

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

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

**WEDNESDAY, March 25, 2026, at 12:00 P.M**

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

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

Presiding: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, President

#### Item #1: Call to Order

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

**Item #2:** Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes February 25, 2026.....President

#### Item #3: Public Comment

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

#### B. Executive Director Report

1. Consideration and **ACTION** on Advocacy effort Regarding Economic Development Administration (EDA) Austin Regional Director Vacancy with Letter of Support.
2. Introduction of New Staff Members
3. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

**Item #5: Department Reports**

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Tire Resolution for Counties to adopt.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Solid Waste Applications Ranking & Scoring for Funding Year 2026-2027.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member.
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the following South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Advisory Committee Stakeholders and Membership.
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Resolution 2026-07 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting the Awareness of Fair Housing.

Program Status Reports

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

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Vendor Request to amend contract rates from Texas Visiting Nurse Service, Ltd. And Health Care Unlimited, Inc.

Program Status Reports

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

**C. Public Safety**

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

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and County of Hidalgo to finalize the transfer of grant-funded Emergency Communications (HAM Radio) equipment for the emergency Communications Headquarters Project.

Program Status Reports

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

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

Program Status Reports

- Officers Certified
- Courses Taught
- Contact Hours

**D. Transportation**

Valley Metro.....Sandra Carrizales  
Director

Program Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO.....Michael Medina  
Executive Director

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an Interlocal agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount of \$559,281.00 to perform a special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning work Program as Subtask 5.1: International Border Crossings System-Wide Analysis.
- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Interlocal agreement with Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount \$328,327.00 to perform a special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning work Program as Subtask 5.4: Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study.

Program Status Reports

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

**Item#7: Adjourn**

**Next Meeting  
April 29, 2026**

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

**PUBLICINPUT POLICY:**

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

**ITEM #2**

**MEETING**

**MINUTES**

## MINUTES

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

12:00PM Wednesday February 25, 2026

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:09 p.m. quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

Commissioner Henry De La Paz, Willacy County  
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg  
Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen  
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco  
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  
Mayor Rosa Perez, City of La Villa  
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna  
Mayor Sylvia Castillo, City of Sullivan City  
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of  
McAllen Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of  
Raymondville  
Mayor Rick Guerra, City of San  
Benito Mr. Ron Garza, UTRGV  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas  
College Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake  
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation  
District Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large  
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large  
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

**Absent:**

Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville  
Commissioner, Joey Lopez, Cameron County  
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes  
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos  
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to Item#2

**Item #2:** Consideration and ACTION for approval of January 28, 2026. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the minutes for January 28, 2026; Mayor Omar Ochoa seconded the motion; upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Item #4:** Administration – Mr. Cruz started off with introducing all new staff and promotions. With no Further comments or concerns, Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza then moved on to B for Administration.

**B. Executive Director Report** Mr. Cruz started off his report by stating, before I move into the updates, I'd like to take a moment to highlight a recent improvement you may have noticed when you arrived today – LRGVDC is looking a little greener. We were fortunate to receive funding specifically for plants and trees through the H-E-B Trees for Texas Grant, which was applied for by Mr. Javier Dominguez late last year. We were awarded approximately \$5,000, and although it may not sound like much, we were able to purchase and plant a total of 56 trees and plants. We have already begun planting, and earlier this morning we held a small ribbon-cutting ceremony. I would like to sincerely thank the City of Weslaco for their tremendous support in making this project possible – Mayor Gonzalez, Mayor Pro Tem Garcia, who is here with us today, City Manager Javier Salinas, Assistant City Manager, Chief Tony Lopez, and Mr. Eddie Serna from Parks and Recreation. Their team generously provided staff and heavy equipment to assist with digging and planting, which was essential since LRGVDC does not have that type of equipment available. Thanks to their partnership and support, we were able to enhance the front area of our facility, and in just a few months, we expect it to be even greener and more welcoming. On behalf of LRGVDC, thank you again to the City of Weslaco for your continued collaboration and assistance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia then said a few words, thank you for inviting us to be part of this wonderful tree-planting initiative. This is the perfect time of year to begin planting, and we truly appreciate the opportunity to support this effort. Please know that we are always here to assist – whenever you need help, don't hesitate to give us a call. Mr. Cruz then added, our goal was to provide some much-needed shade, and we are hopeful the trees will continue to grow and thrive. We were mindful of the site conditions in the front parking lot, as parts of the area previously contained chemical tanks, so we carefully identified safe and appropriate spaces for planting. Although the soil contains a significant amount of caliche, we are optimistic the trees will take root and grow, eventually providing shade for those who park here. Once again, thank you to the City of Weslaco and to everyone who participated and assisted this morning.

**2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training and Legislative Updates.** As you may know, we attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils quarterly meeting at the beginning of February, and Mr. Jim Darling was able to join us. During that meeting, we discussed several important updates. One of the key topics was the Homeland Security grant programs. There has been some encouraging news, and while information is still coming in gradually, the outlook is more positive than negative. We are confident that we will eventually receive funding. This was the last of our programs that had been at risk of losing funding, so this update is very reassuring.

In addition, we shared several informational materials with you today. One of those relates to the upcoming 2030 Census. While the census is still four years away, the State of Texas is already beginning its outreach and preparation efforts this year to ensure communities take full advantage of available resources. A key initiative discussed was LUCA, the Local Update of Census Addresses Program. Participation across cities has historically been low, so we strongly encourage local governments to take part. We provided information from the Texas Demographic Center, including a QR code, so you can learn more about the LUCA program. This effort is critical to ensuring all residents are properly counted. One of the issues discussed was the use of P.O. Boxes, which can result in some residents not being counted or receiving census materials due to an invalid physical address. This continues to be a known challenge, but early planning and participation can help minimize these issues. We will be working alongside the State of Texas and the Texas Demographic Center to support this initiative across our cities. Additionally, our 911

District, which assigns addresses in rural county areas, plays an important role in ensuring accurate address verification for census purposes.

Another important item is upcoming funding through the Public Utility Commission. Approximately \$1.8 billion will be made available statewide for backup generator systems and related infrastructure. Cities and counties will be eligible to apply, particularly for critical infrastructure such as police and fire departments, emergency operations centers, and other essential facilities. However, this funding follows a three-pronged approach, meaning that the projects must include three systems: a generator, solar power, and battery backup system. The goal is to ensure multiple layers of redundancy so that critical infrastructure remains operational during disasters or emergencies. The resource is located at the PUC website <https://www.puc.org> and the application process is set to commence in late 2026. We will distribute more details once we receive official guidance.

Lastly, the materials provided also include information from the Texas Water Development Board outlining available financial assistance programs. These funding opportunities focus heavily on flooding mitigation and water conservation, reflecting priorities from the most recent legislative session. The information outlines eligible applicants, project types, and program requirements, so you are prepared to apply when funding becomes available.

If you have any questions about any of these items, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are happy to assist and coordinate directly with the Texas Water Development Board or any other agencies to help clarify funding opportunities.

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

## **Item #5 Department Reports**

### **A. Community & Economic Development**

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) membership. On February 18th, we held an EDAC meeting, during which the committee approved the nomination for a Special EDO, specifically the RGV Lead. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) membership. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air quality Planning Request for Proposal (RFP) Award to All 4 INC. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality Planning request for Proposal (RFP) award All 4 INC. Commissioner Ellie Torres seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports - We are currently accepting nominations for the Region M Board through March 20th. At this time, we have one vacancy in the municipal category, one in the water district category, and one in the "other" category. The Board report includes full details for anyone interested in serving.

Additionally, our Solid Waste Advisory Scoring Committee meeting is scheduled for March 10th at 10:00 a.m. We have received eight applications from across the region for solid waste funding, and seven will move forward for scoring. One application was deemed ineligible due to an issue with the required resolution. We have noticed recurring confusion regarding the resolution requirements, so we may review and clarify that process for the next funding cycle. Our next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., and it will be held in a hybrid format.

Lastly, to follow up on the Texas Water Development Board packet that Mr. Cruz mentioned, we are coordinating with Cueta Caballero from the local office to host a webinar focused specifically on the application phase. She has offered to walk through the application page by page, as incomplete applications often do not advance to the scoring stage. We are aiming to schedule this webinar during the first week of April and are currently finalizing the date.

Once confirmed, we will share the details. The session will also be hybrid to allow applicants and grant writers the opportunity to participate and ask questions directly regarding the application process.

## **B. Health and Human Services**

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the continued service of Maria Connie Garza as Chairperson and Kendra Stein as Vice-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Council for one-year term, in accordance with Article VI (officers) and Article V, Section 4 of the Rules of Function. Maria Connie Garza has served as Chairperson for the past year and was presented for re-election to continue in that role. Kendra Stein, who also served over the past year, expressed her willingness to continue and was nominated to remain as Vice Chairperson. **Mr. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca made a motion to approve the continued service of Maria Connie Garza as Chairperson and Kendra Stein as Vice-Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Council for one-year term, in accordance with Article VI (officers) and Article V, Section 4 of the Rules of Function. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports - Regarding HHS, during the Texas Association of Regional Councils meeting earlier this month, we received confirmation that we are fully funded for fiscal year 2026, which runs through September 30, 2026. This is certainly positive news.

Although the Older Americans Act has not yet been reauthorized, the State Plan on Aging, which was approved by the Governor's Office, outlines its top priorities for the next several years. The primary areas of focus include caregiving and aging at home. As we begin developing our Regional Area Plan, these priorities will guide our work. This alignment is encouraging because it reflects the needs we consistently see in our region, where older adults overwhelmingly choose to age at home.

