 Department reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

**Status Reports:** Mrs. Melisa Gonzalez started by letting the Board know that the Community Economic Development department did not have any action items this month but that she did have a couple of announcements. Mrs. Gonzalez stated that Next Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> we will be having our kickoff meeting for the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Council (RGVEDAC). She explained that they did send invitations or save the dates to all the EDC, Universities, Chambers, and non-profits anyone they thought that could fall under the EDAC and invited them to join us on April 30 here at the Ken Jones board room from 10 am – 11:30 am. Mrs. Gonzalez then moves on to explain that their goal that day is to develop the bylaws to get them to the board for approval by May. The second announcement let them know that on Thursday, May 2 at 10 am, they will be having their public hearing for non-entitlement cities, so the Texas Community Development Block Grant is on May 2nd at 10 am. The final announcement is on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> they have partnered with COSTEP to provide elected officials training here at the Ken Jones Board Room from 9 am – 2 pm. Mrs. Gonzalez closed by letting the board know that her status reports were in the packet provided and that if any questions to go ahead and ask at this time.

## B. Health and Human Services Action Item:

Mrs. Margarita Lopez was recognized and started with 2 action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit operating plans for services (Sub-recipients) for the fiscal year from 10/1/2024 - 09/30/2025. ***Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the timeline for the Request for Proposals to solicit operating for services (Sub-recipients) for the fiscal year from 10/1/2024 – 09/30/2025. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Contractor solicitation timeline for the fiscal year from 10/1/2024 - 09/30/2025. ***Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Contractor Solicitation timeline for the fiscal year 10/01/2024-9/30/2025, Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

### Program Status Reports

Mrs. Lopez started by giving a huge shout-out to Mission Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mrs. Lopez mentioned to the board that they had received a phone call requesting collaborations to assist a family with a window of 2.5 weeks to complete this project with AAA alongside the City of Mission and they were able to repair this home within 2.5 weeks. Mrs. Lopez explained to the board that what was interesting about this project was the elderly lady had to be carried out utilizing comforters to be able to take her out of her home due to the poor conditions of the home entrance. There was an incident where she fell and broke her hip, and for the aging population, we all know what this means for other complications. It was extremely urgent that we were able to complete this project in that time frame and we were able to do the home modifications. We repaired the home and built a brand-new ramp, which now allows for medical stretchers to come up and pick her up at her doorstep, to take her for treatments. So, thank you so much to the City of Mission for your help and the wonderful team that you have on the screen, we get to provide guidance and allocate funds, but these people on the screen do all that footwork, so thank you so much to the City of Mission. Mrs. Lopez then stated that the City of Pharr with the CDBG funds allowed them for the first time to provide Homemaker Services. They provided us with 30,000 dollars and the 30,000 dollars are helping with lighthouse chores, and cooking, which is very important. Mrs. Lopez wanted to state that it is very important that they work together with the CDBG funds. Mrs. Lopez then went on and started explaining the slides that were included in the packet. Ann Cass then stated that she wanted to let everyone know that she had been seeing on television that maybe soon hit the Texas legislature to raise the salaries for the caretakers. Ann Cass went on and stated that in the Rio Grande Valley, our caretakers for both the elderly and children with special needs, are very, very low compared to the rest of the state. Ann Cass ends it with "I hope that people will pay attention to that legislation and support the increase to those who are caring for the people that have special needs.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Norie Garza moved on to C Public Safety.

## C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Program Action Items.

Mr. Cesar Merla was recognized and started with the action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grand (JAG) Program Rankings and resolution. ***Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance***

***Grand (JAG) Program Rankings and resolution, Ramiro Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committees (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund SF Program. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund SF Program. Troy Allen seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) Program Rankings and Resolution. ***Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) Program Rankings and Resolution. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution. ***Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Victim of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for FY 2024-2025 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) program Rankings and Resolution. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Recommendation for the FY 2024-2025 Violence Against Woman Formula Grant (WF) program Rankings and Resolution. Troy Allen seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
6. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution for FY 2024-2025 Non-Profit Security Grant Funding. ***Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Resolution for FY 2024-2025 Non-Profit Security Grant Funding. Ellie Torres seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mr. Merla stated that the HLS CJ reports were attached to the Packet provided. He did mention a couple of important dates coming up that weren't on the report due to being confirmed just days ago. They are as follows, September 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> the TEEEX Training on Emergency Operations for key leaders will take place in our Ken Jones Board Room. Then on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, another TEEEX training but this time for elective officials. This is encouraged since our elected officials are the most senior officials in the incident command process and the incident command response. So, for those of you who are interested, it's not a requirement, however. But it's a good idea because your emergency managers are at the city and county level.

So, on to the Ready RGV Conference kickoff is coming up soon for our region. Ready RGV conference registration numbers are at 190 participants that are already on board, and ready to go. So, it should be a very fun event and a fun couple of days.

No further Question Mayor Garza moved on to Police Academy.

Mr. Javier Solis started with Academy Action Items.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the county of Hidalgo Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the Authority for LRGVDC executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the county of Hidalgo Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 4 Office, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the Authority for LRGVDC executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Rio Grande City, Texas by and through the Rio Grande City Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Rio Grande City, Texas by and through the Rio Grande City Police Department, to report law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

#### Police Academy Program Status Report

Mr. Solis then started moving on to the Status reports, he stated that in their Basic Peace Officer Course, they had a total of 59 Cadets who graduated from the Academy. In-service training had 351 officers go through training for a total of 410 Law Enforcement Officers that have received training through the LRGVDC Academy. On our Course hours offered for our Peace Officer Course, they offered 1569 hours of training. In the service continuing Education training they provided a total of 208. Officers that went through the training for a total of 1777. He went on to mention the contact hours for the first quarter were 32,745, which is a major increase from last year. In 2023 total of contact hours in the first quarter was 5492, which is a significant increase because we are hosting BPOC Academy and getting condensed into the academy.

No further Comments or concerns they then moved on to Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.

#### Program Status Reports

Mr. Dennis Moreno started by letting the Board know that there were no Action Items and then proceeded to the GIS Division, 911 and Information Technology, and community Engagement reports that were all in the packet provided to everyone for review.

With No Further Comments or concerns, President Garza then moved to Item D Valley Metro

#### **D. Transportation Action Item:**

Mr. Tom Logan was recognized for the action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Amendment to Operations Policies & procedures for LRGVDC Valley Metro. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to Approve Amendment to Operations Policies & procedures for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Mr. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

#### Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan then moved on to the Ridership Report. Tom Logan stated that they have 530,000 passengers a year to date. That is a 29% increase over the previous year.

With no further comments or concerns, they then moved on to RGVMPO.

#### Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Reports

RGVMPO could not make it to the meeting so therefore there was no status report on that department.

#### **Item #7 New & Unfinished Business**

There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norie Garza made a motion to adjourn at 12:51 PM

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Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

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Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #4. A.**

**ADMINISTRATION**



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

Item #4 Administration

- B. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the LRGVDC's participation in the Texas Passenger Rail Advisory Committee and sign the Committee's charter.

On Monday, May 6, 2024, Travis County Judge Brown presented a charter and letter of support requesting participation from organizations from across the state of Texas to help with the establishment of the Texas Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (TPRAC). The object of the TPRAC is to advise Judge Brown in developing and driving key strategies and tactics for advancing passenger rail across Texas."

# TEXAS PASSENGER RAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER

## PUPROSE

This Charter identifies an objective, vision, agreements, and mutual commitments of the members of this Texas Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (TPRAC).

## OBJECTIVE

The objective of the TPRAC is to advise Judge Brown in developing and driving key strategies and tactics for advancing passenger rail across Texas.

## VISION

We envision a state in which passenger rail reaches its full potential in contributing to a world-class transportation system.

We envision a transportation system that is safe, efficient, an economic driver, and equitable:

- **Safe:** We envision a transportation system that reduces harm to both people and planet.
- **Efficient:** We envision a transportation system that allows people and goods to travel by rail and transit as quickly and reliably as an equivalent trip by car or truck.
- **Economic Driver:** We envision a transportation system that helps drive our economy by improving access to and opportunities for a skilled workforce and facilitating the movement of goods and services along freight lines.
- **Equitable:** We envision a transportation system that allows people to travel when and where they wish regardless of their ability to drive or access to a car.

We envision a transportation system that supports and sustains population growth and economic prosperity statewide.

## AGREEMENTS

We agree that we need and welcome all forms of rail—commuter, intercity, highspeed, and freight. The need is great, and only together do they combine to form a truly comprehensive transportation system.

We agree that we need and welcome all forms of transportation. Passenger rail is only a single part of a comprehensive transportation system, and we know it takes many parts working together to ensure it works best as a whole. Therefore, we support efforts that enhance connectivity between different transport modes.

We agree that seeking viable solutions with all key stakeholders is the most reliable path forward to long-term success, and to building a transportation system that benefits all those who live, work, and visit here.

## COMMITMENTS

Participate in the Texas Passenger Rail Advisory Committee to make recommendations for developing and driving strategy and tactics for bringing passenger rail to Texas:

- **Strategy:** This may include technical, political, and organizational strategy.
- **Tactics:** This may include technical planning, coalition-building, and Legislative action.

Support bringing passenger rail to Texas and remain open to contributing resources based on the Committee's recommendations. This may include advocating for funding and resources or serving on a subcommittee to further the Committee's work.

[illegible][illegible]

# **ITEM #4.**

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Executive Director Report**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Item #4: Administration

3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

**New Hire Date: May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Aillen Rodriguez – CSR II – Administration

Albert Ramirez – Inventory Specialist I - Administration Business Operations

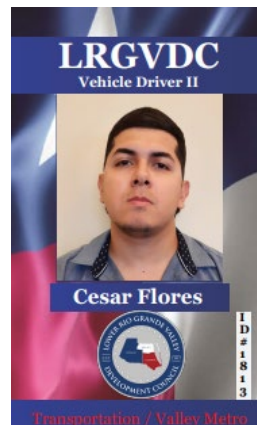
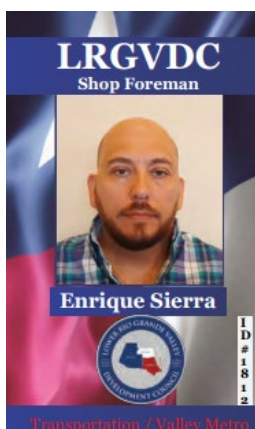
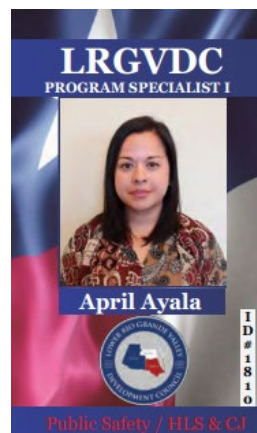
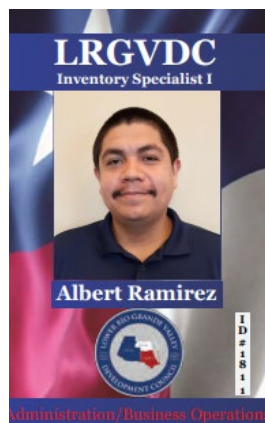
April Ayala – Program Specialist I – Public Safety – HLS & CJ

Jessica Reyna – Administrative Assistant III – Transportation Valley Metro

Enrique Sierra Jr – Shop Foreman - Transportation Valley Metro

Cesar Flores - Vehicle Driver II – Transportation Valley Metro

Miguel Romero- Vehicle Driver II Valley Metro



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

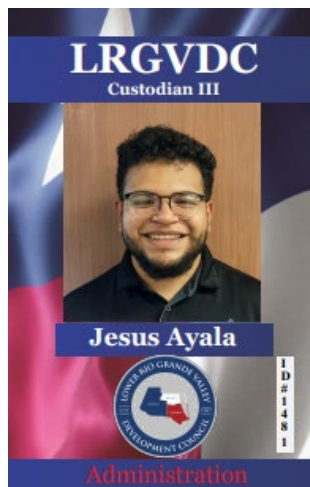
Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Item #4: Administration

3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

**Competitive Promotion: May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Jesus Ayala - Custodian III – Administration



# **ITEM #5.A**

## **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) Bylaws.

On May 23, 2024, a follow up virtual EDAC meeting was held to approve bylaws membership and officers. Staff incorporated the changes that were discussed during the April 30<sup>th</sup> EDAC Kick-Off Meeting.

At the April 30<sup>th</sup> kick-off meeting the draft RGVEDAC bylaws were reviewed and discussed. Much feedback was given, and staff incorporated the changes. The objective for this advisory committee will be to engage in activities for the purpose of generating opportunities that will result in economic expansion & diversification of the region, by bringing together economic development stakeholders of the region to provide opportunities for the amplification of knowledge, the sharing of experience, the development of professional relationships, and collaboration. Along with activities to improve workforce education and training for the purpose of strengthening the economic competitiveness of the region. This committee will strengthen the CEDS for the region, as well as assist in the input and development of that regional plan.





**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**  
**Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee**  
**(RGVEDAC) Bylaws**

**Article I: Organization:**

The official designated name of the advisory committee shall be Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC). The official acronym shall be “EDAC.”

**Article II: Responsibilities:**

These Bylaws (referred to as the Bylaws) govern the affairs of the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC), a collaborative of EDO’s (Economic Development Organizations) and economic development practitioners.

The advisory committee shall provide policy guidance, programmatic coordination, and/or recommendations relative to the function and scope of the committee, or as otherwise directed by LRGVDC Board of Directors. Committee progress, updates, and recommended actions shall be presented for discussion and/or required approvals during regular meetings of the LRGVDC Board of Directors by the LRGVDC staff liaison. As per Article VI of these bylaws, the EDAC shall recommend amendments as appropriate to support the functions of the committee.

**Article III: Purpose & Function:**

The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development.

**Mission:**

The mission is to successfully promote the economic expansion and diversification of communities in the region and to engage area EDO’s and those associated with regional economic development.

The Advisory Committee shall carry out the following functions and/or objectives:

1. **Engagement** - To engage in activities for the purpose of generating opportunities that will result in economic expansion & diversification of the region.
2. **Coalition Building & Partnerships** - To bring together economic development stakeholders of the region in order to provide opportunities for the amplification of knowledge, the sharing of experience, the development of professional relationships, and collaboration. Maintain strong

communication links among federal, state, county, local government, individual citizens and all other stakeholders.

3. *Transforming* - To advance activities to improve workforce education and training for the purpose of strengthening the economic competitiveness of the region.
4. *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)* - This committee will strengthen the CEDS for the region, as well as assist in the input, development, and coordination of that regional plan.

#### **Article IV: Membership:**

This committee will reflect a broad range of interest in economic development. Natural persons, associations, corporations, businesses, partnerships, cooperatives, government entities, educational entities, EDO's, having an interest in, and who agree with, the general purposes and objectives of the Advisory Committee may be admitted to membership.