In the past, state-level priorities were not always fully aligned with our regional needs. However, with this renewed focus on aging at home and providing support and education for caregivers, we are in a strong position. We remain positive and committed to advocacy, ensuring that our surveys and Area Plan are comprehensive and reflective of our community's needs.

In addition, our annual conference will take place on March 27th and will focus on AI and technology as assistive tools for caregivers. While we typically plan for 60 to 70 participants, attendance often exceeds 100. Registration is already open, and because we offer continuing education units (CEUs) at no cost, the conference tends to fill quickly. We encourage early registration to secure a spot. Lastly, you will find our January monthly report included in your packet.

No Further questions Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza moved on to the next item.

## **C. Public Safety**

### **C.1.A Emergency Services, Criminal Justice & Homeland Security**

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Member. This past January, Chief Hector Gonzalez retired from his position. Following his retirement, the City of Los Fresnos appointed Chief Charlie Banda to serve as its representative. **Mr. Ron Garza made a motion to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Member. Mr. Pepe Cabeza de Vaca seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Resolution for Statewide Emergency Infrastructure for the calendar years 2026-2028. As part of the Public Safety Homeland Security Grants Division guidelines for the 2026 Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) funding opportunity, applications submitted by non-profit organizations, local governments, and other political subdivisions must include a resolution containing specifically required information, including authorization from the governing body to submit the application.

Approval of this resolution will authorize the Development Council to apply for grants through the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) Office to enhance radio infrastructure throughout our region. As you are aware, our area continues to experience significant interference issues affecting emergency radio communications. This grant application will help address those challenges and strengthen the reliability and resilience of our emergency communications systems for years to come. **Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Resolution for Statewide emergency Infrastructure for the calendar years 2026-2028. Mayor Sylvia Castillo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

3. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) FY2026-2027 Regional Budgetary Expenditure for the FY 2026 Grant Application Cycle. As you can see, the committee selected Option 4, prioritizing \$1.1 million for our region. This represents the amount we are requesting from the state. Ultimately, the final allocation will depend on federal funding decisions made between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Texas. Our goal is to clearly demonstrate the region's need to strengthen public safety and security efforts. The proposed funding would support law enforcement training, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA), as well as our standard public safety projects. These initiatives will be moving forward over the next several months. **Mayor Omar Ochoa made a motion to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) FY 2026-2027 Regional Budgetary Expenditure for FY 2026 Grant Application Cycle. Mr. Paul Hernandez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports - Currently, the State Homeland Security Program is open and accepting applications from eligible jurisdictions. The application window will close on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. A webinar is available on our Homeland Security webpage that outlines the application process, key deadlines, and the required two-step submission and certification process.

The final item relates to the 2026 application cycle. We are setting ambitious goals and remain hopeful that we will secure significant funding for the region. Please be aware that the turnaround time will be very short.

The Homeland Advisory Committee, along with our staff, is fully prepared to manage the application process and related requirements. Our full report is included for your review, and we will continue to serve the region to the best of our ability. I am happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Cruz went ahead and added to note that the Executive Committee of the Board may need to convene for an emergency meeting due to the grant deadline imposed by the state. As Mr. Merla mentioned, the submission deadline is in early April, anticipated to be April 4th or 5th—and prioritization list of the applications must be submitted on or before that date. Unfortunately, this timeline does not align with our regularly scheduled April Board meeting, so action will need to be taken quickly. It will be a very tight turnaround following the March 12th deadline.

Additionally, regarding the generator items, there are three eligible options for supporting critical infrastructure. Applicants may choose between solar-powered systems, natural gas generators, or diesel generators, and batteries. Each option provides flexibility depending on the facility's needs; however, there are significant upfront costs associated with these purchases. This is simply for everyone's awareness as we move forward.

### **C.1B Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District.**

All reports for the Rio Gande Valley Emergency Communication Districts reports are included in packet.

C.2 Police Academy Program NO ACTION items at this time.

Program Status Reports - Mr. Javier Solis started off with. I do not have any action items this afternoon; however, I would like to provide an update on our Regional Police Academy.

Currently, we have two academies in session. Our Mission class, hosted at the Mission Police Department in Mission, has completed training on racial profiling, the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, and successfully passed the Texas Penal Code exam. They are now studying Code of Criminal Procedure and covering arrest, search, and seizure.

Our Weslaco Class 231, based in Weslaco, has completed OC spray, Taser, baton certification, and Emergency Vehicle Operations training. They are now in their final phase, with one month remaining. Over the next two weeks, they will be evaluated on patrol skills, use-of-force scenarios, and active shooter response.

On February 5th and 6th, we hosted a two-day ALERT Active Shooter Response training for certified officers. This course focused specifically on off-duty response for plainclothes officers and emphasized the moral and ethical responsibility to act as protectors of society, whether on or off duty. Officers received instruction on alternative communication methods, solo response tactics, the importance of having a family emergency plan, and the critical need to carry proper identification while off duty—misidentification being one of the leading risks for plainclothes officers. The training was very successful.

Additionally, in reference to our part-time Academy Class 233, we are currently reviewing applications. We have narrowed the pool to 38 applicants and hope to begin the academy by the end of March with approximately 30 cadets who will serve multiple agencies throughout the Rio Grande Valley.

As another highlight, in February we hosted a tabletop exercise in Elsa. First responders from the Delta area—including law enforcement, fire, and EMS—worked alongside Elsa Independent School District to simulate an active attack scenario. The objective was to evaluate policies, protocols, and planning capabilities. Agencies are currently reviewing their performance, and we plan to reconvene in the coming weeks to address any identified deficiencies and make necessary adjustments. The ultimate goal is to conduct a full-scale, live exercise in the near future, and we look forward to supporting the Delta area in that effort.

For in-service training during the month of February, we conducted six courses for certified officers, training a total of 63 officers and achieving 664 total contact hours.

That concludes my report for the month. I am happy to answer any questions.

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

#### **D. Valley Metro Transportation**

Program Status Reports - Ms. Sandra Carrizales began by stating that she does not have any action items at this time but would like to provide a departmental report. For the current reporting period, total ridership stands at 434,082 riders, representing a 10% increase. Our Large Urban program continues to account for the majority of system utilization, while our Small Urban and Rural services remain stable and aligned with the needs of our communities. This month, we had the opportunity to host our Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) meeting at the Valley Metro offices on January 29th. RTAP provides a collaborative forum for regional agencies to work together to enhance and improve transportation services throughout the region. The meeting also gave KFH (Knapp Fravel & Hosen) an opportunity to engage with stakeholders, share upcoming initiatives, and gather feedback through surveys and related outreach efforts.

In addition, we are currently evaluating our routes to ensure we are maximizing the efficiency of our drivers and bus fleet, particularly as we continue to navigate driver shortages and delayed vehicle deliveries. This review also allows us to update and improve route materials for both internal staff and external stakeholders.

**Rio Grande Valley MPO** – No reports to report at this time.

Item #6 New & Unfinished Business – None at this time

Mr. Cruz added I would like to share that, for those of you who are able and interested, we encourage you to take a moment to walk along the front area. You won't need to go far—simply walking along the front of the building will allow you to see the difference in what we have planned and get a better sense of what the potential outcome may look like.

Item #7 Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 12:39PM

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President Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza

ATTEST:

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Liza Alfrao, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #3**

**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT**

**ITEM #4. A**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**ITEM #4. B**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE**

**REPORT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday March 25, 2026

Item #4: Administration

1. Consideration and **ACTION** on Advocacy effort Regarding Economic Development Administration (EDA) Austin Regional Director Vacancy with Letter of Support.

\*Please see next slide for Letter of Support

March 25, 2026

The Honorable [Member Name]  
United States [Senate/House of Representatives]  
[Address]

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name]:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), I write to respectfully express our strong concern regarding the impending vacancy of the Economic Development Administration Austin Regional Director position, and the reported absence of plans to fill this critical role.

The Austin Regional Office serves as a cornerstone for economic development efforts across Texas, including the Rio Grande Valley. Through direct engagement, technical assistance, and strategic guidance, the EDA provides essential support to local governments, economic development districts, and regional partners working to advance infrastructure, workforce, and resiliency initiatives. This collaboration is instrumental in ensuring that our communities are well positioned to compete for and successfully secure federal funding opportunities.

For regions such as South Texas, where many communities rely heavily on federal investment to address infrastructure gaps and promote economic growth, the leadership of a Regional Director is indispensable. This role ensures coordination, responsiveness, and advocacy at the federal level elements that are vital to maintaining momentum on existing projects and advancing new initiatives.

The absence of a Regional Director in the Austin office would create a significant gap in leadership and could jeopardize the effectiveness of project development, grant navigation, and overall regional competitiveness. Given Texas' position as one of the largest and most economically significant states in the nation, it is imperative that the Austin Region maintain strong and consistent leadership to support continued growth and opportunity.

The LRGVDC Board of Directors respectfully urges your office to support efforts to ensure that this vacancy is filled in a timely manner. Doing so will help preserve the integrity of the EDA's regional support structure and safeguard the ability of communities like those in the Rio Grande Valley to access critical federal resources.

We appreciate your continued commitment to the communities of South Texas and stand ready to provide any additional information or assistance as needed.