Advisory Committee members are comprised of representatives from organizations, stakeholders, and individuals complimentary towards the scope of the committee, with regionally diverse representation, as recommended by the EDAC and approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

A general call for membership will be held on an annual basis. Any unfilled positions in a category shall be offered to the next eligible and participating city from another category.

The Committee will consist of 18 voting members from the region as listed below:

##### **a. Composition.**

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • Cameron County  | (1) Representative  |
| • Hidalgo County  | (1) Representative  |
| • Willacy County  | (1) Representative  |
| • Large City (>50K Pop.)  | (3) Representatives |
| • Medium City (10K – 50K Pop)   | (2) Representatives |
| • Small City (<10K Pop.)  | (1) Representative  |
| • Special EDO ( <i>One from each County</i> )   | (3) Representatives |
| • Institute of Higher Education   | (2) Representatives |
| • Texas Workforce Development   | (2) Representatives |
| • Members at Large<br>(members that represent those economic, social, & ethnic interests that are not represented by other directors) | (2) Representative  |

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TOTAL (18) Representatives

## **b. Qualifications.**

1. All committee members must be within the LRGVDC boundary area and reside or work in the county they are to represent.
2. Representative must either be an elected official of the representing county or designated stakeholder with the professional qualifications to serve as the most applicable representative. Representative shall not be for-profit and otherwise representing outside interests.

## **c. Voting.**

Each member, in good standing, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members at Advisory Committee meetings. A member in good standing is one who is in compliance with submission of application for membership/registration and is not deemed to be of a detriment to the goals, objectives and the Advisory Committee overall. Typically, the Chair's vote will be utilized as a tie-breaker. Each member must be present at the meeting to cast a vote.

## **d. Officers.**

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following officers, as elected by the EDAC. Officers shall begin term upon EDAC action item approval.

- Chair - Shall preside at meetings.
- Vice-Chair - Shall act on behalf of Chair during absence.

Officers may only be selected from current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not membership composition category representative). Only individuals elected may carry out the functions of the officer. The chair and/or vice chair must preside over the meeting in person.

## **e. Service Terms. (Officers and Representatives)**

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 2024. A member may be reappointed to multiple terms without term limits; however, must be re-designated each term by LRGVDC Board of Directors. A letter of intent to continue service will be asked for members seeking reappointment.

## **f. Attendance.**

Members who fail to attend three (3) consecutive meetings shall be subject to removal from the Advisory Committee.

#### **g. Alternates**

Members of the Advisory Committee shall designate (1) one alternate who will have full voting privileges during a member's absence. Alternates must confirm on record as part of Advisory Committee minutes and shall meet all membership qualifications.

#### **h. Vacancies.**

A vacancy occurs when:

- Term expires without reappointment;
- Member voluntarily resigns;
- Member is physically unable to perform duties of committee; or
- Disqualification of representation
- LRGVDC Board of Directors removes committee member due to conduct or other business-related reasons.

Vacancies shall be filled through committee level selection and recommendation process and approved by LRGVDC Board of Directors. The recommendation process shall consist of an announcement of the vacancy at the LRGVDC Board of Directors monthly meeting, a recommendation form, and resume submittal to LRGVDC Staff. The committee will then review the qualifications and make a recommendation to the LRGVDC Board of Directors.

The EDAC shall recommend revisions to the selection process, as appropriate to support the functions of the committee.

#### **i. Conduct.**

Each Advisory Committee member shall maintain professionalism and objectivity when carrying out business of the Committee. Conduct unbecoming of an appropriate representation shall be addressed by LRGVDC staff liaison or executive director and, committee member may be removed by LRGVDC Board of Directors.

#### **j. Conflict of Interest.**

All Advisory Committee members must disclose perceived or actual conflicts of interest and/or abstain from applicable votes. It is the responsibility of each Committee Member to discharge his or her duties in those respective capacities in good faith, in a manner the person reasonably

believes to be in the best interests of EDAC and LRGVDC, and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. A conflict of interest is defined as referring only to personal, proprietary interests of the persons covered by this policy and their immediate families. Committee members shall not be present during presentations involving funding and/or prioritizations.

**k. Ex-Officio Membership:**

As an inclusive resource to the region, executives and administrators representing publicly-funded, official-capacity federal and state organizations designated to provide economic development management, disaster recovery, community resilience and/or economic development quality services and resources shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting member. Ex-officio members shall not count towards establishment of a quorum and may include agencies such as, but not limited to:

- South Texas College (STC)
- Economic Development-Office of the Texas Governor (Governor's)
- Texas State Technical College (TSTC)
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Economic Development Department (EDA)
- Council of South Texas Economic Progress (COSTEP)
- Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU)

**Article V: Procedures:**

**a. Meetings.**

Regular meetings shall be held at least quarterly with written notice and agenda submitted to all members at least (3) business days prior to meeting date. Special meetings may be called more frequently at the discretion of the Advisory Committee or a LRGVDC designated staff liaison with written notice and agenda submitted to all members at least (3) business days prior to meeting date. Advisory Committee meetings shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.

**b. Frequency.**

The EDAC shall, to the extent practical, meet at least (3) times per year. The LRGVDC CEDS program staff will be responsible for scheduling and coordinating the meetings of the EDAC.

**c. Quorum.**

For purposes of the transaction of business by the EDAC, a quorum shall be a simple majority of the members present, with no less than nine (9) persons present for quorum. Whenever possible, decisions will be reached through consensus. When consensus is not possible, a vote will be taken. In the event of a tie vote, the tie will be broken by the presiding officer.

**d. Minutes.**

A designated LRGVDC staff member shall maintain the minutes of each Advisory Committee meeting. Minutes shall be reviewed and approved as a standing agenda item.

**e. Subcommittees.**

The Advisory Committee shall maintain the option to designate standing, technical, ad-hoc and/or temporary subcommittees within scope to improve the recommendations and nature of the advisory committee. Subcommittee activity updates shall be recorded at Advisory Committee meetings.

**f. Open Meetings.**

EDAC Advisory Committee meetings shall be open to the public and generally subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

**Article VI: Amendments:**

The Advisory Committee shall propose amendments to bylaws by subcommittee recommendation, regular, or special meetings; however, shall not be effective or approved until formal action is taken by LRGVDC Board of Directors as per Article II.

**Bylaws Adoption/Amendment History.**

**Adopted Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
LRGVDC Board President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

5" Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

&" Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) membership.

Article IV of the bylaws states the committee will consist of 18 voting members from the region as listed: (1) representative per county, (3) representatives for Large Cities, (2) representatives for Medium Cities, (1) representative for Small Cities, (3) representatives for Special EDO (per county), (2) representative for Institute of Higher Education, (2) representatives for Texas Workforce, (2) Members-at-Large.

At the May 23, 2024, RGV EDAC meeting, the following were appointed for membership.

**EDAC Membership - Voted in Members as of May 23, 2024**

Large City (3)	Medium City (2)	Small City (1)	County (3-1 per county)	Special EDO (3-1 per county)	Institute of Higher Learning (2)	Texas Workforce (2)	Members at Large (2)
Edinburg EDC	Weslaco EDC	South Padre Island EDC	Cameron County EDC		UTRGV		RGV Partnership
Harlingen EDC			Hidalgo County EDC				
McAllen EDC							



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Elections of Officers. As per the Bylaws, the Advisory Committee shall consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

At the May 23, 2024, RGV EDAC meeting, the committee recommended the following members for the following positions.

- Chair: Ron Garza, UTRGV
- Vice Chair: Mr. Ramiro Aleman, Cameron County EDC

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Texas Community Development Block Grant Priorities for 2025-2026.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council conducted a public meeting on May 2, 2024, to establish regional priorities for TDA CDBG funding. The priorities are as follows:

Category	Activities	Number of Points (maximum 50 points)
First Priority	Water & Sewer; Septic System & Yard Lines; Street & Drainage	<b>50</b>
Second Priority	Housing Rehabilitation, Fire Protection, Community Centers, Parks, Neighborhood Centers	<b>30</b>
Third Priority	All Other Projects	<b>10</b>

## Regional Project Priority Scoring Element:

<b>Region:</b>	<b>LRGVDC</b>	<b>Date Adopted:</b>	<b>May 29, 2024</b>
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*TxCDBG Community Development Fund (CDV) Project Priority points are awarded based on tiers of prioritized activities. Assign points to each tier in ten-point increments. Assign no more than 50 points to any single tier – each point assignment is separate, there is no cumulative point total for this scoring element.*

<b>Project Priority Tier</b>	<b>Number of Points Assigned</b>
First Tier	50
Second Tier	30
Third Tier	10

*Assign a Project Priority Tier to each activity category. Any application requesting to consider activities not identified as a Priority Tier will receive no Project Priority points.*

<b>Activity Code</b>	<b>Activity Name</b>	<b>Priority Tier</b>
03A	Senior Centers	3
03B	Facility for Persons with Disabilities	3
03C	Homeless Facilities	3
03D	Youth Centers	3
03E	Neighborhood Facilities	2
03F	Parks, Recreational Facilities	2
03G	Parking Facilities	3
03H	Solid Waste Disposal Improvements	3
03I	Flood Drainage Improvements	1
03J	Water/Sewer Improvements	1
03K	Street Improvements	1
03L	Sidewalks	3
03M	Child Care Centers	3
03O	Fire Station/Equipment	2
03P	Health Facilities	3
03Z	Other Eligible CDBG Public Improvements	3
004	Clearance and Demolition	3
005	Public Services	3
120	Construction of New Housing (via community development organizations)	3
140	Rehab; Single-Unit Residential	2
14A	Rehab; Single-Unit Residential, Utility Connections	2
14B	Rehab; Multi-Unit Residential	2
14C	Public Housing Modernization	3
14Z	Other Housing Rehab, Relocation, and/or Homeownership Services	2
150	Code Enforcement	3
16A	Residential Historic Preservation	3
16B	Non-Residential Historic Preservation	3
170	Economic Development – Assistance to Not-for-Profit Organizations	3
18A	Economic Development – Assistance to For-Profits	3
18C	Micro-Enterprise Assistance	3
020	Planning	3

## Regional Project Priority Scoring, Cont.:

### Persons participating in priority selection:

- X All members of regional planning organization (open meeting)
- ☐ All members of regional planning organization's executive committee
- X Executive Director (LRGVDC Community & Economic Development Assistant Director and staff)
- X Other standing committee: Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)/Non-Entitlement Communities
- ☐ Special Committee, with members listed below:

Name	Title

Approved and submitted to TDA:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
May 29, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Action Item

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Grant between LRGVDC and TCEQ.

The LRGVDC was one of four COGs allocated funds for this planning grant. LRGVDC will conduct air quality planning activities in accordance with Rider 7 of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Legislative Appropriation from the 88th Legislature.

Rider 7 funds are limited to inventorying emissions, monitoring of pollution levels, air pollution and data analysis; modeling pollution levels; and administration of the program. Rider 7 further requires that no more than 10% of the allocation be used for administrative purposes and prohibits the expenditure of the following: marketing and outreach activities, bicycle use programs, carpooling awareness, environmental awareness campaigns, and locally enforceable pollution reduction programs. The grant recipients shall channel the funds to those projects most useful for the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The LRGVDC shall use Rider 7 funds in the following performance/subject areas: Inventorying Emissions, Monitoring of Pollution Levels, Air Pollution & Data Analysis, and Modeling Pollution Levels.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

6. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Interlocal Agreement of Contracting Services Agreement between Cameron County and the LRGVDC and Hidalgo County and the LRGVDC.

During the term of this Agreement, CAMERON COUNTY and HIDALGO COUNTY shall procure or enter into engineering service contracts for identifying drainage characterization and feasibility studies for the Region referenced in Tasks 2.2 and Task 2.3 of the TWDB's Project #40038 for the LRGV Regional Flood Protection Planning project. During and after completion of the regional Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Model for the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the project will require engineering firms to identify flood control projects based upon produced and available regional H&H data.

"The Hidalgo County Agreement will be available after the posting of the packet and will be presented on the day of the board meeting."

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

May 29, 2024

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Updating CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) - In 2022, the LRGVDC Board of Directors approved the creation of the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) to bring together all those involved in economic development to bring about a regional approach.

The LRGVDC Community and Economic Development Department hosted a RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) kick-off meeting on April 30, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room that included EDOs, Chambers, CVBs, and other Economic Development Institutes.

At this meeting the draft RGVEDAC bylaws were reviewed and discussed. Much feedback was given, and staff incorporated the changes. The objective for this advisory committee will be to engage in activities for the purpose of generating opportunities that will result in economic expansion & diversification of the region, by bringing together economic development stakeholders of the region to provide opportunities for the amplification of knowledge, the sharing of experience, the development of professional relationships, and collaboration. Along with activities to improve workforce education and training for the purpose of strengthening the economic competitiveness of the region. This committee will strengthen the CEDS for the region, as well as assist in the input and development of that regional plan. We look forward to the 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](#).

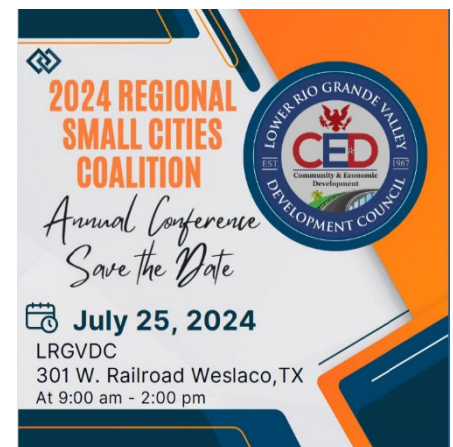
Staff are available to provide technical assistance, project development, and grant administration on EDA proposals and projects. For any assistance or information on EDA in general, contact the Community & Economic Development Department. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic 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)

We are excited to announce that we will host our first “2024 Annual RSCC Conference” on Thursday, July 25, 2024, from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, at the LRGVDC main office. The purpose of this conference is to provide information on resources that can be helpful to small cities. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, contact C&ED staff, Brenda Salinas, at [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org)

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund



Staff continue to carry out specified technical assistance activities to TxCDBG eligible localities within our operating region, to ensure program compliance. Staff continue to disseminate program information to keep TxCDBG eligible communities informed of information, promote Fair Housing, provide support to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and host any grant kick off meetings to award communities.