Sincerely,

Norie Gonzalez-Garza, Mayor  
LRGVDC Board President

cc: LRGVDC Board of Directors

# **ADMINISTRATION**

## **NEW HIRES & PROMOTIONS**

# New Hires & Promotions

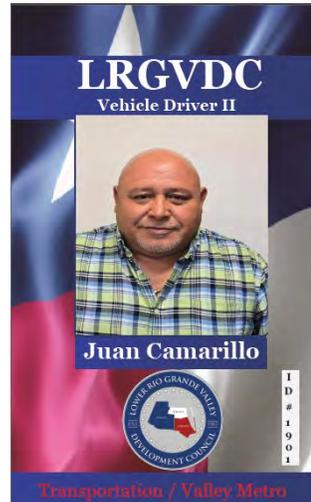
Promotion Date: February 16, 2026

Clara Munoz  
Planner II  
RGV MPO



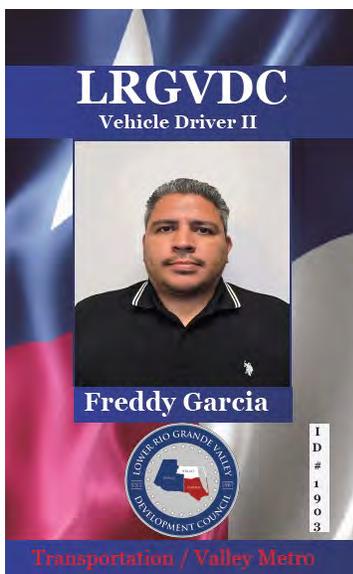
New Hire Date: March 2, 2026

Juan Camarillo  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation-Valley Metro



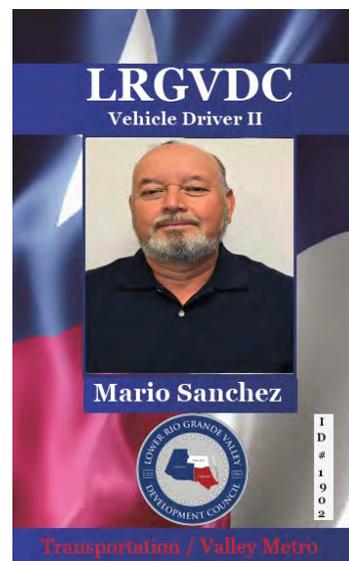
New Hire Date: March 2, 2026

Freddy Garcia  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation- Valley Metro



New Hire Date: March 2, 2026

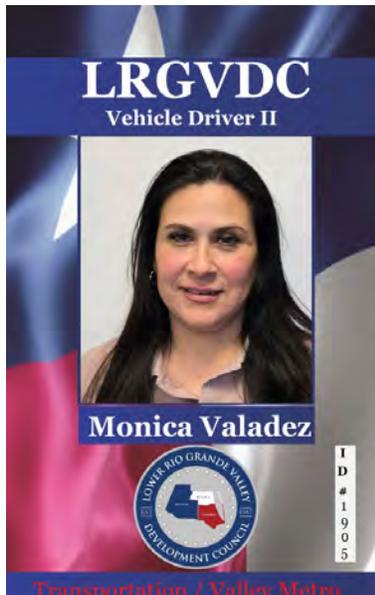
Mario Sanchez  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation – Valley Metro



# New Hires

New Hire Date: March 16, 2026

Monica Valadez  
Vehicle Driver II  
Transportation- Valley Metro



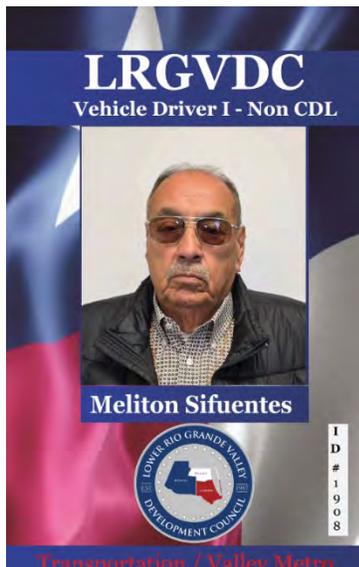
New Hire Date: March 16, 2026

Christina Sanchez  
Vehicle Driver-Non CDL  
Transportation-Valley Metro



New Hire Date: March 16, 2026

Meliton Sifuentes  
Vehicle Driver Non- CDL  
Transportation- Valley Metro

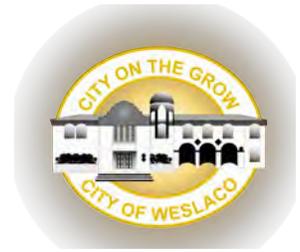


New Hire Date: March 16, 2026

Sydney Ribera  
Program Specialist 1 (Water Quality)  
Community & Economic Development



# Tree Planting Appreciation Luncheon



**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**Item #5: Community & Economic Development**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

1. Consideration and **Action** to Approve the Tire Resolution for Counties to adopt.

On March 10, 2026, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) convened and approved the Tire Resolution. The purpose of this resolution is for counties to encourage their respective communities to adopt and enforce the LRGVDC Regional Tire Ordinance, as recommended in the 2022 report titled “Scrap Tire Management and Available Alternatives in Texas (LRGVDC Region).”

The Regional Tire Ordinance, previously approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors on September 24, 2026, provides a framework for cities to adopt and implement consistent regulations within their jurisdictions. The ordinance is intended to identify the economic costs and benefits of diverting scrap tires from regional landfills while establishing uniform standards for scrap tire management. This initiative is designed to safeguard public health, reduce environmental risks, and promote responsible recycling practices throughout the LRGV region.

## RESOLUTION

### FOR THE ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL TIRE ORDINANCE

**THE ADOPTION OF A REGIONAL TIRE ORDINANCE BY THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (LRGVDC) AIMS TO SAFEGUARD PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY REGULATING THE PROPER STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISPOSAL OF SCRAP TIRES WITHIN THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY REGION. THE PURPOSE OF THE REGIONAL TIRE ORDINANCE IS TO IDENTIFY THE ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS OF DIVERTING SCRAP TIRES FROM LANDFILLS WITHIN THE REGION AND TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT REGULATION OF SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH, REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS, AND PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING IN THE LRGV REGION. BY DOING THIS RESOLUTION AS A COUNTY WITHIN THE REGION, WE WOULD BE COMPLYING WITH THE 2022-2042 REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE RECOMMENDATION STIPULATED IN THE 2022 SCRAP TIRE MANAGEMENT & AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVES IN TEXAS.**

**THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR (COUNTY NAME) TO COLLABORATE IN ENCOURAGING THESE REGULATIONS EFFECTIVELY.**

**WHEREAS, (COUNTY NAME) established ensuring that all businesses and individuals involved in tire handling with county jurisdiction adhere to sustainable practices, thereby reducing environmental hazards.**

**WHEREAS, (COUNTY NAME) is committed to the proper management of scrap tires as it is crucial for protecting public health, safety, and the environment; and**

**WHEREAS, (COUNTY NAME) agree the accumulation of scrap tires can lead to environmental hazards such as mosquito breeding grounds, fire risks, and illegal dumping; and**

**WHEREAS, (COUNTY NAME) is committed to promoting sustainable practices and reducing the impact of scrap tires on the environment; and**

**WHEREAS, (COUNTY NAME) agree collaboration is essential for the effectiveness of this tire ordinance;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the governing body of (COUNTY NAME):

1. **Adoption:** Encourage and support cities within our area to adopt the Regional Tire Ordinance as a measure to help the participating entity who adopts the Tire Ordinance to regulate the proper storage, transportation, and disposal of scrap tires within the county jurisdiction.
2. **Implementation:** Encourage the appropriate municipality to implement the provisions of the Regional Tire Ordinance effectively and efficiently.
3. **Public Awareness:** Encourage appropriate municipality to inform residents and businesses about the requirements and benefits of the Regional Tire Ordinance.
4. **Collaboration:** Encourage all counties with the LRGVDC Region to collaborate and to share resources, information, and strategies for the success of the tire ordinance.

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

Adopted by the (ADD NAME) at a meeting held on the (DATE) of (MONTH) 2026

(ADD NAME), Judge

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**Item #5: Community & Economic Development**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

**2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the Solid Waste Applications Ranking & Scoring for Funding Year 2026-2027.**

On March 10, 2026, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met to score, and rank submitted applications for funding year 2026-2027. Eight (8) applications were received, however, one (1) of those applications was not administratively complete; therefore, only seven (7) applications were scored and ranked.

Total Funding for FY 2026/2027 - \$120,000.00

FY 2026 - Two Projects will be awarded- \$60,000.00

FY 2027 - Two Projects will be awarded- \$60,000.00

<b>Entity</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Fiscal Year 2026</b>		
1. City of Mission – Source Reduction & Recycling	\$30,000.00	95.58
2. City of Weslaco – Source Reduction & Recycling	\$30,000.00	93.16
<b>Fiscal Year 2027</b>		
3. City of Alton – Litter & Illegal Dumping	\$30,000.00	91.83
4. City of Mercedes – Litter & Illegal Dumping	\$30,000.00	87.41

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**Item #5: Community & Economic Development**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

**3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) member.**

At the March 10, 2026, SWAC meeting, the committee recommended the following member for the following positions:

- **Private Citizen: Susy Torres, Mother Earth Recycling**

Ms. Torres operates a cutting-edge facility dedicated to fully recycling and transforming scrap tires into high-value products. Mother Earth Recycling mission is twofold: to eliminate tire waste from landfills and to reinvest the organization's financial success directly into the communities we serve. In doing so, they are advancing both environmental sustainability and local economic prosperity. Ms. Torres's commitment to the Lower Rio Grande Valley runs deep. As someone born and raised in the Valley, she is personally invested in ensuring that the region's rapid growth is managed responsibly and sustainably. She understands the critical challenges facing our communities and is eager to leverage her experience to help the LRGVDC secure resources and implement strategies that strengthen quality of life and economic vitality in the RGV.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the following South Texas Clean Cities & Communities Coalition (STC4) Advisory Committee Stakeholders and Membership.

**Stakeholders:**

As per the STC4 Bylaws, Stakeholders are voting members who can serve on the Board of Directors. The number of stakeholders for the organization will range between 9 to 17, representing the three regions within the boundaries of the Councils of Governments.

**Membership:**

As per the STC4 Bylaws, Membership is considered entities seeking to join the coalition to gain access to the benefits and resources provided by the organization. While membership can engage in coalition activities and benefit from coalition resources, they do not have voting rights or eligibility to serve on the Board of Directors.

At the March 12, 2026, STC4 meeting, the committee recommended the following stakeholders and membership for the following positions:

- South Texas Development Council – Juan Rodriguez - **Stakeholder**

Mr. Rodriguez is the Executive Director at the South Texas Development Council (STDC). He has worked on and contributed to sustainable transportation planning and practice in South Texas through the Laredo-Webb County MPO Technical Committee, active transportation committee participation, coordinated transit planning focused on equity, and grant-support stakeholder work. His E.D. role places him at the intersection of policy, funding, and implementation, with documented activity around Vision Zero, micro-transit, bike/ped safety, and long-range multi-modal planning. In addition, Mr. Rodriguez represents one of the partner regions identified by the Department of Energy for the coalition's 18-county service area. His ongoing coordination with the Laredo-Webb County MPO, along with his experience in regional planning, clean transportation initiatives, and interagency partnership-building, makes me a strong and impactful fit to support STC4's goals for sustainable, equitable, and energy-efficient mobility across the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

- Laredo-Webb County MPO – Juan Mendive - **Stakeholder**

Mr. Mendive is the Director of the Laredo and Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He helps guide regional transportation policy and planning with a focus on safe, multimodal, and sustainable mobility. Additionally, he ensures that the MPO carries out a cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive regional transportation planning process. Mr. Mendive holds a Master of City and Regional Planning (MCRP) and a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Management from The Ohio State University. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Planning and

Administration from Texas A&M International University. His educational and professional background in planning and public policy has provided me with essential skills and knowledge that he can contribute to the STC4 Committee.

- Valiant Energy Resources - Juan Galvan – **Membership**

Valiant Energy Sources delivers hands-on energy management services focused on reducing financial risk, controlling utility costs, and improving day-to-day operational performance. Services are structured to provide clear accountability, measurable outcomes, and direct client support.

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**Item #5: Community & Economic Development**

**A. Community & Economic Development**

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution 2026-07 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting the Awareness of Fair Housing.

The principle of fair housing are not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans. National Fair Housing Month in April provides an opportunity for all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

For Fair Housing information, resources, or assistance available, please visit our Fair Housing webpage at: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/fairhousing.html>



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

## RESOLUTION 2026-07

### PROCLAMING APRIL AS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

*“Fair Housing: The ‘Act’ in Action.”*

**WHEREAS**, the **Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council** (LRGVDC) finds that decent, safe, and affordable housing is part of the American dream and a goal of all Rio Grande Valley residents;

**WHEREAS**, individuals in the Rio Grande Valley have the right to choose where to live without discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, gender, familial status, marital status, national origin, and/or disability;

**WHEREAS**, acts of housing discrimination and barriers to equal housing opportunity are repugnant to a common sense of decency and fairness;

**WHEREAS**, federal and state laws affirm the right of every person to equal housing opportunity;

**WHEREAS**, fair housing is a positive community good;

**WHEREAS**, economic stability, community health, and human relations in all communities are improved by diversity and integration;

**WHEREAS**, stable, integrated, and balanced residential patterns are threatened by discriminatory acts and unlawful housing practices that result in segregation of residents and opportunities in our region;

**WHEREAS**, the talents of grassroots and non-profit organizations, housing service providers, financial institutions, elected officials, state agencies, and others must be combined to promote and preserve integration, fair housing, and equal opportunity.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I Mayor Norie Gonzalez, President of LRGVDC do hereby proclaim the month of **April** as:

**“NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH - *Fair Housing: The ‘Act’ in Action*”**

To establish an open and inclusive community committed to fair housing and to promote appropriate activities by private and public entities intended to provide or advocate for integration and equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

**Adopted and approved by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors this 25<sup>th</sup>, day of March 2026.**

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Mayor Norie Gonzalez  
LRGVDC Board President



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

## Item #5: Department Reports

### Program Status Reports

- **Economic Development Administration**

On March 12, 2026, LRGVDC Community & Economic Development Director, Melisa Gonzales-Rosas delivered a presentation on Economic Development in the Rio Grande Valley to the Mid Valley Leadership Group. Mrs. Gonzales-Rosas provided an in-depth overview of the LRGVDC's role in fostering regional economic growth. The presentation highlighted the importance of the LRGVDC's designation as an Economic Development District (EDD) and how this status enhances the region's ability to secure federal resources, support strategic planning, and advance initiatives that strengthen economic resilience and competitiveness across the Valley. In addition, the group was briefed on the vital role that the region's comprehensive plans, such as the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) These plans are long-range regional planning documents that are guiding coordinated development efforts, and serve as roadmaps for addressing shared challenges, prioritizing investments, and ensuring that economic development across the Valley is aligned, resilient, and responsive to community needs.



The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (1) Special EDO. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to [vramos@lrgvdc.org](mailto:vramos@lrgvdc.org).

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

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

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

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

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

The Community & Economic Development Department (C&ED) remains dedicated to empowering small communities by providing resources that drive growth, success, and improved quality of life for residents. The next RSCC meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

All RSCC meeting information and GoToMeeting link can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar, or reach out to Brenda Salinas, [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org).

- **Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund**

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

For the upcoming month, we will recognize April as *National Fair Housing Month* under the theme “Fair Housing: The ‘Act’ in Action.” During this observance, we will promote and support activities led by both public and private organizations that advance integration, equal access, and nondiscriminatory housing opportunities. Our efforts aim to reinforce the principles of the Fair Housing Act and ensure that all residents and prospective residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley have equitable opportunities to obtain safe, fair, and inclusive housing.

If any city or county is planning to host Fair Housing event(s), please contact Crystal Valdez at [cvaldez@lrgvdc.org](mailto:cvaldez@lrgvdc.org). The Community & Economic Development staff would like to participate in and support any outreach efforts related to Fair Housing.

### **Texas Department of Agriculture Funding Opportunities:**

#### **Community Development Fund (2027-2028)**

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

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

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

- **Air Quality Program**

The LRGVDC C&ED Department was awarded Rider PM2.5 funds and is currently in the final stages of executing the contract with the selected contractor in order to initiate project activities. As part of the next steps, staff will work closely with the consultant to prepare and submit the required Scope of Work (SOW) and the Quality Assurance Protection Plan (QAPP) to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for review and approval. Both documents must be approved before the project can formally move forward.

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

The intern for this project has been hired and has officially joined the Community & Economic Development (C&ED) team. The selected intern, Mr. Luke Singh, was introduced to the committee during the March 12, 2026, meeting. Mr. Singh will play a key role in supporting the preparation and submission of the coalition application, which is scheduled for June 2026. His involvement will strengthen our capacity to meet upcoming deadlines and ensure that all components of the application are completed thoroughly and on time. We will continue to engage and encourage participation from all 18 counties. This includes outreach to county judges, municipal representatives, and other local leaders to promote active involvement in the STC4 coalition. Their continued support and collaboration are essential to advancing STC4 initiatives and ensuring the success of our regional efforts.

- **Solid Waste Management Program**

The 2026–2027 Solid Waste Funding Cycle has officially closed, and we received 8 applications. All submissions were reviewed for administrative completeness. Applications deemed complete advanced to scoring and ranking by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee during the meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Ken Jones Board Room. Each applicant with an administratively complete application was given four minutes to present their project to the committee. From seven applicants four received funding. Should you have questions regarding the Solid Waste grant funding opportunity, please contact C&ED staff, Brenda Salinas, [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org); or via phone (956)682-3481 ext. 123.

Under the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) program, we are pleased to share that the CED Department has successfully placed the order for the worms required for the composting initiative.

These red wiggler worms will be delivered directly to participating schools as part of our hands-on educational effort to promote sustainable waste management practices. Delivery is scheduled to take place shortly after spring break to ensure a smooth rollout and adequate preparation time for campus staff.

In addition, our team is looking forward to coordinating site visits to several of the participating schools. These visits will allow us to observe the composting project in action, offer support as needed, and highlight the positive impact this initiative is creating within our communities.

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 continued supporting water quality outreach and public education through participation in community and regional events during March 2026. Outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of pollution prevention, litter reduction, recycling practices, and environmental stewardship, while engaging with residents and distributing educational materials related to water quality protection throughout the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

### Outreach Events Attended – March 2026

- **Community Clean-Up – City of Brownsville (March 7, 2026)**

**Location:** 1000 Sports Park Blvd., Brownsville, TX.

Community clean-up initiatives help reduce litter and illegal dumping while encouraging residents to properly dispose of waste materials. Events such as these support water quality protection by preventing debris and pollutants from entering storm drains, drainage systems, and local waterways.