#### Current & Upcoming Activities:

- On May 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM staff hosted a hybrid public meeting to discuss & establish the Regional Project Priorities for the CDBG program for the 2025-2026 funding applications.
- September 2024, Regional Kick-off Meeting (for CDBG awarded communities)

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:**

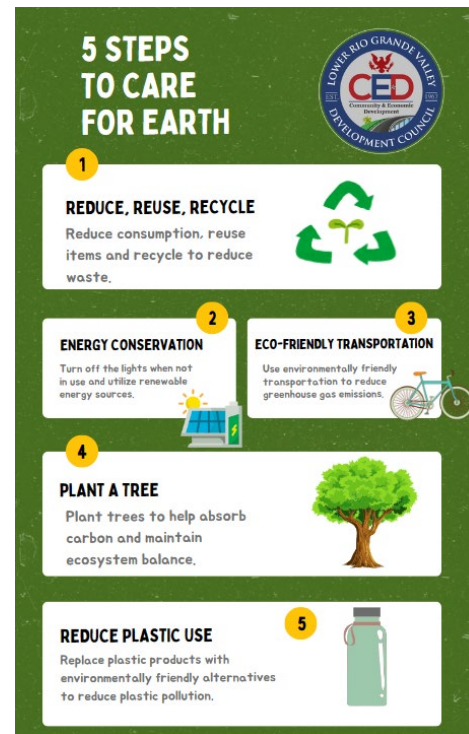
The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be in person on June 18, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room Bldg. B 301 W. Railroad Weslaco, Texas 78596.

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

- **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.

May Messages: EARTH MONTH



Staff worked with Valley Metro to create and wrap our local buses with the inspiration of promoting to the public on keeping our water systems clean of trash. The target for this promotion will be in all three counties on six bus routes. Also included are interior placards on twenty buses.

Unit 2104 - route 10/20 (Mission – McAllen – Edinburg)  
 Unit 1808 - route Willacy County (Raymondville – Harlingen)  
 Unit 2203 - route 50 (Brownsville – Laguna Vista)  
 Unit 1520 - route 12 (Weslaco-Delta Area-Edinburg)  
 Unit 2108 - route 31 (Harlingen – McAllen)

Remember to be Water Wise, Don't Clog or Contaminate our Water Systems, and Only Rain Down the Storm Drains!



Staff 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)

Staff are working with Hidalgo & Cameron Counties on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the LRGVDC and both counties for the Flood Infrastructure Funds (FIF), TWDB Project No. 40038. The counties will undertake Task 2.2 (Drainage Characterization) and Task 2.3 (Project Assessments) of the TWDB Project No. 40038. The FIF project requires the development, processing, and contracting for characterizing drainage pathways, identifying flood control projects, and assessing the feasibility of those projects; and procures qualified engineering firms and staff to conduct

engineering and drainage projects regularly. The project will also call for a no-cost time extension.

The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM. The meeting is hybrid at the LRGVDC Small Board Room or via GoToMeeting.

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)

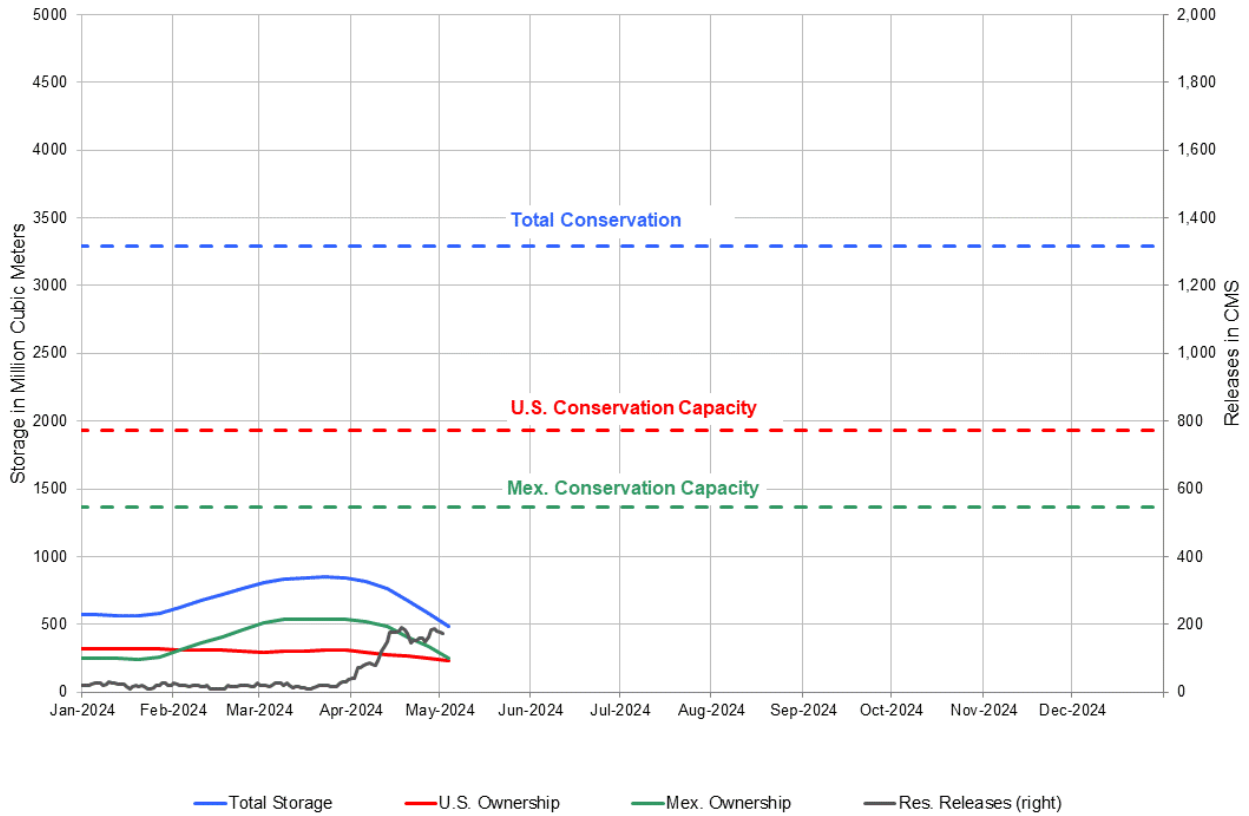
The Region M Group held a meeting on May 15, 2024, at 9:30 am. Updated regarding the Region M Water Plan were given, along with State & Federal Agency updates from TWDB, IBWC and TCEQ Watermaster. The meeting information can be found on the Region M website. Meeting is held hybrid at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room and via GotoMeeting.

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

- Reservoir Levels as of May 16, 2024. (taken from IBWC website: [Home - IBWC](#))



# Falcon Reservoir



# **ITEM #5.B**

## **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Area Agency on  
Aging  
(AAA)**



- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support April 2024**
  - The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 48 new clients.
  - A total of 212 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Caregiver Support Services</b>	48	212
<b>Respite In-Home Services</b> Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.	49	132
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	26	26

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant April 2024**
  - The CDBG Program serviced a total of 15 new clients.
  - A total of 20 individuals were assisted with health maintenance services under the Community Development Block Grant Program.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	7	9
<b>Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	6	9
<b>Community Development Block Grant Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	2	2

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List April 2024**
  - As of February 15th, 2024, 1,542 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging. The increased demand is attributed to ongoing outreach and collaborative efforts across the Rio Grande Valley.

<b>Direct Consumer Services Interest List</b>	
Care Coordination Services	1,359
Caregiver Support Services	270
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,629</b>

- **Nutrition Program Report: April 2024**
  - The program successfully enrolled 109 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program and delivered 42,253 meals.
  - Successfully enrolled 60 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
  - Successfully served 12,714 Congregate meals.

<b>Meals Program</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Home Delivered Meals	109	42,253
Congregate Meals	60	12,714

- **Senior Center Operations Report – April 2024**
  - Program successfully enrolled 144 new clients.
  - Senior Centers conducted 27,935 activities with their clients.

<b>Senior Center Operations</b>	
New Clients	144
Total activities	27,935

## Special Services Report

- **Benefit Counselors Program – April 2024**

- Achieved the enrollment of 152 new clients and established 235.5 contacts.

<b>Benefit Counselors</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Contacts</b>
HICAP Awareness	34	16.75
HICAP Assistance	25	69.42
MIPPA	59	59.83
Legal Awareness	0	0
Legal Assistance	34	89.5

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

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

- **Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – April 2024**

- During April, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 58 new clients.
- They made 228 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

<b>CTI Coaches</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
<b>April 2024</b>	58	228

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



- **Ombudsman Program Report – April 2024**

- The Ombudsman handled 35 complaints, successfully resolving 25 cases.
- They dedicated 73.42 activity hours and recorded 77 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 14.50 in-kind hours.

Ombudsman					
Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints	Total Cases
April 2024	14.50	73.42	77	35	25

## Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – April 2024**

- The intake team had a total of 532 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- Engaged with 400 individuals, 382 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 18 individuals were 59 years of age and below, 398 are individuals with a disability and 27 are veterans.
- The top five requested services were Benefits Counseling, Homemaker Service, Residential Repairs, Health Maintenance, and Respite Services.

IR&A Interactions	
1-800 AAA	37
1-855 ADRC	17
(956) 682-3481	104
(956) 412-0958	126
Walk-ins	10
E-mails	177
Fax	13
Follow-ups	48
Total Interactions	532

Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	382
Consumers 59 and below	18
Total Consumers	400

Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	398
Veterans	27

Top Call Topics	
Benefits Counseling	80
Homemaker Services	80
Residential Repairs	73
Health Maintenance	63
Respite Services	63

● **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – April 2024**

- During April, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 13 new caregivers and made 27 total contacts.
- Actively participated in 6 events, meetings, and coalitions reaching a total of 103 individuals, 5 were 60 years of age and above, and 98 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- During outreach activities interacted with 2 individuals with a disability, 22 veterans, and 2 consumers with a caregiver.

Caregivers Assisted	
Total New Clients	13
Total Contacts	27

Outreach Events	
Total Outreach Events	6

Outreach Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	5
Consumers 59 and below	98
Total Consumers	103

Outreach Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	2
Veterans	22
Consumer with a Caregiver	2

- **ADRC Benefits Counseling Report – April 2024**
  - Provided support to 3 new consumers regarding MIPPA, HICAP, and Legal Assistance.
  - Engaged with a total of 172 individuals, comprising 55 individuals aged 60 and above, and 124 individuals aged 55 and below.
  - During outreach efforts, interacted with 20 individuals with disabilities, 10 Veterans, and 1 individual who has a caregiver.

Consumers Assisted	
Unduplicated Consumers Assisted	3

Outreach Events	
Total Events Attended	8

Outreach Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	55
Consumers 59 and below	117
Total Consumers	172

Outreach Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	20
Veterans	10
Consumer with a Caregiver	1

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – April 2024**
  - Assisted 6 consumers with housing inquiries, offering tailored resources, showcasing the agency's excellence, and providing valuable support to community members facing housing challenges.
  - Actively participated in 6 events, meetings, and coalitions engaging with 189 individuals, 128 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 61 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
  - During outreach activities interacted with 56 individuals with a disability, 7 Veterans, and 2 individuals with a Caregiver.

Housing Intakes Total	
Cameron County	2
Hidalgo County	4
Willacy County	0
Total Housing Intakes:	6

Outreach Events	
Total Outreach Events	6

Outreach Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	128
Consumers 59 and below	61
Total Consumers	189

Outreach Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	56
Veterans	7
Consumer with a Caregiver	2

- **ADRC Respite Services Report – April 2024**
  - Assisted 1 caregiver and 1 care recipient with Respite Caregiver Services.
  - Assisted with 2 individuals who are 59 years of age and below, 1 has a disability and 1 is a Caregiver.

Unduplicated Respite Consumers	
Caregivers:	1
Care Recipients	1

<b>Unduplicated Respite Consumers – Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	0
Consumers 59 and below	1

<b>Unduplicated Respite Consumers – Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	1
Veterans	0
The consumer is a Caregiver	1

● **ADRC Special Initiatives Report – April 2024**

- Actively participated in 7 events, meetings, and coalitions engaging with 275 individuals, 124 individuals were 60 years of age and above, and 151 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- During outreach activities interacted with 26 individuals with a disability, 6 Veterans, and 6 individuals with a caregiver.

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Events	7

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	124
Consumers 59 and below	151
Total Consumers	275

<b>Outreach Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	26
Veterans	6
Consumer with a Caregiver	6

## Outreach Events:

- ***April 5, 2024, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mission Housing Authority Health Fair***
- The Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center hosted the 3rd Annual Health Fair along with the Mission Housing Authority. Attendees spoke to various agencies regarding health benefits, wellness, and resources available to them. They also enjoyed a few games of bingo.





- ***April 13, 2024, Your Health Matters Health Fair***

- Our Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center team tabled at the “Your Health Matters Health Fair” at the Pharr EMS Center. Attendees came by to receive information, and goodies and had an opportunity to speak with staff who were able to answer any questions you have about our programs.



- ***April 17, 2024, Veteran Financial and Health Benefits Informational Clinic***

- The Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center hosted the Veteran Financial and Health Benefits Informational Clinic. This event focused on financial and health benefits available to veterans and their families and provided an opportunity for them to ask questions.



- ***April 25, 2024, CenterWell Health Fair***
- The Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center Team was invited by Nexxera and CenterWell to their health fair. The team had the pleasure of connecting with the community and providing information about our services.



# **ITEM #5.C**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Criminal Justice Program

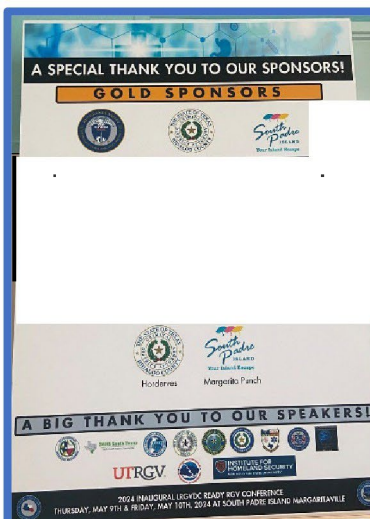
- Staff hosted the 2024 Inaugural Ready RGV Conference on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Margaritaville Resort at South Padre Island, Texas for Legal, Law Enforcement, and Mental Health Professionals.
- Staff assisted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee with the grant funding, Policy and Procedures, and Bylaws.
- Staff submitted the 2024-2025 Criminal Justice Grant Prioritization List to the Office of the Governor Public Safety Office on May 7, 2024
- Staff attended the webinar “Handle with Care”: Navigating School Safety Resources co-hosted by Minaret Foundation and Crimestoppers of Houston on May 6, 2024.

Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the 2024 Inaugural Ready RGV Conference on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Margaritaville Resort at South Padre Island, Texas for Fire Department and Emergency Response Personnel.
- Staff hosted the workshop Local Emergency Operations Plans Updates for COG-21 Region by the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) on May 14, 2024, at the LRGVDC Small Boardroom.
- Staff attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Monthly Meeting on May 16, 2024, at the McAllen Central Fire Station, McAllen, TX.
- Staff attended the webinar Texas Critical Infrastructure Protection (TCIP) Task Force 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting on May 21, 2024



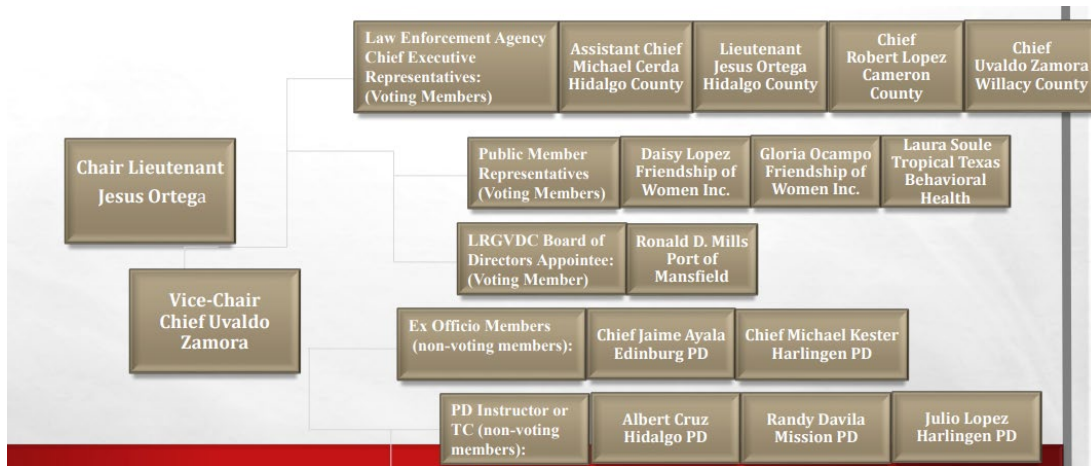
- Staff attended the 14th Annual RGV Emergency Management Partners Hurricane Workshop “Zero to 100” Workshop on May 22, 2024, at the Hynes Event Center at Llano Grande Resort and Golf Club in Mercedes, TX
- Staff hosted the Rio Grande Valley Regional Response Group Quarterly Meeting on May 23, 2024, at the LRGVDC Small Boardroom.
- Staff hosted the Sam Houston State University Institute of Homeland Security Luncheon Meeting at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Boardroom.



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting Summary of Action Items

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to accept the appointment of all current LRGV Academy Advisory Committee Members as of March 20, 2024.



The LRGV Academy Advisory Committee met on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz re-appointed all current members of the Advisory Committee as recommended by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. The effective date of re-appointment is March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The term of said re-appointments shall remain in effect as set forth by the LRGV Academy Committee Bylaws.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

2. Consideration, and **ACTION** to accept Raymondville Chief of Police Uvaldo Zamora as Vice Chair for the LRGV Academy Advisory Committee.

There was a need to fill in the vacant Vice Chair seat on the LRGV Academy Advisory Committee. The Committee met on March 20, 2024. The Advisory Committee nominated and voted to have Raymondville Chief of Police Uvaldo Zamora serve as Vice Chair for the committee.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to amend and update sections in the LRGV Academy BPOC Rules, Policies, and Procedures Handbook.

Constant revision and updating of the BPOC Handbook are required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. LRGV Academy staff have identified four areas that require change.

1. The first change in the Handbook consists of correcting numerical errors in some of the subsections.

**5.5 Mandatory In-Person Attendance Requirement – TCOLE Compliance**

The LRGV Academy adheres to the guidelines set forth by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) Region 3, which mandates 100% in-person instructional training throughout the entire active BPOC Academy session as a prerequisite for eligibility to take the state licensing examination.

**5.1 Reporting Absence**

It is the responsibility of the cadet to report any anticipated absence due to medical emergencies, court appearances, or other exceptional or unforeseen circumstances to the LRGV Academy staff and Training Coordinator as soon as possible. A medical certificate or relevant documentation may be required for verification.

2. The second change in the Handbook is an update that will add a “No Smoking No Vaping” policy to the Cadet Code of Conduct.

Currently, there is no policy addressing the usage of Tobacco or Vaping products in the BPOC Rules, Policies, and Procedures Handbook. LRGV Academy is requesting approval to add a Tobacco and Vaping policy to section **8.1 Cadet Standards of Conduct** which would include the addition of letter subsection w. to read as follows:

*The usage of Tobacco and Vaping products by cadets is prohibited while class is in session. Tobacco products may include but are not limited to cigarettes, chewing tobacco, dip, snuff, etc. Vaping products may include but are not limited to e-cigarettes, vape pens, or any other form of electronic cartridge device designed for the inhalation of vapor-like substances. This policy extends to all satellite sites.*

*Cadets shall refrain from using Tobacco or Vaping products while in direct contact with the public. Tobacco or Vaping Products shall be utilized only while on breaks and in designated areas. Cadets are to abide by individual satellite site rules regarding the usage of Tobacco and Vaping products.*

3. A third revision would eliminate two awards that are currently handed out to cadets at graduation. LRGV Academy staff have identified potential liabilities with the issuing of these awards and recommended the removal of such awards to the LRGV Academy Advisory Committee. The Committee agreed and voted to remove the awards from the Handbook.



c. **Wheels:** The cadet with the highest driving score will receive a certificate in recognition of his/her skill level with a vehicle. This applies only to driving score.

d. **Marksmanship:** The cadet with the highest marksmanship score will receive a certificate in recognition of his/her skill level with a weapon. This applies only to handgun scores.

4. The fourth and final change to the BPOC Handbook is the clarification of our retest policy as it pertains to the midterm examination. Currently, cadets only have three re-test opportunities on individual chapter exams. The change would include the midterm examination under the same policy.

#### **Retest Policy**

- a. All exams are graded on a scale of 1-100. Cadet must receive no less than 80% on each exam to be considered a passing grade. The Academy will not round up scores.
- b. Cadet will only be allowed a total of three (3) retests that may be used for Individual Chapter Exams.
- c. Should a cadet exhaust all retest attempts, on the fourth failed Individual Chapter Exam the cadet will be immediately dismissed due to academic failure.
- d. Cadet will only be allowed one (1) retest opportunity for the Comprehensive Final Exam.
- e. Should the cadet fail the retest opportunity for the Comprehensive Final Exam, the cadet will be immediately dismissed due to academic failure.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to amend the requirements for documentation and retention of all LRGV Academy police in-service training files.

The LRGV Academy wishes to implement a police in-service training checklist which would require agencies submitting TCOLE hours to submit the following items only:

- Course Lesson Plan
- Course Lesson Objectives
- Instructor Biography and Bio sketch
- Original Class Signed Roster
- Testing Instrument and Key
- Score Sheet or Skills Sheet
- Course Evaluations

These items are legally mandated by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and are to be kept on file for no less than 5 years. Currently, the LRGV Academy requires the submission of non-essential materials such as power points, written notes, and copies of every individual examination which are not required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Amending the requirements for documentation to only require the legally mandated items will create space both physically and electronically for the retention of mandated files thus keeping our storage expenses relatively low.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the City of Alton, Texas, by and through the Alton Police Department, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

The Alton Police Department has a training facility and qualified law enforcement instructors. The Alton Police Department has a need to provide training to its officers and surrounding agencies. Entering the agreement will allow the Alton Police Department to report training by way of the LRGV Academy TCOLE license number.

The agreement will also expand the number of contact hours for the LRGV Academy and will increase the number of training sites made available for law enforcement training throughout the region.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

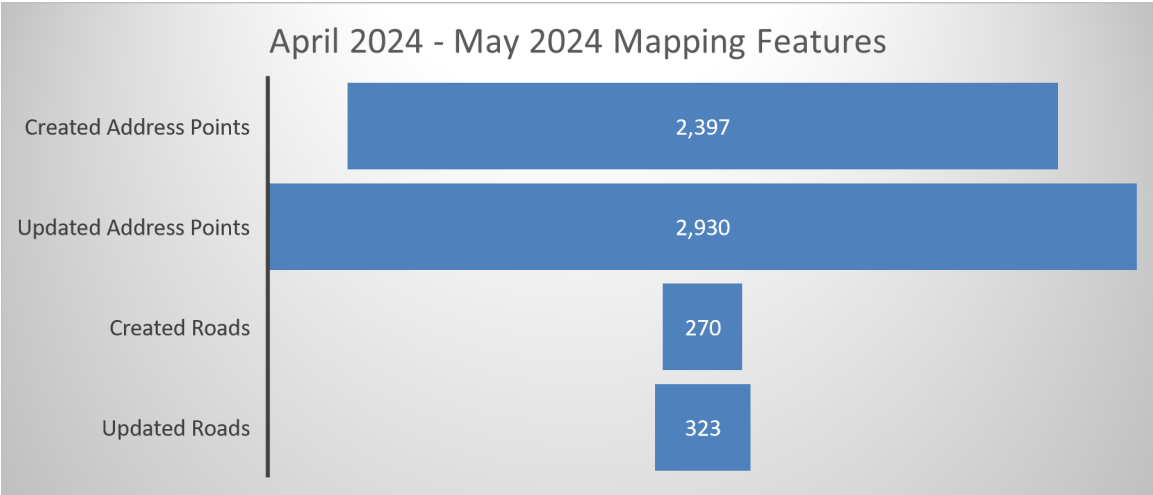
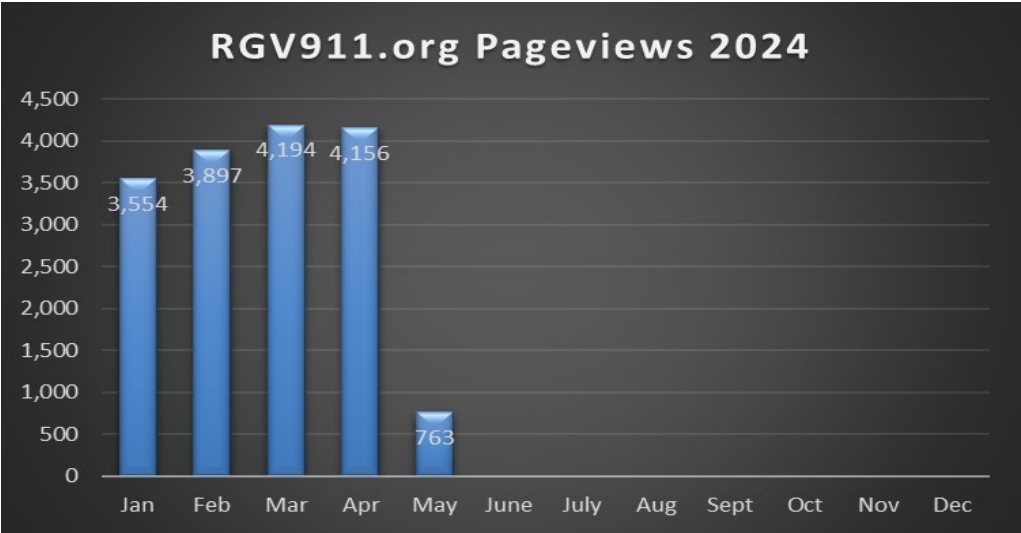
Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

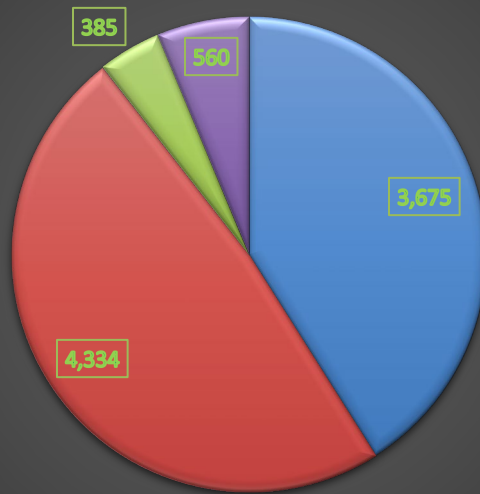
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at [www.rgv911.org](http://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 begun working on moving our old address tickets from our previous system to our new Rubicon ticket system. This Project is estimated to take 2 months and should be finished by mid-July 2024. Finally, Rosemary and Joe attended this year's Texas Public Safety Conference where we learned about new and developing technologies in NG 9-1-1.