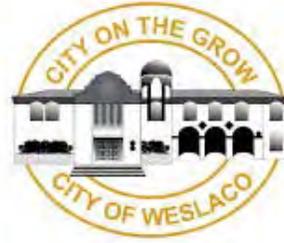


- **Frontera Audubon Volunteer Garden Clean-Up – Weslaco, Texas (March 14, 2026)**

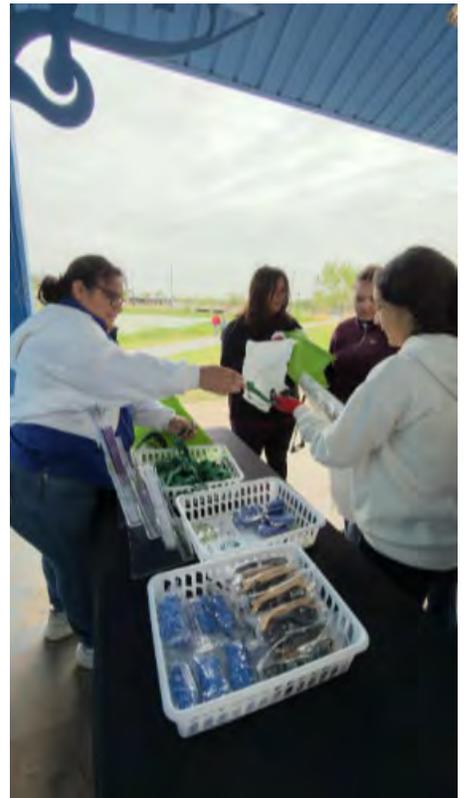
**Location:** Frontera Audubon Inspirational Garden, 1101 S. Texas Blvd., Weslaco, TX. Regional partners organized a volunteer effort focused on removing weeds, planting native vegetation, and improving the surrounding habitat. Native plant restoration and habitat maintenance contribute to healthier ecosystems and improved stormwater management that supports water quality protection.



# Frontera Audubon Volunteer Garden Clean-Up Weslaco



# San Benito Trash Bash Clean Up



- Taking Steps to College – Willacy County Family Night (March 26, 2026)**
**Location:** Willacy County Housing Authority – Community Safe Room, 10804 Business 77, Raymondville, TX.
 This community event connects students and families with educational and career pathways while providing an opportunity to share environmental education materials and promote water resource protection.



- Trash Bash – City of Alamo (March 27–28, 2026)**
**Location:** 413 S. 9th Street, Alamo, TX.

The City of Alamo hosted its annual Trash Bash event allowing residents to properly dispose of bulky waste items, electronics, furniture, tires, and other materials. Community disposal events help reduce illegal dumping and prevent pollutants from entering drainage systems and waterways.

- Community Easter Events – Cameron County and Willacy County (March 28, 2026)**
**Locations:** El Ranchito County Park, Zapotec Street, San Benito, TX., Willacy County Sheriff's Office, 1371 Industrial Drive, Raymondville, TX.

Community outreach opportunities associated with local family events allow staff to engage residents in discussions related to environmental awareness, litter prevention, and responsible waste disposal while distributing educational materials to families across the region.



### Outreach Planning and Coordination Activities

In addition to event participation, staff dedicated time during March to outreach coordination and preparation activities, including communicating with regional partners and local jurisdictions, confirming participation in upcoming events, preparing and organizing educational materials, and maintaining outreach supplies. These activities support continued public education efforts related to water quality protection, litter prevention, recycling awareness, and environmental stewardship throughout the LRGV.

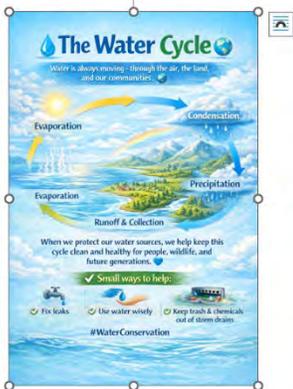
Additionally, monthly themed Facebook posts are created to engage our online community, encouraging users to give a thumbs up or leave a comment. These posts are designed to raise awareness about water quality topics and provide valuable information to the public. CED Facebook: [Community & Economic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

**The Water Cycle**  
 Water is always moving through our air, land, and communities—recycling itself through evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and runoff. When we protect our water sources, we help keep this cycle clean and healthy for people, wildlife, and future generations.

**Small ways to help:**

- Fix leaks
- Use water wisely
- Keep trash & chemicals out of storm drains

#WaterCycle #WaterConservation #ProtectOurWater #CleanWaterMatters #RGV



**March 18 – Recycling Day**  
 Recycling is one simple way we can reduce waste and protect our environment—especially our water resources. When trash is left on streets or in open areas, it can wash into storm drains and end up in our rivers, bays, and waterways.

**Let's make a difference today by:**

- Recycling what we can
- Reducing single-use plastics
- Keeping our neighborhoods clean

Every effort counts!

#RecyclingDay #KeepTexasBeautiful #ReduceReuseRecycle #ProtectOurWater #KeptClean



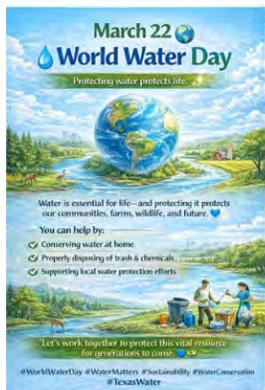
**March 22 – World Water Day**  
 Water is essential for life—and protecting it protects our communities, farms, wildlife, and future. Today we recognize the importance of clean and sustainable water for everyone.

**You can help by:**

- Conserving water at home
- Properly disposing of trash and chemicals
- Supporting local water protection efforts

Let's work together to protect this vital resource for generations to come.

#WorldWaterDay #WaterMatters #Sustainability #WaterConservation #TexasWater #ProtectOurWater



**March is Compost & Organics Month!**  
 Food scraps and yard waste don't belong in the landfill. When composted properly, they turn into nutrient-rich soil that supports healthier gardens and a cleaner environment across our region.

Composting helps:

- Reduce landfill waste
- Lower methane emissions
- Improve soil health
- Support a cleaner Region M

Small steps at home can make a big difference in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties. The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Solid Waste Program promotes waste reduction, recycling, and environmental education throughout our three-county region.

Contact us to learn more about composting resources and educational presentations.

#CompostMonth #SolidWaste #RegionM #LRGVDC #ReduceReuseRecycle #RGV



Staff continue to regularly communicate with representatives from 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 its importance to the region.

Visit our Water Resource webpage at: <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

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

LRGVDC C&ED Department, in partnership with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), is hosting a TWDB Application Workshop on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:00 AM. This virtual workshop will provide an overview of the TWDB application process as well as funding opportunities available for water-related projects.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in attending. The meeting link and dial-in details are included below.

Join Meeting:

<https://meet.goto.com/882855237>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Access Code: 882-855-237

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

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

**💡 TWDB Funding Opportunities:**

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

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

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

The LRGVDC, as the designated political subdivision responsible for administering the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M), is currently undertaking the development of the grant application for the 7th Cycle of Regional Water Planning. This effort includes compiling required documentation and ensuring compliance with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) guidelines. The completed application is scheduled for submission to TWDB no later than April 2, 2026.

The next Region M meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2026, at 9:30 AM. Meeting details can be found on the LRGVDC Events Calendar webpage and the Region M website,

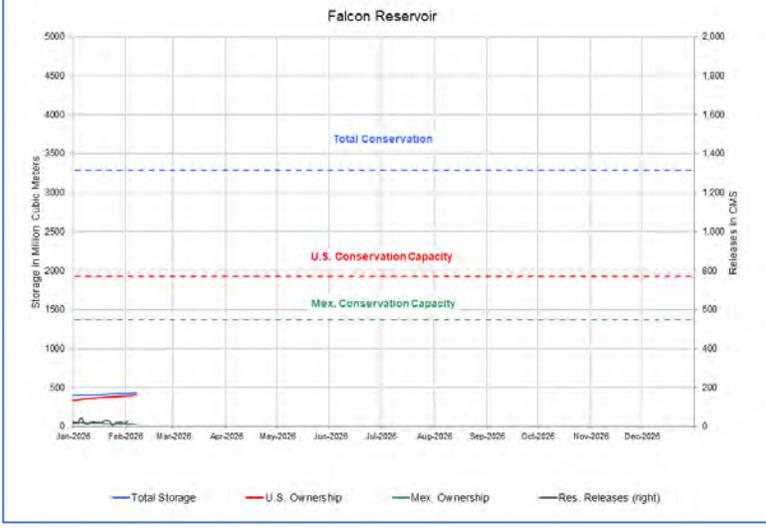
<http://riograndewaterplan.org> or <https://www.lrgvdc.org/>

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

- Reservoir Levels as of March 12, 2026 (www.IBWC.gov).

AMISTAD RESERVOIR

FALCON RESERVOIR



**ITEM # 5. B.**

**HEALTH  
&  
HUMAN  
SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday March 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Health & Human Services

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Vendor request to amend contract rates from Texas Visiting Nurse Service, Ltd. and Health Care Unlimited, INC

**Texas Visiting Nurse Service Ltd.** is requesting an **increase** in their rates for both respite and homemaker services from **\$14.00 to \$15.25.**

**Health Care Unlimited, INC** is requesting an **increase** in their rates for both respite and homemaker services from **\$15.00 to \$17.64.**

\*\*\*\* Please refer to the attached letters of request from Texas Visiting Nurse Services, LTD and Health Care Unlimited, Inc., along with the list of current vendor contractors for Program Year 2025–2026. This information is provided for disclosure purposes within the Board report.\*\*\*\*



Texas Visiting Nurse Service, Ltd.

"Who's caring for your loved one?"

February 12, 2026

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Area Agency on Aging  
Attn: Rolando Florez, Program Supervisor  
301 W Railroad  
Weslaco, TX 78596

Ref: Request for Reimbursement Rate Increase – Texas Visiting Nurse Service, Ltd

Dear Mr. Florez,

On behalf of Texas Visiting Nurse Service, Ltd (TVNS), a licensed home health agency currently contracted with AAA, I am writing to formally request consideration for an increase in reimbursement rates for Homemaker and Caregiver Respite care services.

In September 2025, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, the state agency that handles most homemaker and respite care programs within the state of Texas, mandated provider agencies to pay employees an average wage of \$13.00/hour. As a result, all employees hired to work as attendants for all state funded programs are currently being paid \$13.00/hour or more. As AAA has begun to approve and send referrals to TVNS, we are starting to encounter the hesitation and difficulty of recruiting applicants as a result of our current payrate offer of \$12.00/hour to AAA clients. This payrate offer comes as a result of our current reimbursement rate of \$14.00/hour. (See HHSC Info Letter 2025-24 attached)

Just thought I'd share: Our contract with the South Texas Development Council AAA (Laredo) was approved for a reimbursement of \$17.00/hour for homemaker, personal assistance services, and caregiver respite care services and we had to agree to pay the attendants an average of \$13.00/hour. They proposed to pay all contracted provider agencies the same reimbursement rate with the mandate of meeting their payrate request to be verified upon audit.

Despite rising operational costs, inflation, and competition, TVNS is requesting an increase in reimbursement rate to \$15.25/hour. This would allow us to pay the attendant an average wage of \$13.00/hour and the ability to cover all of the payroll taxes and benefits to assist with recruitment and secure a healthy list of possible applicants for these assignments.

Address : 814 E. Tyler Ave., Harlingen, TX 78550

Contact No : 956.412.1401

Fax No : 956.412.7952

E-mail : [vanessa.sandoval@tvnsltd.com](mailto:vanessa.sandoval@tvnsltd.com)

Website : [www.TVNSLTD.com](http://www.TVNSLTD.com)

TVNS has been a dedicated, cooperative, and dependable provider within the AAA network for many years and would love to continue to do so. Your consideration and approval of our request would be greatly appreciated. I am confident that this adjustment is fair and reflects the value our practice provides to you and your (our) clients.

I look forward to discussing it further if needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vanessa Sandoval R.N., BSW". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Vanessa Sandoval, Administrator  
Texas Visiting Nurse Service, Ltd  
956-412-1401  
Vanessa.sandoval@tvnsltd.com



Laurel Park Plaza, Suite 100  
 1100 E. Laurel Ave.  
 McAllen, Texas 78501  
 956-994-9911

February 24, 2026

Procurement Department  
 Lower Rio Grande Development Council – Area Agency on Aging  
 301. W Railroad St.  
 Weslaco, TX 78596

**RE:** Request for Contractual Rate Increase – Health Care Unlimited, Inc.

Dear Procurement Department Representative,

I am writing to formally request a review and increase of the reimbursement rates for **Health Care Unlimited, Inc.** We have been a proud participating provider with LRGVDC – AAA since 2015, serving a great number of the Rio Grande Valley – AAA participants throughout the Willacy, Cameron and Hidalgo counties.

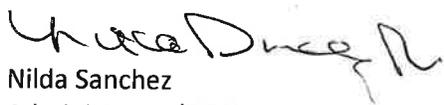
As our organization continues to provide high-quality care to AAA participants, the cost of operations such as the increase in cost of technology, office staff and the increase of attendant wages this past September, pressures us to request an increase in our current reimbursement rates. The current rate no longer covers the cost of care for these members.

**I'm requesting an adjustment for the following services:**

Service	Current Rate	Requested Rate
Homemaker Services	\$15	\$17.64
Caregiver Respite Service	\$15	\$17.64

We value our partnership and mutual assistance to the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and we want to continue providing care to AAA members. I look forward to your response,

Sincerely,



Nilda Sanchez  
 Administrator/DON

## Homemaker & Respite In Home Services 2025-2026

Agency	Telephone Number	AAA - Home Maker Rate	AAA - Respite In Home Rate	Service Area
4 Genesis Primary Home Care	956-348-4229	\$18.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
A Healing Touch Home Health	956-447-1803	\$15.00	\$15.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Acara	956-412-3558	\$16.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Agua Cristalina Home care	956-365-3095	\$22.00	\$20.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Alameda Health Services	956-367-2125	\$14.00	\$15.00	Cameron
All Generations Health Care	956-928-1001	\$15.00	\$15.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
All Star Primary Home Care	956-766-7700	\$16.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron
All Texas Health Care	956-425-2273	\$17.00	\$17.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
All-Valley Home Health	956-782-9002	\$14.00	\$13.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
All-Valley Primary Home Care	956-782-9002	\$15.00	\$15.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
American Medical Home Health Servics	724-469-1449	\$18.00	\$17.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
APC Homemaker Services	956-412-0220	\$17.13	\$17.13	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Arise Home Health Care	956-580-1155	\$15.76	\$15.76	Hidalgo
Casa Mia Home Care	956-843-0740	\$16.50	\$16.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
De Fe Provider Health Services	956-520-8127	\$19.00	\$19.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
D'Oro Home Health Services	956-973-9700	\$15.50	\$15.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Faith Primary Home Care	956-272-1950	\$16.50	\$16.50	Hidalgo, Cameron
Familia Unida Home Healthcare	956-627-5060	\$20.00	\$20.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Gold Star Care Home Health	956-468-2933	\$15.00	\$15.00	Cameron
Health Care Unlimited	956-994-9911	\$15.00	\$15.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Helping Hands Primary Home Care	956-731-0002	\$16.84	\$16.84	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
High Point Home Health	956-583-8876	\$20.00	\$20.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Jireh Healthcare Services	956-223-1057	\$13.50	\$13.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Los Reyes Home Care	956-584-9200	\$13.84	\$13.84	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Nurses That Care Sitter Services	956-682-0800 ext.2	\$15.59	\$15.59	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
P.A.C.E Health Care	956-447-8886	\$16.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Prestige Home Care Services	956-487-7551	\$16.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Proton Providers at Home	956-230-8383	\$16.50	\$16.75	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Pure VIP Health Care	956-203-8773	\$15.00	\$15.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Reyna Health Care	956-383-0162	\$18.00	\$18.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Rooted In Love Health Care	956-336-4183	\$16.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Santa Fe Prlmary Home Care Services	956-550-9901	\$17.60	\$17.60	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Santa Rosa Primary Home Care	956-338-9885	\$18.00	\$18.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Sol Primary Home Care	956-576-2990	\$17.60	\$17.60	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Stay Healthy Homecare	956-361-4407	\$15.00	\$15.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Sunglo Home Health Services	956-423-6100	\$14.90	\$14.90	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Tesoro De La Fe Home Health	956-442-7092	\$15.00	\$18.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Texas Nurse Care Home Health Agency	956-621-3203	\$14.00	\$14.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Texas Visiting Nurse Service	956-412-1401	\$14.00	\$14.00	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
Trinidad PHC	956-230-0299	\$15.50	\$15.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
VDP Health Care	956-283-9237	\$16.50	\$16.50	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
VIP Providers	956-787-4800	\$18.56	\$18.56	Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy
VIVE Home and Health Services	956-525-7555	\$16.00	\$16.00	Hidalgo, Cameron

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Report

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

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination February 2026**
  - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 124 new clients.
  - A total of 1,804 individuals were provided with case management assistance.
  - During this reporting period, Homemaker Services were the primary authorized service, serving 112 clients. Other services available through the Care Coordination Program include Health Maintenance, Transportation, and Residential Repair. Case managers continue assessing clients and authorizing services as needs are identified.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Care Coordination Services</b>	12	1,692
<b>Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	112	112
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	0	0
<b>Transportation Services</b> Assistance with transportation services to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.	0	0
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	0	0

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support February 2026**
  - The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 12 new clients.
  - A total of 214 individuals were provided with case management assistance.
  - During this reporting period, 226 caregivers remain enrolled in the Caregiver Support Program for respite services. Funding is in place for Respite In-Home and Health Maintenance services. Case managers continue authorizing and initiating services to address identified client needs.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Caregiver Support Services</b>	12	214
<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.	0	0
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	0	0

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant February 2026**
  - The CDBG Program serviced a total of 7 new clients.
  - A total of 7 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.	3	3
<b>Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	4	4

• **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List February 2026**

- As of March 6, 2026, 640 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging.

<b>Direct Consumer Services Interest List</b>	
Health Maintenance Services	63
Homemaker Services	136
Residential Repair Services	409
Transportation Services	16
Respite In-Home Services	16
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>640</b>

• **Nutrition Program Report: February 2026**

- Program successfully enrolled 17 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program and delivered 18,880 meals.
- Successfully enrolled 61 new clients into the Congregate Meals program and served 31,629 Congregate meals.

<b>Meals Program</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
<b>Amigos Del Valle</b>		
Home Delivered Meals	17	18,880
Congregate Meals	61	12,152
<b>Bright Nutrition</b>		
Congregate Meals	0	19,477

- **Senior Center Operations Report – February 2026**

- Program successfully enrolled 32 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 15,775 activities with their clients.

<b>Senior Center Operations</b>		
<b>Site</b>	<b>New Clients</b>	<b>Activities</b>
Los Fresnos	1	2,360
Primera	0	643
Mission Housing Authority	0	202
WellMed Charitable Foundation	31	12,570
Total(s)	32	15,775

## Special Services Report

### • Benefit Counselors Program – February 2026

- The Benefit Counseling Program reached 128 new clients and conducted a total of 148 contacts through outreach and one-on-one assistance during the month of February.