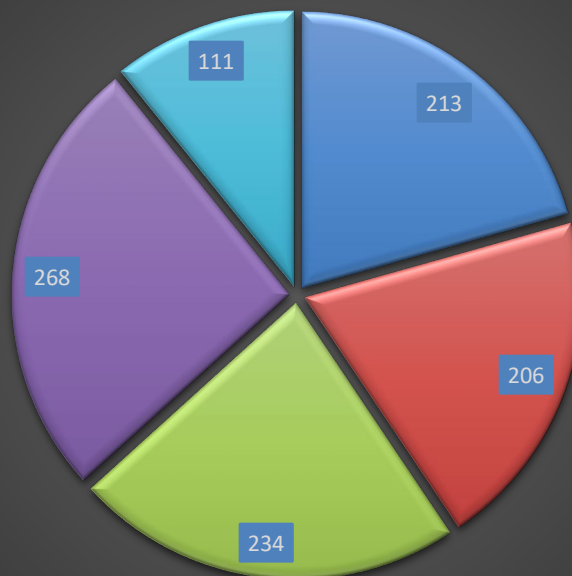


## 2024 Total Production : GIS



Created Address Points Updated Address Points Created Roads Updated Roads

## Address Tickets from January to May 2024



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

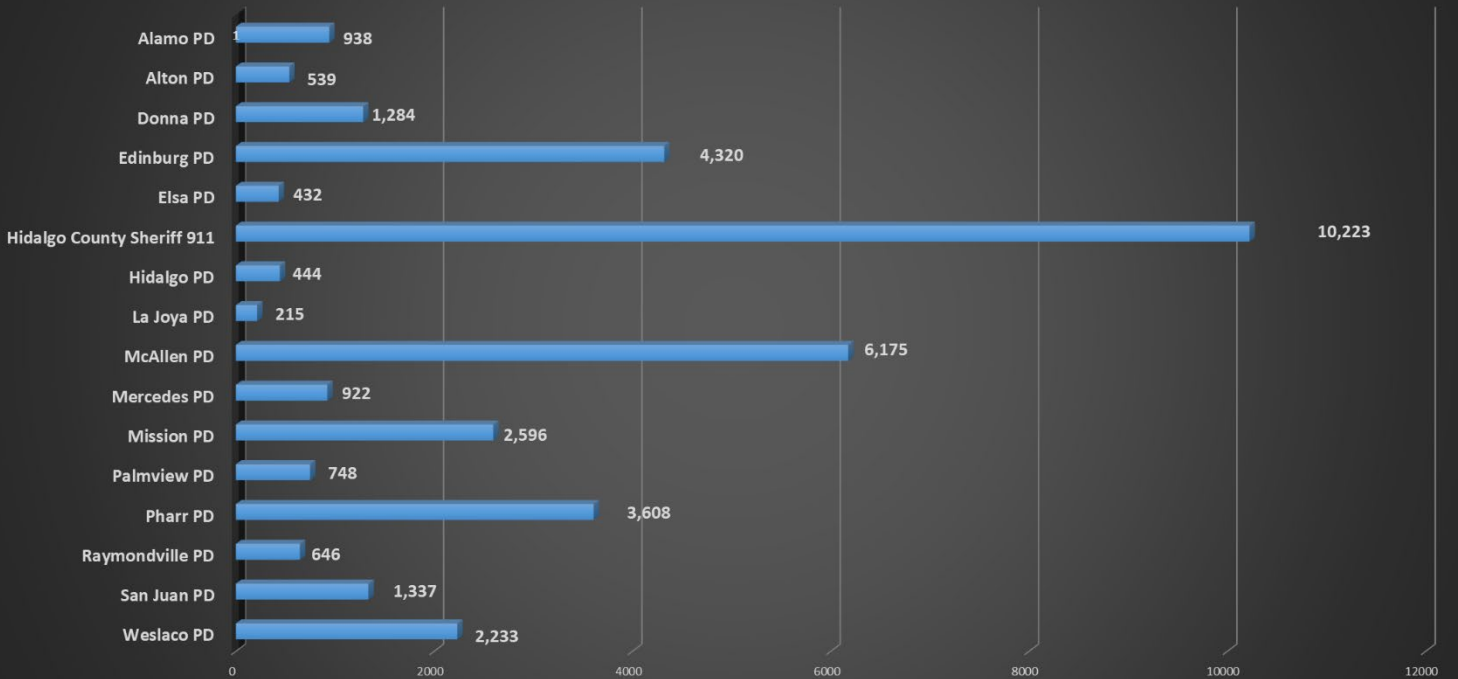
- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The 9-1-1 | Information Technology team has completed our 2nd quarter maintenance cycle at all 17 PSAPs, which entails basic housekeeping with equipment checks, backup generator and UPS tests, inventory assessments, and of course checking with PSAP staff regarding any concerns they may have to support their daily operations and wellbeing.

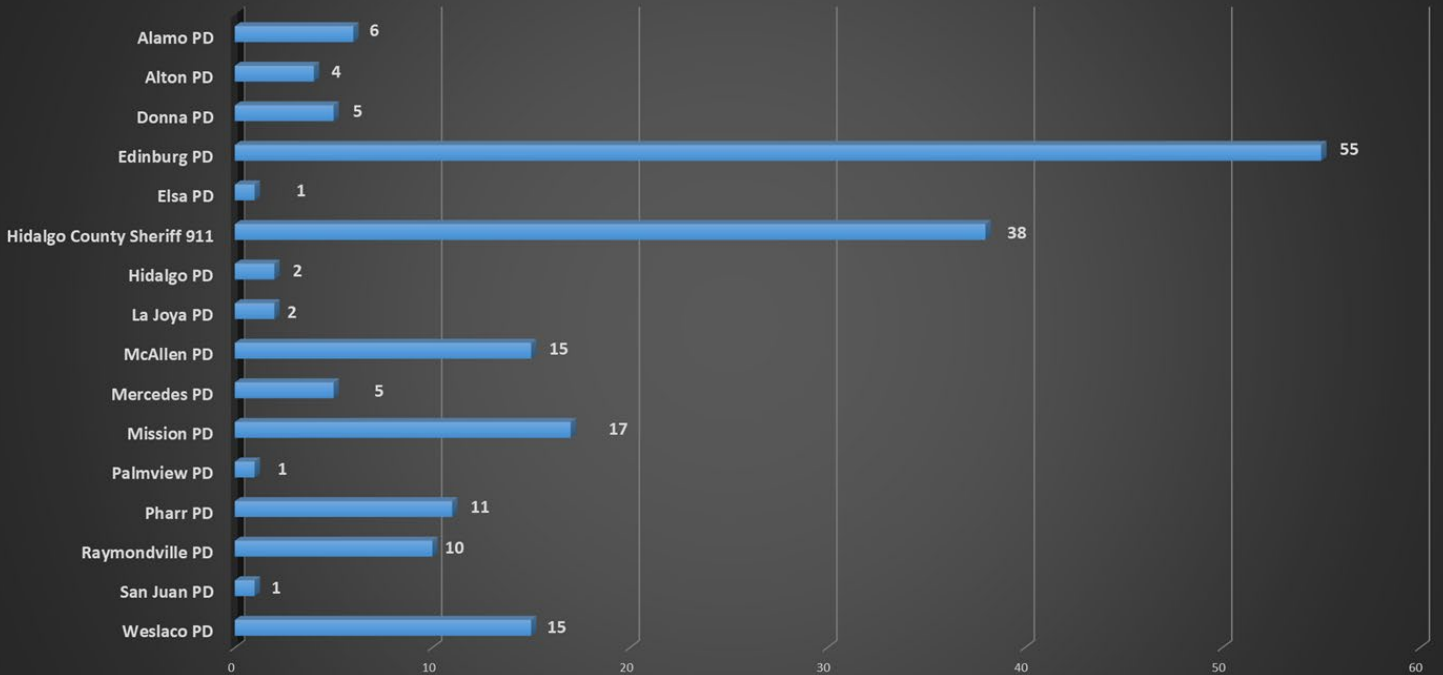
For the month of June, we will continue our Power 911/Mapflex education track for new and current telecommunicators. This training, held every 90 days, is for those needing initial or refresher sessions. Our training sessions keep PSAP staff up to date on the latest software enhancements, dispatcher functionality, and best practices. We aim to provide an interactive, fun, and engaging classroom experience.

We also want to congratulate Juan Vasquez, our Systems Support Specialist III. Mr. Vasquez, who was hired late last year, has completed his six-month introductory period and is now officially part of our team. His advanced technical support skills and valuable experience will significantly enhance our technical operations. Our continuing goal is to ensure that our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping technologies working together, are in optimal working order to maintain 99.9% operational efficiency to serve our public safety partners and the community.

## Call Summary April 2024



## Text Summary April 2024



- Community Engagement

April stands as the paramount month for our Community Engagement Department, teeming with activities and excitement. Despite the tasks, it also emerges as the most enjoyable period, overflowing with celebration and fellowship. It's the time dedicated to expressing our gratitude to the 911 telecommunicators, the silent guardians of community safety. Additionally, April sees our team venturing to learning conferences, enriching our knowledge base. Simultaneously, it hosts a profusion of community outreach events, building stronger connections within our neighborhoods.

- **McAllen ISD 2024 Autism Awareness Walk, April 4th, 2024**, we proudly participate in autism walks to show support and solidarity with individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. We extend our gratitude to McAllen ISD for their efforts in organizing the 2024 Autism Awareness Walk, and we're thankful for their invitation to RGV9-1-1 to join this meaningful event. Together, through awareness and advocacy, we strive to create a more inclusive and understanding community for individuals with autism.

- **12th Annual IT Expo 2024, April 5th, at South Texas College in McAllen.** The RGV9-1-1 Information Technology team participated in the 12th Annual IT Expo 2024 hosted by South Texas College in McAllen. The expo targeted students pursuing careers in information technology. Our team proudly showcased the role they play in the 9-1-1 emergency response system, highlighting the intersection of technology and public safety. It was an opportunity to inspire and educate the next generation of IT professionals on the importance of their contributions to critical services.

- **Know Your Address Register Your Address, April 6, 2024**, in the city of Sebastian. Our GIS team took the opportunity to educate attendees about the critical need to register their addresses with RGV9-1-1 for expedited emergency assistance. Additionally, we diligently collected information from those who hadn't yet provided their 9-1-1 physical addresses, ensuring everyone's safety and well-being in times of crisis. It was a productive day filled with meaningful interactions and proactive measures to enhance emergency response readiness within the community.

- **PSJA ISD All Abilities Awareness Walk, April 13, 2024**, with an air of excitement and anticipation as we geared up to attend The PSJA ISD All Abilities Awareness Walk. The event was filled with fun and meaningful interactions as we joined together with others to raise awareness and support for inclusivity. The outcome of the walk was incredibly positive, leaving us feeling fulfilled and proud to have contributed to such an important cause. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to educate the community about the importance of understanding and supporting individuals with diverse abilities.

- **Know Your Address Register Your Address, April 13, 2024**, engaging with the Raymondville community about obtaining their 911 physical address was incredibly rewarding. Communicating the importance of this step in ensuring swift and effective responses during emergencies resonated well with the residents. It was evident that they understood how crucial a registered address is for their safety and the well-being of their community.



• **National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 14 – 19, 2024,** This week, we honored the dedicated dispatchers who are the calm voices in chaos, the lifeline between communities and emergency responders, and the true superheroes of our communities. We traveled to 16 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP). To deliver incentives to our 911 dispatchers.

• **Know Your Address Register Your Address, April 20, 2024,** it was a pleasure to discuss with the town of San Perlita the critical importance of registering addresses with RGV9-1-1 for enhanced emergency response.

• **2024 Texas Public Safety Conference, April 21 – 24, 2024,** we were thrilled to be part of the Texas Public Safety Conference. We were eager to engage, network, and absorb insights that we could bring back to our district, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

• **Know Your Address Register Your Address, April 27, 2024,** the Community Engagement journey led us to Lasara in Willacy Co., where we engaged with the local community to discuss the importance of registering their addresses for 911 services. It was a crucial initiative aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone in the town. Through open dialogue and collaboration, we worked towards providing each household with its unique physical address for emergency response purposes.

## McAllen ISD 2024 Autism Awareness Walk



**Pictured above Maribel Alonzo  
Public Education Coordinator  
and attendees.**

## 12th Annual IT Expo 2024



**Pictured above RGV911 Information Technology Team,  
Ron Hall, Javier Garza,  
Juan Vazquez, and expo attendees.**



# Know Your Address Tour In Willacy County

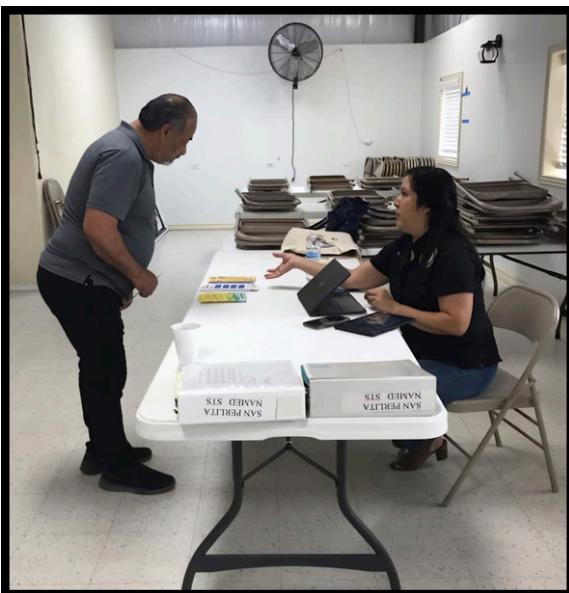


← SEBASTIAN

RAYMONDVILLE →



During the month of April, the Willacy County Sheriff's Office graciously extended an invitation for us to tour Willacy County and introduce the "Know Your Address" campaign. This initiative aims to assist Willacy County residents in registering their addresses, ensuring efficient emergency response services. It's a proactive step towards enhancing community safety and preparedness within the county.



SAN PERLITA



LASARA

## PSJA ISD All Abilities Awareness Walk



Pictured above staff Angela Alvarado engaging the community.



Pictured above everyone ready for the Awareness Walk.

## 2024 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



Pharr Communication Center



# 2024 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



**SAN JUAN  
COMMUNICATION CENTER**



**EDINBURG  
COMMUNICATION CENTER**



**ELSA  
COMMUNICATION CENTER**

# 2024 National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week



**PALMVIEW  
COMMUNICATION  
CENTER**



**MCALLEN  
COMMUNICATION  
CENTER**



**ALTON  
COMMUNICATION  
CENTER**

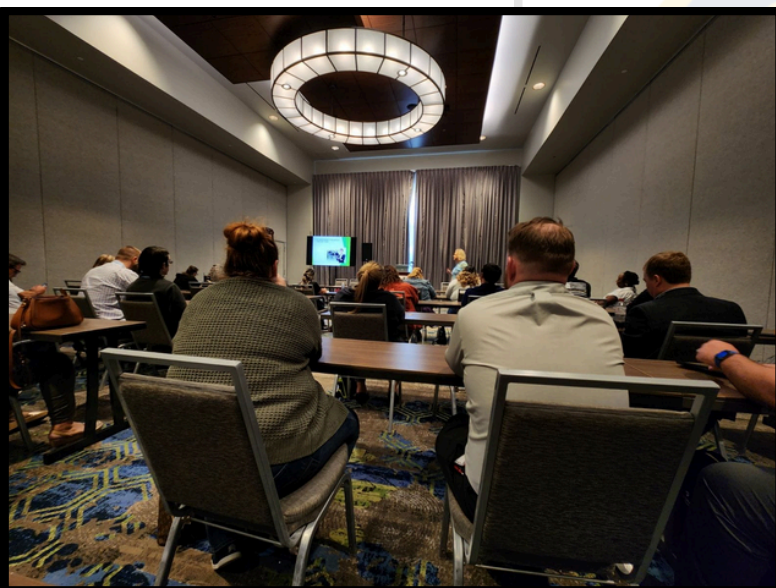


## 2024 TEXAS PUBLIC SAFETY CONFERENCE



**Pictured are staff Javier Dominguez, Juan Vazquez, Angela Alvarado, and Maribel Alonzo with HCSO 911 Telecommunicators.**

**Attending sessions eager to engage, network, and absorb insights that we can bring back to our district, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.**



**Each class offered practical strategies and fresh perspectives crucial for addressing the complex challenges in public safety. Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity to learn, network, and contribute to the advancement of the field.**

**ITEM #5.D**

**TRANSPORTATION**



## Item #5: Department Reports

### D. Transportation

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

Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Software Subscription Renewal for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

The staff seeks the Board's approval for the renewal of the software subscriptions, encompassing any forthcoming renewals related to the Hardware or Software, as long as funding or equipment remains necessary.