<b>Benefit Counselors</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
HICAP Awareness	9	9
HICAP Assistance	29	34
MIPPA	45	52
Legal Awareness	0	0
Legal Assistance	45	53

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

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

- **Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – February 2026**

- During February, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 29 new clients.
- They made 71 contacts across a total of five hospitals within the tri-county area.

<b>CTI Coaches</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Contacts</b>
<b>February 2026</b>	29	71

\*4 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, and Rio Grande Regional Hospital

- **Ombudsman Program Report – February 2026**

- The Ombudsman handled 23 complaints.
- They dedicated 114 activity hours and recorded 309 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 6 in-kind hours.

<b>Ombudsman</b>				
<b>Month</b>	<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Total Activity Hours</b>	<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>Total Investigated Complaints</b>
<b>February 2026</b>	6	114	309	23

## **Aging and Disabilities Resource Center**

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – February 2026**

- The team had a total of 246 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, and faxes.
- Engaged with 191 individuals, 181 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 10 individuals were 59 years of age and below, 190 are individuals with a disability and 2 are veterans.

<b>IR&amp;A Interactions</b>	
1-800 AAA	27
1-855 ADRC	12
(956) 682-3481	94
(956) 412-0958	44
Walk-ins	6
E-mails	3
Fax	5
Follow ups	55
<b>Total Interactions</b>	<b>246</b>

<b>Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	181
Consumer 59 and below	10
<b>Total Consumers</b>	<b>191</b>

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	190
Veterans	2

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

- Successfully enrolled 12 new clients and made 31 contacts

<b>BRI Care Consultants</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Contact</b>
<b>February 2026</b>	12	31

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

- In the month of February, ADRC Benefits Counselor assisted 7 consumers with MIPPA and 5 consumers with HICAP, all consumers were under the age of 60.

<b>Consumers Assisted</b>	
MIPPA	7
HICAP	5

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

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

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

- Assisted 4 consumers with housing inquiries.
- Actively participated in 3 events, meetings, and coalitions engaging with 35 individuals

<b>Housing Intakes Total</b>	
Cameron County	3
Hidalgo County	1
Willacy County	0
<b>Total Housing Intakes:</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
<b>Total Outreach Events</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	0
Consumers 59 and below	35
<b>Total Consumers</b>	<b>35</b>

**ITEM # 5. C.**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

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

**EMERGENCY  
SERVICES  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE &  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY**

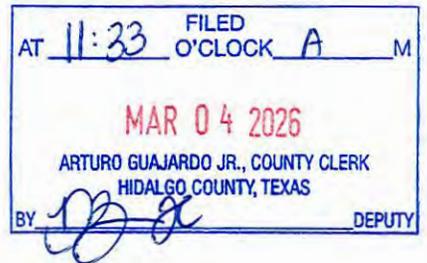
**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

**Item #5: Department Reports**

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and County of Hidalgo to finalize the transfer of grant funded emergency communications (HAM Radio) equipment for the Emergency Communications Headquarters Project.

This agreement, pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, authorizes the transfer of grant funded HAM radio equipment from the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council to Hidalgo County in support of the Emergency Communications Headquarters Project. This project was presented before the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court on March 3, 2026, and approved at the County level as indicated in the signature block on the agreement.



STATE OF TEXAS           §  
  §  
COUNTY OF HIDALGO   §

**INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
AND HIDALGO COUNTY, TX**

**(Emergency Communications Headquarters Project-HAM Radio Equipment)**

This Agreement made on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026, by and between the **LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL** (hereinafter referred to as "LRGVDC") and the County of Hidalgo, Texas (hereinafter referred to as the "COUNTY") pursuant to the provisions of the Texas Interlocal Cooperation Act, (the "ACT") Chapter 791, et seq., Texas Government Code, as follows:

**WITNESS:**

**WHEREAS**, COUNTY is defined as a "Local Government under the ACT, and a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS**, LRGVDC is defined as a "political subdivision" under the ACT, and a Regional Planning Commission formed under the laws of the State of Texas;

**WHEREAS**, LRGVDC and COUNTY, each pursuant to its statutory and constitutional authority, are responsible for the safety of the citizens within their respective boundaries, and are desirous that the necessary equipment and services are available;

**WHEREAS**, LRGVDC is authorized to purchase equipment to enhance emergency communications equipment and operations within the LRGVDC Service Regions of Hidalgo, Cameron and Willacy County.

**WHEREAS**, the Equipment will be transferred to be property of the COUNTY upon completion of LRGVDC Procurement Inventory Procedures and LRGVDC Board of Directors Approval as identified in Appendix A of this document.

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Region has the desire to combine resources for the purpose of increasing the region's ability to respond to all emergencies and disasters, natural and man-made, through COUNTY;

**WHEREAS**, the LRGVDC desires to transfer certain equipment as described in Appendix "A" attached hereto to the COUNTY as permanent transfer assets according to LRGVDC, state, and federal guidelines;

**WHEREAS**, the LRGVDC and COUNTY are authorized to enter into this Agreement pursuant to the ACT, which authorizes local governments and political subdivisions to contract with each other to perform governmental functions and services under the terms of the ACT.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the LRGVDC and COUNTY, in consideration of the mutual covenants expressed hereinafter, agree as follows:

1. In order to fulfill the goals of LRGVDC regional efforts to emergency response, the parties agree that the equipment described in Appendix "A" attached hereto, will be made readily available locally, regionally and state-wide for the purpose of responding to both man-made and natural disasters if requested under mutual aid.
2. The parties understand the COUNTY will retain full ownership of the equipment listed in Appendix "A" upon completion of delivery of the equipment.
3. COUNTY agrees to meet eligibility status upon receiving grant funded equipment and must maintain eligibility status in accordance with the OOG-HSGD eligibility requirements and/or upon the transfer of such equipment to a jurisdiction(s), verify that the recipient meets and maintains the same eligibility status in accordance with the OOG- HSGD requirements.
4. COUNTY agrees to, at a minimum, provide the equivalent insurance coverage for all such equipment listed in Appendix "A" and/or upon the transfer of such equipment to a jurisdiction(s) secure and provide evidence to the LRGVDC of such coverage from the recipient jurisdiction(s).
5. COUNTY agrees to maintain and repair the equipment listed in Appendix "A" in good working condition for the life of the equipment and agrees to pay for any and all yearly maintenance agreements for equipment as applicable, and/or upon the transfer of such equipment to a jurisdiction(s), execute an agreement(s) which provide that the jurisdiction(s) agrees to maintain and repair the equipment listed in Appendix "A" in good working condition for the life of the equipment and agrees to pay for any and all yearly maintenance agreements for equipment as applicable.
6. COUNTY agrees to notify the LRGVDC in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days should equipment be transferred, lost, stolen, or otherwise made unusable.

7. COUNTY agrees to provide an annual accounting, upon request, of the equipment to the LRGVDC for the purpose of grant reporting. LRGVDC agrees it will provide grant monitoring to OOG-HSGD as required under the grant.
8. COUNTY agrees, within 60 days of receiving equipment, to tag equipment with appropriate identification labels in accordance with COUNTY Asset Accountability Procedures and state equipment inventory and tagging requirements.
9. COUNTY agree to conform to its own applicable purchasing laws, regulations, policies and procedures with respect to any parts or supplies needed to maintain operability of equipment.
10. **Conflict with Applicable Law.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof: contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the FY2022 Homeland Security terms and conditions prevail, but in such event the affected provision or provision of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the times such conflict exists.
11. **No Waiver.** No waiver by any party hereto of any breach of any provisions of the Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
12. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire contract between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representation or agreement in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by LRGVDC and COUNTY, and not otherwise.
13. **TEXAS LAW TO APPLY. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE CONSTRUED UNDER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND ALL OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES CREATED HEREUNDER ARE PERFORMABLE WITHIN CAMERON, HIDALGO, WILLACY AND STARR COUNTY, TEXAS. THE PARTIES HEREBY CONSENT TO PERSONAL JURISDICTION IN CAMERON, HIDALGO, WILLACY AND STARR COUNTY, TEXAS.**
14. **Governing Provisions.** COUNTY shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations. A non-exclusive list of regulations applicable only to Federal and State grants and equipment can be found in the new 2 CFR 200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements.

15. **Notice.** Except as many be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests or communication required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to LRGVDCC:                      Attention: Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director  
301 W, Railroad ST.  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

If to Hidalgo County:            Attention: Honorable  
Richard F. Cortez Judge, County of Hidalgo, Texas  
100 N. Closner Blvd.  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Each notice, demand, request or communication, which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above, shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

16. **Additional Documents.** The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement.
17. **Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representative, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
18. **Assignments.** This Assignment shall not be assignable.
19. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenience reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision of any paragraph hereof.
20. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.

21. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by LRGVDC and COUNTY have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of LRGVDC and COUNTY in accordance with its terms.
22. **Governmental Purpose.** Each party hereto is entering into this Agreement for the purpose of providing for governmental services or functions and will pay for such services out of current revenues available to the paying party as herein provided.
23. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the governing body of any party does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of such party under this Agreement, then any party may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days, written notice to the other party. Each of the parties hereto agrees, however, to use its best efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate *this* Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of each party hereto.