Purpose:

1. Software subscription renewals help Valley Metro leverage the full benefits of the software investments while ensuring that they remain up-to-date, secure, and compliant with licensing requirements.
2. Subscription renewals also provide access to updates or upgrades and technical support which can be crucial for troubleshooting issues, resolving technical challenges, and receiving guidance on best practices for using the software.
3. Subscription renewals are related solely to the overall operations of LRGVDC Valley Metro.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

## Item #5: Department Reports

### D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report ..... Tom 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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	TOTAL	
VALLEY METRO	28,553	29,294	24,112	22,484	24,809	27,549	27,358	31,035	215,194	13%
UTRGV	65,221	70,258	56,528	20,318	33,307	57,734	40,047	57,839	401,252	44%
STC	472	549	396	155	186	388	258	362	2,766	40%
TSTC	136	118	74	73	25	25	28	26	505	-7%
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	89,262	619,717	32%
RURAL AND URBAN COUNT										
AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	TOTAL	
Rural	5,685	5,808	4,942	4,776	4,687	5,243	5,976	6,471	43,588	8%
Urban	88,697	94,411	76,168	38,254	53,640	80,453	61,715	82,791	576,129	34%
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	89,262	619,717	32%
RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY										
COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	TOTAL	
Hidalgo County	83,623	89,123	71,808	33,639	48,994	75,451	56,295	76,580	535,513	36%
Cameron County	8,377	8,494	7,151	7,680	7,504	8,190	9,340	10,456	67,192	12%
Willacy County	233	249	225	242	270	274	284	239	2,016	-16%
Starr County	1,957	2,181	1,772	1,297	1,367	1,663	1,600	1,862	13,699	16%
Zapata County	192	172	154	172	192	118	172	125	1,297	-27%
Total	94,382	100,219	81,110	43,030	58,327	85,696	67,691	89,262	619,717	32%

#### Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:

- The RTAP Committee held an in-person/virtual meeting on April 25, 2024, and discussed updates that were provided by the partnering agencies regarding the needs and gaps of the 5-Year Transit Plan as presented by the RTAP Sub-committee.

- The next in-person RTAP meeting will be held on June 27, 2024, at Valley Metro.
- The meeting covered a range of topics related to transit services such as:
  - Updates on ongoing projects, such as the bus shelter project and completion of the City of San Juan terminal.
  - Discussions revolved around plans for rural service expansion between Zapata and Laredo, as well as the extension of funding deadlines and the proposal for an expansion of the Metro Express service.
  - The need for training certification for transit agencies and the potential increase in ridership, particularly within the blind community, due to the hardware and software projects.
  - The meeting section also featured updates from various transportation departments, with positive trends in ridership and collaborative efforts to enhance transportation services across different areas.
  - The meeting concluded with a discussion and action on receiving nominations for new RTAP officers, which is scheduled for June 2024.



# 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 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

## VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

## 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

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Rio Grande Valley MPO Action Item .....Luis Diaz, Interim Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the procurement of replacement loggers, batteries, and software subscription for the Rio Grande Valley Bicycle & Pedestrian Counter Program.

Reliable bicycle and pedestrian count data greatly benefits the planning process by providing insights and data-driven support for future projects. The Rio Grande Valley Bicycle & Pedestrian Counter Program is a central location to exchange, manage, review, and import/export count data.

This action is pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, planning activities to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities.

**Eco-Counter Inc**

604-3981 Boul. Saint-Laurent  
Montréal, Quebec  
H2W 1Y5, Canada

Contact : Kara Martin  
Email : kara.martin@eco-counter.com  
Phone : (866) 518-4404 ext. 107

Customer Number : 6571

Quote Number : Q-61550

## QUOTE

**Customer****Rio Grande Valley MPO (RGVMPO)**

301 W Railroad St  
Weslaco, TX  
78596, United States

Contact : Eva Garcia

**Delivery address if different****Rio Grande Valley MPO (RGVMPO)**

301 W Railroad St  
Weslaco, Texas  
78596, United States

**Subject** Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council- Batteries, Expert GSM, 4G Logger Upgrades  
SF00047237 05/24

**Date :** 5/13/2024

### 4G Logger Replacement - Discount 30%

Production dates 2020 or later

YAH20042605 San Benito Heavin Resaca Trail at W Brooks St  
YAH20042610 San Benito Heavin Resaca Trail  
YAH20042603 Primera City Trail  
YAH20042602 Precinct 2 Trail north of E. Ridge Rd (west bank)  
YAH20042604 Mission Trail west of Conway Ave  
YAH20042607 Mission Mission Trail at FM 2062 & Military Rd  
YAH20042609 McAllen 2nd St Trail south of Pecan Blvd  
YAH20042608 McAllen 2nd St Trail south of Larkspur Ave  
YAH20042614 BrownsvilleSouth of Palo Alto Battlefield National Park  
YAH20042606 Harlingen Meg Jorn Trail  
YAH20042611 Harlingen Arroyo Trail at Boggus Car Dealership  
YAH20042612 Brownsville HBT east of Habana Street at Bus Transfer Station  
YAH20042613 Brownsville HBT south of South Price Road

Code	Description	Unit Price	Discount (%)	Discounted price	Qty	Price
<b>Components</b>					<b>13</b>	<b>\$ 16,289.00</b>
2101	RAYGEL XS Waterproof Case with Protective Covers	\$ 35.00	30 %	\$ 24.50	13	\$ 318.50
BCB2E4GBOP40	Eco-Combo 2 4G Logger GLOBAL Urban Post V2	\$ 1,755.00	30 %	\$ 1,228.50	13	\$ 15,970.50
993	Activated	\$ 0.00			13	\$ 0.00
<b>Components</b>						
756	15-minute interval data recording	\$ 0.00			13	\$ 0.00



4G Logger Replacement - Discount 30%

Production dates 2020 or later

Y2H20042618 Elsa Trail east of Extrumberto Solis St  
Y2H20042616 2nd St Trail north of Houston St  
Y2H20042617 0  
Y2H20042619 Brownsville SNT Detention Area

Code	Description	Unit Price	Discount (%)	Discounted price	Qty	Price
Components					4	\$ 5,012.00
2101	RAYGEL XS Waterproof Case with Protective Covers	\$ 35.00	30 %	\$ 24.50	4	\$ 98.00
BCB2E4GPIN40	Eco-Combo 2 4G GLOBAL Logger for Manhole	\$ 1,755.00	30 %	\$ 1,228.50	4	\$ 4,914.00
993	Activated	\$ 0.00			4	\$ 0.00
Components						
756	15-minute interval data recording	\$ 0.00			4	\$ 0.00

Toolkits

Code	Description	Unit Price	Discount (%)	Discounted price	Qty	Price
Tool kit to change PIN or FEN Logger					2	\$ 60.00
2591	Combo 2 PIN FEN toolkit	\$ 30.00			2	\$ 60.00
Tool kit to change BOP Logger					3	\$ 75.00
2590	Combo 2, Urban Post V2 toolkit	\$ 25.00			3	\$ 75.00

Batteries

Y2H20042616: 898  
Y2H20042617: 898  
Y2H20042618: 898  
Y2H20042619: 898  
YAH20042602: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042603: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042604: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042605: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042606: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042607: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042608: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042609: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042610: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042611: 1701 & 1794  
YAH20042612: 1701  
YAH20042614: 1701 & 1794

Code	Description	Unit Price	Discount (%)	Discounted price	Qty	Price
Battery					1	\$ 1,610.00
898	Battery Pack - ZELT + GSM - 4-Pin Connector (Red Disk)	\$ 145.00			4	\$ 580.00
1701	Battery Pack - GSM for Urban Post V2 / PYRO-Box V2	\$ 40.00			12	\$ 480.00
1794	Battery Pack – ZELT for Urban Post V2	\$ 50.00			11	\$ 550.00

Expert Subscription

January 1st, 2024 to December 31st, 2024

Code	Description	Unit Price	Discount (%)	Discounted price	Qty	Price
------	-------------	------------	--------------	------------------	-----	-------

Services			1	\$ 12,240.00
2613	EXPERT Package (1 year) Eco-Visio Software subscription, incl. Alert service, Dashboards, Quarterly Data Validation & Reconstruction, weather module, Eco-Visio API Yearly Cost, Public Web Page	\$ 720.00	17	\$ 12,240.00

## Shipping

Code	Description	Unit Price	Discount (%)	Discounted price	Qty	Price
Services					1	\$ 150.00
SH96966666	Shipping	\$ 150.00			1	\$ 150.00

Delivery lead time 4 to 5 weeks  
 Payment by check or direct deposit, EFT, ACH within 30 days  
 Please provide tax ID for customs clearance  
 All prices are in US dollars  
 Please note that this quote does not include sales tax, but it  
 may be added to your invoice depending on state tax  
 requirements

**Total \$ 35,436.00**

**Sign and Date for Agreement**





Rio Grande Valley MPO (RGVMPO)  
301 W Railroad St  
Weslaco, TX  
78596, United States

May 13, 2024

To whom it may concern,

**Subject:** Sole-source justification for Eco-Counter

Eco-Counter specializes in bicycle and pedestrian counting to provide reliable data that supports the development of active transportation and the preservation of natural areas. Our clientele span over 55 countries and 49 US states. Eco-Counter provides the widest range of equipment, has the longest track record, and is the foremost provider of bike and pedestrian counters globally. Our counters and associated software have been tested by institutions such as Texas A&M, Portland State University, Minnesota DOT, North Carolina DOT, Washington State DOT and the Transportation Research Board (NCHRP 797).

Since 2000, Eco-Counter has specialized in developing solutions to automatically count pedestrians and cyclists, with counters developed specifically to differentiate user types. Thanks to this focus, we offer the widest range of counters with proven track records in even the harshest environments. These counters are designed to be versatile, autonomous, discrete, and rugged. In addition, the counters have multi-year battery autonomy, wireless connectivity (Bluetooth and cellular), directional data recording, waterproof housing (IP66 or 68), and accurate counts in both urban and natural settings.

**Eco-Counter is the sole source provider for these products in the USA and does not sell through any third-party dealers or distributors.**

## Hardware

**PYRO Evo in a Wooden / ReCyclo / Urban Post**



A permanent, automated pedestrian counter suitable for both urban and natural environments. This unit is self-contained, easy to install, weather resistant, and waterproof (rated IP68). The PYRO infrared sensor can be housed in either a wooden, a recycled plastic, or vandal-resistant aluminium post. The sensor is protected by a lens guard and the battery is secured against tampering. The sensor is available in ranges of 4, 15, and 39 feet and can detect direction. The systems are battery operated and have a battery life of 2 years. All data is transmitted wirelessly by either Bluetooth or the 3G/4G cellular network. The systems are compatible with Eco-Counter's Eco-Visio online data analysis software.

### **PYRO-Box Evo**

A permanent or temporary automated pedestrian counter suitable for both urban and rural environments. This unit is self-contained, easy to install and move, and non-intrusive. It is vandal resistant, weather resistant, and waterproof (rated IP68). The PYRO infrared sensor is protected by a lens guard and the battery is secured against tampering. The sensor is available in ranges of 4, 15, and 39 feet and can detect direction. The systems are battery operated and have a battery life of 2 years. All data is transmitted wirelessly by either Bluetooth or the 3G/4G cellular network. The systems are compatible with Eco-Counter's Eco-Visio online data analysis software.

### **Urban MULTI Evo**

An automated permanent solution for shared-use paths using ZELT inductive loops and PYRO infrared sensors to count pedestrians and cyclists and distinguishing between the two. This unit which houses its components in a vandal-resistant aluminium post is easy to install, weather resistant, and waterproof (rated IP66). Patented ZELT inductive loops use a sophisticated algorithm with 13+ criteria to analyze the electromagnetic signature of bicycle wheels and exclude other types of vehicles including cars from being counted, while the PYRO sensors simultaneously detect and distinguish pedestrians. The counter can optionally also detect and distinguish e-scooters and record dense groups of cyclists on dedicated paths. The sensor is available in a range of installation configurations spanning from 3 to 20 feet in width. It is rated IP 68 and is safe against flooding and dust. Advanced technology allows it to optionally measure speed and direction. All data is transmitted wirelessly by either Bluetooth or the 3G/4G cellular network. The systems are compatible with Eco-Counter's Eco-Visio online data analysis software.

### **Mobile MULTI**

A mobile solution to count and distinguish between pedestrians and cyclists using a combination of pneumatic TUBES and a PYRO infrared sensor in a single unit. This mobile counter can be easily installed and uninstalled in a multitude of configurations to count and record the direction of travel on trails, cycle tracks, bike lanes, roadways, sidewalks and more. The system can detect pedestrians up to 15 feet or 50 feet, and cyclists up to 30 feet. This automated system is water resistant (rated IP66) and has a sensor-battery life of up to 10 years. All data is transmitted wirelessly by either Bluetooth or the 3G/4G cellular network. The systems are compatible with Eco-Counter's Eco-Visio online data analysis software.



Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. The term “underserved communities” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity.” In addition, [Executive Order 14008](#) and [M-21-28](#) provides a whole-of-government approach to advancing environmental justice by stating that 40 percent of Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities. FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should work with State DOTs, MPOs, and providers of public transportation to review current and new metropolitan transportation plans to advance Federal investments to disadvantaged communities.

To accomplish both initiatives, our joint planning processes should support State and MPO goals for economic opportunity in disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment in housing, transportation, water and wastewater infrastructure, recreation, and health care.

## **Complete Streets**

FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should work with State DOTs, MPOs and providers of public transportation to review current policies, rules, and procedures to determine their impact on safety for all road users. This effort should work to include provisions for safety in future transportation infrastructure, particularly those outside automobiles.

A complete street is safe, and feels safe, for everyone using the street. FHWA and FTA seek to help Federal aid recipients plan, develop, and operate streets and networks that prioritize safety, comfort, and access to destinations for people who use the street network, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, micro-mobility users, freight delivery services, and motorists. The goal is to provide an equitable and safe transportation network for travelers of all ages and abilities, including those from marginalized communities facing historic disinvestment. This vision is not achieved through a one-size-fits-all solution – each complete street is unique and developed to best serve its community context and its primary role in the network.

Per the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s 2019 data, 62 percent of the motor vehicle crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities took place on arterials. Arterials tend to be designed for vehicle movement rather than mobility for non-motorized users and often lack convenient and safe crossing opportunities. They can function as barriers to a safe travel network for road users outside of vehicles.

To be considered complete, these roads should include safe pedestrian facilities, safe transit stops (if present), and safe crossing opportunities on an interval necessary for accessing destinations. A safe and complete network for bicycles can also be achieved through a safe and comfortable bicycle facility located on the roadway, adjacent to the road, or on a nearby parallel corridor. Jurisdictions will be encouraged to prioritize safety improvements and speed management on arterials that are essential to creating complete travel networks for those without access to single-occupancy vehicles.

## **Eco-Counter Batteries**

The batteries used to power Eco-Counters have been specifically designed to be compatible with Eco-Counter products. The combination of battery voltages in any one unit and the hardware used to connect the batteries to the counter are unique to Eco-Counter. As such, Eco-Counter, Inc. is the only vendor able to provide compatible batteries for our counters. The use of any other battery would be considered a deliberate mishandling of the counting equipment, voiding the warranty of the unit.

## **4G Upgrades**

In 2008, Eco-Counter launched the automatic data transmission service, enabling users to receive their count data via cellular network without having to visit their counter every day. These early generations of counters relied on a GSM modem connected to 2G or 3G cellular networks to transmit the count data. Today, carriers in the United States and around the world are shutting down their 2G and 3G networks in favor of 4G and 5G technologies. Exact sunset dates vary by network and by region, but in the United States most networks do not guarantee continued 2G service after the end of 2022, and 3G service after the end of 2023. The affected counters will continue to accurately collect count data, and no data will be lost – the 2G/3G sunsets only impact the transmission of data. The new 4G counters and loggers will be able to communicate with new 5G telecommunication networks and continue to provide you with automatic daily count data transmission from your counters. The new 4G loggers are manufactured exclusively by Eco-Counter, and store data within the logger for up to 11 months. These loggers have patented technology that allow the logger to transmit data from the counter to the Eco-Visio server via a cellular network.

## **Software**

### **Eco-Visio software – Lite / Professional / Expert**

Eco-Visio - our proprietary online platform dedicated to bike & pedestrian data - allows you to manage your fleet of counters and analyze count data down to the 15-minute interval. The Eco-Visio platform makes it possible to customize dashboards and share data with other users thanks to the ability to create numerous user accounts with different rights and workspaces. Eco-Visio access is provided with all Eco-Counters. Eco-Counter is the sole provider of this software.

The Professional and Expert Eco-Visio subscriptions offer users the ability to overlay weather data on pedestrian and cyclist count data to integrate weather indicators into your analyses, as well as an annual validation and reconstruction services to allow for certified data. In addition to these features, the Expert subscription includes an API to access data automatically, quarterly validation/reconstruction services, and securely directly from the Eco-Counter servers, as well as a Public Webpage feature to host data for the benefit of the public and other stakeholders.



### **Automatic Data Transmission (to the Eco-Visio software)**

It is physically and technologically impossible to procure the automatic data transmission service from another vendor. Eco-Counter embeds a SIM card inside the logger and immerses it (and other components) in resin for to ensure the system is completely waterproof. The SIM card is programmed to send data only to the Eco-Counter servers. The Eco-Counter servers send the data and information from the counter you see to be visualized in the Eco-Visio data analysis software used by BMTS. The Eco-Visio software is an Eco-Counter proprietary software available through no other vendor. Additionally, the Eco-Counter servers send data to a software program Eco-Counter uses internally to provide technical support. This support software program is a proprietary program developed in-house by Eco-Counter.

Eco-Counter is the sole source provider for these products in the USA and does not sell through any third-party dealers or distributors.

Please feel free to contact me for further details.

Sincerely,

Kara Martin, Client Consultant

1-438-336-1067

Kara.martin@eco-counter.com





U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Federal Transit  
Administration

December 30, 2021

**Attention:** FHWA Division Administrators  
FTA Regional Administrators

**Subject:** 2021 Planning Emphasis Areas for use in the development of Metropolitan and  
Statewide Planning and Research Work programs.

With continued focus on transportation planning the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Offices of Planning are jointly issuing updated Planning Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The PEAs are areas that FHWA and FTA field offices should emphasize when meeting with the metropolitan planning organizations, State departments of transportation, Public Transportation Agencies, and Federal Land Management Agency counterparts to identify and develop tasks associated with the Unified Planning Work Program and the Statewide Planning and Research Program. We recognize the variability of work program development and update cycles, so we encourage field offices to incorporate these PEAs as programs are updated.

Please note that this letter is intended only to provide clarity regarding existing requirements. It is not binding and does not have the force and effect of law. All relevant statutes and regulations still apply.

Sincerely,

Nuria Fernandez  
Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

Stephanie Pollack  
Acting Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure

## **2021 Planning Emphasis Areas:**

### **Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future**

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) divisions and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regional offices should work with State departments of transportation (State DOT), metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), and providers of public transportation to ensure that our transportation plans and infrastructure investments help achieve the national greenhouse gas reduction goals of 50-52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and net-zero emissions by 2050, and increase resilience to extreme weather events and other disasters resulting from the increasing effects of climate change. Field offices should encourage State DOTs and MPOs to use the transportation planning process to accelerate the transition toward electric and other alternative fueled vehicles, plan for a sustainable infrastructure system that works for all users, and undertake actions to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Appropriate Unified Planning Work Program work tasks could include identifying the barriers to and opportunities for deployment of fueling and charging infrastructure; evaluating opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips and increasing access to public transportation, shift to lower emission modes of transportation ; and identifying transportation system vulnerabilities to climate change impacts and evaluating potential solutions. We encourage you to visit FHWA's [Sustainable Transportation](#) or FTA's [Transit and Sustainability](#) Webpages for more information.

*(See [EO 14008](#) on “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” [EO 13990](#) on “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis.” [EO 14030](#) on “Climate-Related Financial Risk,” See also [FHWA Order 5520](#) “Transportation System Preparedness and Resilience to Extreme Weather Events,” FTA’s “[Hazard Mitigation Cost Effectiveness Tool](#),” FTA’s “[Emergency Relief Manual](#),” and “[TCRP Document 70: Improving the Resilience of Transit Systems Threatened by Natural Disasters](#)”)*

### **Equity and Justice<sup>40</sup> in Transportation Planning**

FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should work with State DOTs, MPOs, and providers of public transportation to advance racial equity and support for underserved and disadvantaged communities. This will help ensure public involvement in the planning process and that plans and strategies reflect various perspectives, concerns, and priorities from impacted areas. We encourage the use of strategies that: (1) improve infrastructure for non-motorized travel, public transportation access, and increased public transportation service in underserved communities; (2) plan for the safety of all road users, particularly those on arterials, through infrastructure improvements and advanced speed management; (3) reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel and associated air pollution in communities near high-volume corridors; (4) offer reduced public transportation fares as appropriate; (5) target demand-response service towards communities with higher concentrations of older adults and those with poor access to essential services; and (6) consider equitable and sustainable practices while developing transit-oriented development including affordable housing strategies and consideration of environmental justice populations.

[Executive Order 13985](#) (*Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities*) defines the term “equity” as the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian



## **Public Involvement**

Early, effective, and continuous public involvement brings diverse viewpoints into the decisionmaking process. FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should encourage MPOs, State DOTs, and providers of public transportation to increase meaningful public involvement in transportation planning by integrating Virtual Public Involvement (VPI) tools into the overall public involvement approach while ensuring continued public participation by individuals without access to computers and mobile devices. The use of VPI broadens the reach of information to the public and makes participation more convenient and affordable to greater numbers of people. Virtual tools provide increased transparency and access to transportation planning activities and decisionmaking processes. Many virtual tools also provide information in visual and interactive formats that enhance public and stakeholder understanding of proposed plans, programs, and projects. Increasing participation earlier in the process can reduce project delays and lower staff time and costs. More information on VPI is available [here](#).

## **Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination**

FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should encourage MPOs and State DOTs to coordinate with representatives from DOD in the transportation planning and project programming process on infrastructure and connectivity needs for STRAHNET routes and other public roads that connect to DOD facilities. According to the Declaration of Policy in 23 U.S.C. 101(b)(1), it is in the national interest to accelerate construction of the Federal-aid highway system, including the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, because many of the highways (or portions of the highways) are inadequate to meet the needs of national and civil defense. The DOD's facilities include military bases, ports, and depots. The road networks that provide access and connections to these facilities are essential to national security. The [64,200-mile STRAHNET system](#) consists of public highways that provide access, continuity, and emergency transportation of personnel and equipment in times of peace and war. It includes the entire 48,482 miles of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways and 14,000 miles of other non-Interstate public highways on the National Highway System. The STRAHNET also contains approximately 1,800 miles of connector routes linking more than 200 military installations and ports to the primary highway system. The DOD's facilities are also often major employers in a region, generating substantial volumes of commuter and freight traffic on the transportation network and around entry points to the military facilities. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the STRAHNET maps and recent Power Project Platform (PPP) [studies](#). These can be a useful resource in the State and MPO areas covered by these route analyses.

## **Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination**

FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should encourage MPOs and State DOTs to coordinate with FLMA's in the transportation planning and project programming process on infrastructure and connectivity needs related to access routes and other public roads and transportation services that connect to Federal lands. Through joint coordination, the State DOTs, MPOs, Tribal Governments, FLMA's, and local agencies should focus on integration of their transportation planning activities and develop cross-cutting State and MPO long range transportation plans, programs, and corridor studies, as well as the Office of Federal Lands



Highway's developed transportation plans and programs. Agencies should explore opportunities to leverage transportation funding to support access and transportation needs of FLMAs before transportation projects are programmed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Each State must consider the concerns of FLMAs that have jurisdiction over land within the boundaries of the State (23 CFR 450.208(a)(3)). MPOs must appropriately involve FLMAs in the development of the metropolitan transportation plan and the TIP (23 CFR 450.316(d)). Additionally, the Tribal Transportation Program, Federal Lands Transportation Program, and the Federal Lands Access Program TIPs must be included in the STIP, directly or by reference, after FHWA approval in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 201(c) (23 CFR 450.218(e)).

### **Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)**

FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should encourage State DOTs, MPOs and Public Transportation Agencies to implement PEL as part of the transportation planning and environmental review processes. The use of PEL is a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decisionmaking that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process, and uses the information, analysis, and products developed during planning to inform the environmental review process. PEL leads to interagency relationship building among planning, resource, and regulatory agencies in the early stages of planning to inform and improve project delivery timeframes, including minimizing duplication and creating one cohesive flow of information. This results in transportation programs and projects that serve the community's transportation needs more effectively while avoiding and minimizing the impacts on human and natural resources. More information on PEL is available [here](#).

### **Data in Transportation Planning**

To address the emerging topic areas of data sharing, needs, and analytics, FHWA Division and FTA regional offices should encourage State DOTs, MPOs, and providers of public transportation to incorporate data sharing and consideration into the transportation planning process, because data assets have value across multiple programs. Data sharing principles and data management can be used for a variety of issues, such as freight, bike and pedestrian planning, equity analyses, managing curb space, performance management, travel time reliability, connected and autonomous vehicles, mobility services, and safety. Developing and advancing data sharing principles allows for efficient use of resources and improved policy and decisionmaking at the State, MPO, regional, and local levels for all parties.



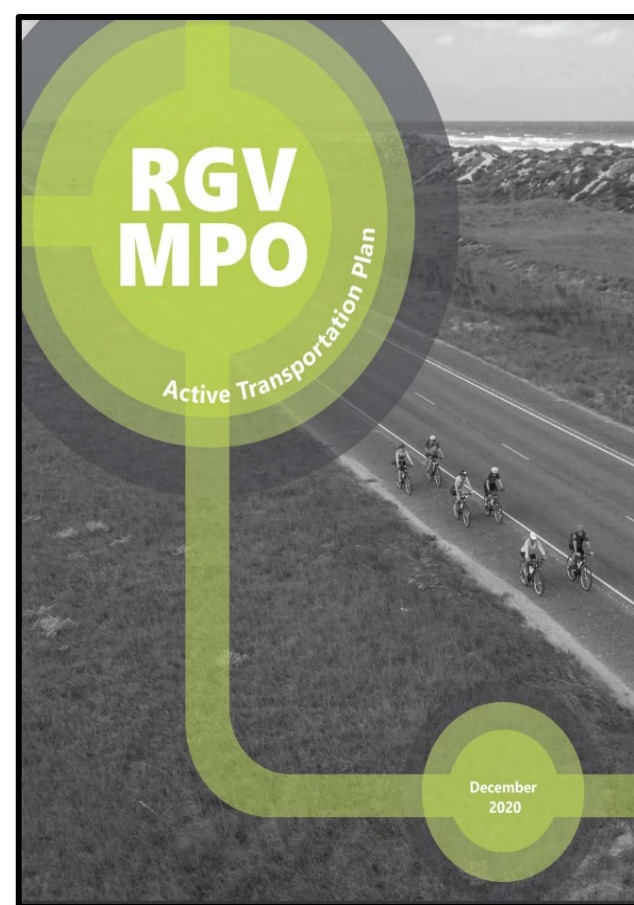
# RGVMPO Active Transportation Plan

Adopted December 2020

## • Key Principles & Supporting Goals •

- **Connectivity:** increasing mobility across active transportation modes, while creating an integrated regional transportation network.
- **Accessibility:** Establishing a comprehensive system of transportation options and allowing users of all ages and abilities to access resources across the region.
- **Community Health:** Promoting active transportation modes that improve public health and support local economies.

*Figure 3-1: Success Areas for Walking and Biking Action Plan*





# 1. Planning & Design

## • 4 of 6 Initiatives •

- **1.1 Design Standards:** Adopt Regional Design Standards for active transportation facilities.
- **1.2 Facility Inventory:** Develop regional standards for a facility inventory. Develop strategy for cyclical review and updates.
- **1.3 Bicycle & Pedestrian Counts:** Establish a regional bicycle, pedestrian, and trail count program. Participate in the TxDOT BP|CX at regional level.
- **1.4 Regional Data Portal:** Establish a regional data portal. Garner initial regional data.
- **1.5 End of Trip Facilities:** Develop end of trip facilities policy and/or programming.
- **1.6 Pilot Projects:** Obtain collection of resources and supplies for implementing pilot projects.

Table 3-1: Planning & Design Initiatives

Initiative	Action	Entity	Term	Measures of Success
<b>Design Standards</b>	Adopt Regional Design Standards for active transportation facilities.	MPO, Local	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adopted design standards are incorporated into municipal roadway design manuals or other similar documents.</li></ul>
<b>Facility Inventory</b>	Develop regional standards for a facility inventory. Develop strategy for cyclical review and updates.	MPO, Local	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete facility inventory.</li><li>Annual data collection and reporting effort taking place.</li><li>Established data benchmarks according to community goals.</li></ul>
<b>Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts</b>	Establish a regional bicycle, pedestrian, and trail count program. Participate in the TxDOT BP CX at regional level.	MPO, Local	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Annual count reporting.</li><li>Number of automated counters.</li></ul>
<b>Regional Data Portal</b>	Establish a regional data portal. Garner initial regional data.	MPO, State, Local	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishment of regional data portal.</li><li>Portal used for future plans or project development.</li></ul>
<b>End of Trip Facilities</b>	Develop end of trip facilities policy and/or programming.	Local, Transit Agencies, Local Business, Schools	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>End of trip facilities installed at public locations.</li><li>Ordinances passed requiring end of trip facilities.</li></ul>
<b>Pilot Projects</b>	Obtain collection of resources and supplies for implementing pilot projects.	MPO, Local	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of projects implemented.</li><li>Number of attendees or facility users</li><li>Public input supporting project.</li></ul>

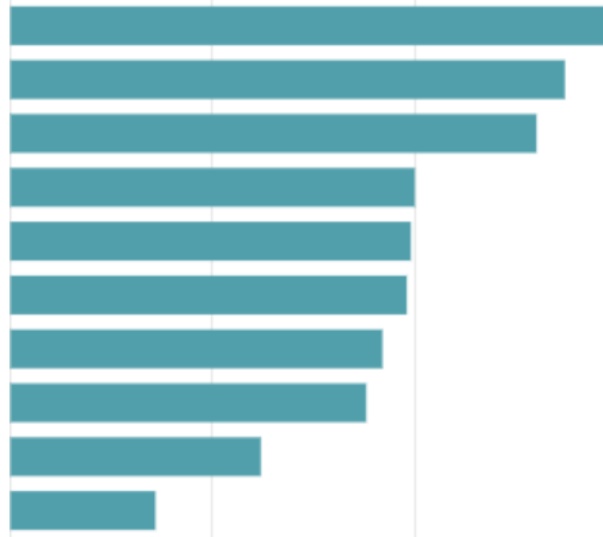


# 2021 vs. 2023 BPAC Priorities

39. Using the arrows to move recommendations up or down, rank your/your organization's priorities:











[More Details](#)

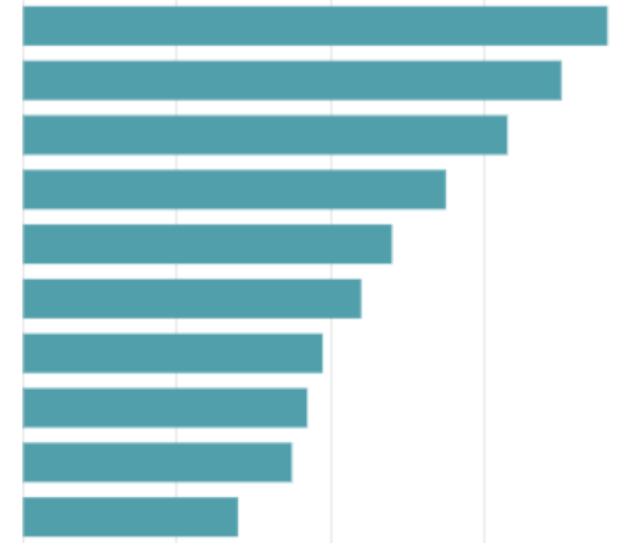
- 1 Regional Design Standards (Plan...
- 2 Regional Standards for Facility I...
- 3 Regional Bike/Ped Count Progra...
- 4 Regional Data Portal (Planning ...
- 5 Complete Street Policies (Policy ...
- 6 Regional BikeShare Program (Ed...
- 7 Law Enforcement Trainings (Safe...
- 8 Promotion of Walk and Bike Mo...
- 9 Design and Print Walking and Bi...
- 10 Establish a Wayfinding Program ...



23. Using the arrows to move recommendations up or down, rank your/your organization's priorities:

[More Details](#)

-  Regional Design Standards (Plan...
-  Complete Street Policies (Policy ...
-  Regional Standards for Facility I...
-  Regional BikeShare Program (Ed...
-  Regional Bike/Ped Count Progra...
-  Regional Data Portal (Planning ...
-  Promotion of Walk and Bike Mo...
-  Law Enforcement Trainings (Safe...
-  Design and Print Walking and Bi...
-  Establish a Wayfinding Program ...







## 2. Policy & Program

### • 2 of 4 Initiatives •

- **2.1 Complete Streets Policies:** Adopt Complete Street policies. Incorporation of Complete Streets policies into local planning documents implementation of Complete Streets policies.
- **2.2 Safe Routes to School:** Develop regional Safe Routes to School program.
- **2.3 Supportive Land Use Policy:** Review land use policies and amend where needed. Incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity needs in future policy.
- **2.4 Advisory Committees:** Continued support of the RGVMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and collaboration with the Caracara Trails Advisory Committee (CTAC). Create municipal advisory committees.

Table 3-2: Policy and Program Initiatives

Initiative	Action	Entity	Term	Measures of Success
<b>Complete Streets Policies</b>	Adopt Complete Streets policies. Incorporation of Complete Streets policies into local planning documents. Implementation of Complete Streets policies.	Local, MPO, State	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complete Streets Policy adopted.</li><li>All modes accommodated with safe facilities during resurfacing or expansion projects.</li></ul>
<b>Safe Routes to School</b>	Develop regional Safe Routes to School program.	MPO, State, School Districts	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Measured increase in biking and walking activity in school children.</li><li>Number of lane miles of added all ages and abilities facilities within ¼ mile of schools.</li></ul>
<b>Supportive Land Use Policy</b>	Review land use policies and amend where needed. Incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity needs in future policy.	Local, State	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updates to land use policy that support mixed use development along regional trails.</li><li>Connectivity requirements implemented in land use policy.</li></ul>
<b>Advisory Committees</b>	Continued support of the RGVMPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and collaboration with the CTAT. Create municipal advisory committees.	Local, MPO	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Number of municipal committees created.</li></ul>



# 3. Education & Encouragement

## • 3 of 6 Initiatives •

- **3.1 Bikeshare:** Develop regional bikeshare plan. Continue financial and political support of local BCycle program.
- **3.2 Open Streets Events:** Coordinate and implement a series of Open Streets Events.
- **3.3 Walk & Bike Month:** Promote the official Bike/Bus/Walk to Work Day/Week/Month.
- **3.4 Media Awareness Campaigns:** Develop and implement a regional and/or local bicycle and pedestrian safety education and encouragement campaign strategy.
- **3.5 LCI Instructor Training & Skills Programs:** Organize annual LCI training program. Organize Smart Cycle classes led by LCIs for children and adults.
- **3.6 Employer Incentive Programs:** Develop network of employer incentive programs. Develop relationship with Economic Development Councils or Chambers of Commerce.

Table 3-3: Education & Encouragement Initiatives

Initiative	Action	Entity	Term	Measures of Success
<b>Bike Share</b>	Develop regional bike share plan. Continued financial and political support of local BCycle program.	MPO, Local	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of bike share programs established.</li> <li>Number of annual trips.</li> </ul>
<b>Open Streets Events</b>	Coordinate and implement a series of Open Streets Events.	Local, Advocacy Orgs	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Event attendance.</li> <li>Number of communities hosting events.</li> <li>Number of events annually.</li> </ul>
<b>Walk &amp; Bike Month</b>	Promote the official Bike/Bus/Walk to Work Day/Week/Month.	MPO, Local, Advocacy Orgs	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of events.</li> <li>Participating entities and individuals.</li> <li>Cumulative miles ridden/walked.</li> </ul>
<b>Media Awareness Campaigns</b>	Develop and implement a regional and/or local bicycle and pedestrian safety education and encouragement campaign strategy.	MPO, Local, Law enforcement, Non-profits, Advocacy Orgs	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of print materials.</li> <li>Public service announcements.</li> </ul>
<b>LCI Instructor Training &amp; Skills Programs</b>	Organize annual LCI training program. Organize Smart Cycle classes led by LCIs for children and adults.	MPO, Local	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCIs completed training. LCI-led classes.</li> <li>Number of attendees.</li> </ul>
<b>Employer Incentive Programs</b>	Develop network of employer incentive programs. Develop relationship with Economic Development Councils or Chambers of Commerce.	MPO, Local	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of incentive programs.</li> <li>Rates of participation</li> <li>Number of reduced VMT.</li> </ul>



## 4. Safety

### • 2 of 3 Initiatives •

- **4.1 Law Enforcement Trainings:** Work with local law enforcement to schedule reoccurring trainings.
- **4.2 Ordinance Enforcement:** Work with local law enforcement to schedule reoccurring trainings.
- **4.3 Vision Zero (SS4A):** Pass Vision Zero Policy at the regional and municipal level. Develop and implement a regional Vision Zero (**Safe Streets for All**) Action Plan

*Table 3-4: Safety Initiatives*

Initiative	Action	Entity	Term	Measures of Success
<b>Law Enforcement Trainings</b>	Work with local law enforcement to schedule reoccurring trainings.	Local, MPO	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More accurate and informative citations.</li></ul>
<b>Ordinance Enforcement</b>	Work with local law enforcement to schedule reoccurring trainings.	Local	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction in crashes involving people walking or biking.</li></ul>
<b>Vision Zero</b>	Pass Vision Zero Policy at the regional and municipal level. Develop and Implement a regional Vision Zero Action Plan.	MPO, Local, Law enforcement, Non-profits, Advocacy Orgs	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision Zero Policy adopted.</li><li>• Distribution of print materials.</li><li>• Public service announcements.</li></ul>



# 5. Active Tourism

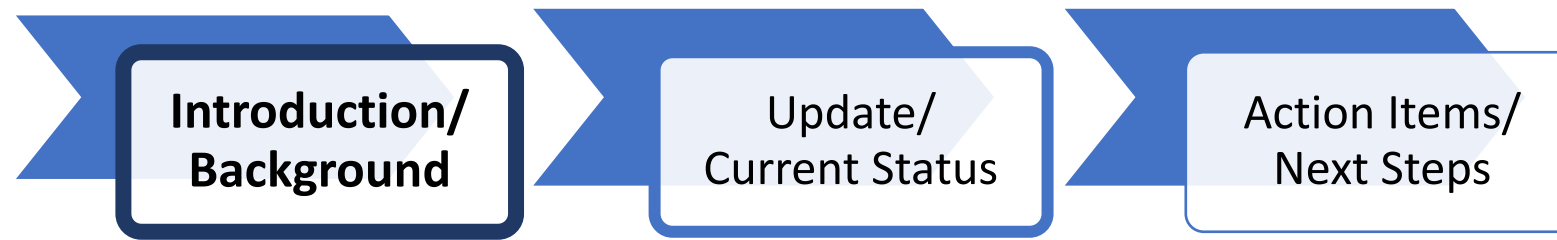
## • 0 of 3 Initiatives •

- **5.1 Walking & Biking Maps:** Design, print, and distribute regional walking and biking maps.
- **5.2 Wayfinding:** Establish regional trail wayfinding program.
- **5.3 Bicycle Friendly Designation:** Develop network of bicycle friendly designated cities, public institutions, and local businesses.
- **USBR Designation:** Pending the completion of TxDOT's Pharr District Bicycle Plan (identifies USBR route) and the development of a Statewide USBR Designation Request Process.

*Table 3-5: Active Tourism Initiatives*

Initiative	Action	Entity	Term	Measures of Success
<b>Walking &amp; Biking Maps</b>	Design, print, and distribute regional walking and biking maps.	MPO	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maps printed or published online or on app.</li><li>• Number of locations maps are distributed.</li></ul>
<b>Wayfinding</b>	Establish regional trail wayfinding program.	Local, MPO	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of signs placed.</li></ul>
<b>Bicycle Friendly Designation</b>	Develop network of bicycle friendly designated cities, public institutions, and local businesses.	MPO, Local, Local businesses, Local institutions	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local government &amp; businesses achieving BFA designation.</li><li>• Number of designated businesses</li></ul>





## • 1.3 RGV Bicycle & Pedestrian Counter Data Program •

• Eva Garcia • Planner III • [egarcia@rgvmppo.org](mailto:egarcia@rgvmppo.org) •

CY	Program Milestones	Program Stakeholders
2020	Grant Coordination + Procurement of Eco-counters	VBLF + RTC + UTSPH + TTI + TXDOT
2021	Agreement Coordination + TTI Training + Installation	Brownsville, Elsa, Harlingen, Pharr, Los Fresnos, McAllen, Mission, Primera, San Benito
2022	Temporary Counter Deployment + Data Reporting	Weslaco + La Feria + Port Isabel
2023	Quarterly Reporting to RGVMPO BPAC	RGVMPO + Program Partners
2024	Replace Loggers/Batteries + MOU Revisions	Eco-Counter + LRGVDC + Partners
2025	Procure RGVMPO set of temporary counters.	

- ✓ Establish a regional bicycle, pedestrian & trail count program; annual count reporting.
- ✓ Participate in the TxDOT BP | CX at a regional level; temporary counter loan program.
- Number of automated counters; potential expansion of program.



# Leveraging Partnerships: TTI & Legacy Foundation



	Government Agency	Hike & Bike Trail	Counters
1	Brownsville	Historic Battlefield Trail	3
	Brownsville	Southmost Nature Trail	2
2	Elsa	Elsa Hike & Bike Trail	1
3	Harlingen	Arroyo Colorado Trail	1
	Harlingen	Meg Jorn Trail (25 <sup>th</sup> St. Trail)	1
4	Hidalgo County	Pct. 2 Regional Hike & Bike Trail	1
5	Los Fresnos	Los Fresnos Hike & Bike Trail	1
6	McAllen	2 <sup>nd</sup> Street Trail	3
7	Mission	Mission Mountain Biking Trails	2
8	Primera	Primera Hike & Bike Trail	1
9	San Benito	Resaca Heavin Trail	2
Total BikePed Counters to be installed on RGV Hike & Bike Trails			18

All sites

My sites 19/20

Archived sites

Search...



## Filters

## User Types

- ☐ Pedestrian
- ☐ Cyclist
- ☐ Car
- ☐ Undefined User Type

## Directions

- ☐ Bidirectional

## Collection Mode

- ☐ Cellular Transmission
- ☐ Manual

## Domain

- ☐ Lower Rio Grande Valley  
Development
- ☐ City of Brownsville

## Users

- ☐ BTX\_Gowen
- ☐ BTX\_Ramirez
- ☐ BTX\_Salinas
- ☐ COB\_1
- ☐ COH
- ☐ CaraCaraTrails
- ☐ ChrisNelsonBVTx
- ☐ City\_of\_McAllen

0/19 selected sites

Upload Data

Export Data

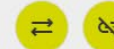
+ New site

Counter  
YAH20042604Attachment Date  
09/02/2021Last Data  
▲ 10/31/2023Depleted for  
9 months

Precinct 2 Trail north of E. Ridge Rd (west bank)

First Data  
09/04/2021Last Data  
▲ 05/13/2024Interval  
15 minutes

Tags

Counter  
YAH20042602Attachment Date  
09/04/2021Last Data  
▲ 05/13/2024Depleted for  
8 months

Primera City Trail

First Data  
09/01/2021Last Data  
▲ 09/14/2023Interval  
15 minutes

Tags

Counter  
YAH20042603Attachment Date  
09/01/2021Last Data  
▲ 09/14/2023Depleted for  
9 months

San Benito Heavin Resaca Trail

First Data  
08/31/2021Last Data  
▲ 05/20/2024Interval  
15 minutes

Tags