**WITNESS THE HANDS OF THE PARTIES** effective as of the day and year first written above.

Hidalgo County

Honorable Richard F. Cortez  
Judge, County of Hidalgo, Texas

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director, LRGVDC

ATTEST:



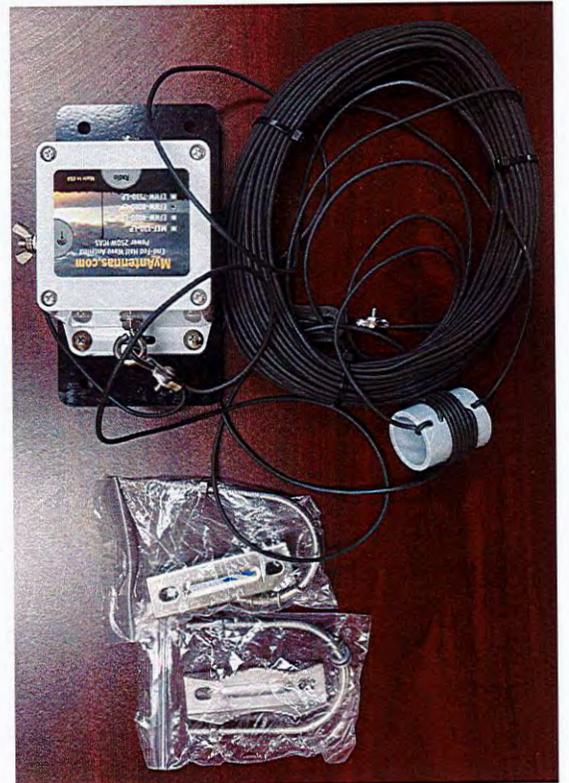
Arturo Guajardo, Jr.  
Hidalgo County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney's Office  
Toribio "Terry" Palacios  
*Robert V. III*

Appendix A

Qty	Description
<b>HIDALGO COUNTY EOC - HAM RADIO PROJECT</b>	
1	<b>Yaesu FTM-310 Winlink Radio</b> C4FM Digital/ FM Analog 55W/50W V/UHF Dual Band Mobile Transceiver High-Sensitivity 66 channel GPS Receiver 1200/ 9600bps APRS® Data Communication Fully Supports the WiRES-X operation Wide-range receiver coverage from 108MHz to 550MHz both on MAIN/SUB band Bluetooth® hands-free operation is available by installing the optional BU-5 board Flexible angle adjustment of the control-head by attaching the optional swing-head kit SJMK-500
1	<b>ICOM ID-5100A Voice Radio</b>
1	<b>ICOM IC-7300 HF Radio</b>
2	<b>Astron SS-30 DC Power Supply</b>
2	<b>Diamond X-300 Fiberglass Antenna</b>
1	<b>EHW-8010 130 foot End Fed Antenna W/Pole install kit</b>
1	<b>DRA-100 WinLink Interface</b>
500 FT	<b>1/2 in HELIAX- Low Density Foam General Purpose Coax for Outdoor Use LDF4-50A</b>









# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

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

January 29, 2026

## BOARD MEMBERS

Adrian Gonzalez  
Mayor, Weslaco

145364  
Commissioner, Cameron  
County

Ellie Torres  
Commissioner, Hidalgo  
County

Rosa Perez  
Mayor, La Villa

David Moreno  
Mayor, Donna

Sylvia Castillo  
Mayor, Sullivan City

Oscar Montoya  
Mayor, Mercedes

Javier Villalobos  
Mayor, McAllen

Alejandro Flores  
Mayor, Los Fresnos

Ambrosio "Amos" Hernández  
Mayor, Pharr

Edward Gonzales  
Commissioner,  
Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra  
Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas  
Commissioner, San Juan

Veronica Gonzales  
UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez  
South Texas College

Luke Lucio  
Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen  
Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills  
Willacy County Navigation  
Dist.

Jim Darling  
Member-at-Large

Oscar Garcia  
Member-at-Large

Andres Chavez  
Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez  
Grassroots Organizations

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Manuel "Manny" Cruz

The Honorable Judge Richard Cortez  
County Judge  
Hidalgo County  
100 E. Cano Second Floor  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Subject: Ongoing Support for Regional Interoperable Communications & Early Warning Notification Projects

Dear Honorable Judge Richard Cortez

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) continues its commitment to enhancing regional public safety through interoperable communication initiatives. This has included the installation and maintenance of radio repeaters, portable units, and in collaboration with the National Weather Service a Spanish Severe Early Weather Warning Notification System. These efforts have significantly improved public safety communications and citizen alert systems across Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties.

These projects are critical in ensuring that local, state, and federal agencies can communicate seamlessly during emergencies—particularly when incompatible systems could otherwise hinder coordination. Moreover, these tools support our region’s response capabilities, helping to mitigate damage and loss of life during natural or man-made disasters. Your continued partnership and support of these initiatives, along with your emergency management staff, have made our region safer for all residents.

Since 2006, numerous advancements have improved the regional radio systems and funding requests will be discontinued for these systems but will continue to be requested for the Early Weather Warning Systems. To further reduce costs to local governments and ensure proper stewardship of collected funds, the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC), with approval from the LRGVDC Board of Directors, has authorized a one-time reimbursement for a portion of previously collected funds.

This reimbursement will be submitted to your jurisdiction as \$10,956.17 in check format and emergency communication equipment totaling \$6,274.00 to be purchased by the LRGVDC and transferred to Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management upon reception of the items. Please note the grand total to your jurisdiction is \$17,230.17.

If you intend to accept these funds, please email your responses to [hls@lrgvdc.org](mailto:hls@lrgvdc.org) or contact Mr. Cesar Merla, Director of Emergency Services, at 956-405-2924 or [cmmerla@lrgvdc.org](mailto:cmmerla@lrgvdc.org) no later than February 27, 2026.

Should your office choose not to accept this reimbursement, a response will not be required and any remaining funds after that date will continue to be utilized to maintain and upgrade the Spanish Severe Early Weather Warning Notification System.

The annual contribution request for the ongoing support of the Spanish Severe Early Weather Warning Notification System project will be reassessed base on the new amount pro-rata basis and invoices will be sent out in October 2026 as determined.

In advance, thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued support of regional safety initiatives. If you have any questions or require additional details, please feel free to contact Cesar Merla, Director of Emergency Services, at 956-405-2924 or me at (956) 682-3481.

Sincerely,

Manuel "Manny" Cruz  
Executive Director

cc: Chief of Staff, Emergency Manager, County Secretary



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

**Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

**Item #5: Department Reports**

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

**Criminal Justice Program**

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Meeting on March 11, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board in Weslaco, TX
- Staff participated in a controlled response scenario with the LRGV Academy on March 18, 2026
- Staff participated in the San Carlos Community Health Fair brought by AltaCair Foundation on March 10, 2026, at the Hidalgo County Precinct 4 and Endowment Center, 107 Sunflower Road in Edinburg, TX

**Homeland Security Program**

- Staff hosted the Weslaco Fire Department Training on March 3, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX
- Staff participated on a webinar for the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) eLearning “Building Backbone: A Council of Government (COG) SERI Strategy Roundtable on March 4, 2026.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on March 5, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX
- Homeland Security staff member participated in the webinar on March 12, 2026, on the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) Public Safety Office Preparedness Programs Monthly call.
- Staff hosted the Mutual Aid Revision Workshop on March 19, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX
- Staff participated in the 2026 South Texas All-Hazards Conference (STAHC) on March 25-26, 2026, at the McAllen Convention Center, McAllen, TX
- Staff participated in the Aging and Disability 2026 LIIFE Conference on March 27, 2026, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff participated in the Precinct 4 Boys and Girls Club of Edinburg in the Kite Fun Festival on March 28, 2026, at the Alfonso Flores All Star Park Edinburg, TX.

# South Texas College RGV Disaster Expo



# Community Outreach Event Hidalgo County PCT 4 Endowment Center



# SENIOR OFFICIALS WORKSHOP FOR ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS

MGT-312

**April 9, 2025 9am-3pm Save the Date**

301 W. Railroad, St, Weslaco, Texas 78596 BLDG B

Register here: [https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?](https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT312&S=710)

[MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT312&S=710](https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT312&S=710)

Scan Here to Register:



DHS/FEMA-funded course





# SENIOR OFFICIALS WORKSHOP FOR ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS

April 9, 2026  
 MGT-312

301 W. Railroad, St, Wesalco, Texas 78596 Bldg B  
 Register Here: <https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=FP&C=MGT312&S=710>

This workshop provides an interactive forum to understand the roles and responsibilities of senior leadership as related to all-hazard disaster preparedness, to share proven strategies and best practices, and to enhance coordination among whole of community partners.

The class will provide a basic understanding of planning, operational coordination and public information and warning through lecture and group discussions. The participant will have the opportunity to work through a customized tabletop exercise focused on the strategic objectives faced by senior leaders. The final outcome of the class is the development of an action plan to improve the preparedness posture of the community/organization.

## Topics

- A tabletop exercise tailored for the jurisdiction(s) as the catalyst to generate discussion of policy and emergency operations center activities required to support the incident commander's and state/federal government requirements related to an all-hazard, catastrophic incident
- Roles and responsibilities and preparedness challenges
- Domestic preparedness resources and how to leverage them for your community
- Homeland Security Strategic Planning as it relates to risk and needs assessment and the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for your jurisdiction
- Executive-level incident response and recovery considerations, including medical/public health, situational appraisal, incident management (ICS), mutual aid agreements, media relations, recovery and restoration processes, federal assistance, and business/economic recovery

## Prerequisites

### FEMA / SID Number

A FEMA SID is required to register for and participate in any training provided by FEMA. The FEMA SID will serve as your unique identifier and be used to maintain the record of FEMA trainings you attended.

Register for a FEMA SID at: [cdp.dhs.gov/femasid](https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid)

For more information, contact:

### TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXTENSION SERVICE

Executive Programs  
 200 Technology Way  
 College Station, Texas 77845-3424  
 855.245.1614 (toll free)  
[execprograms@teex.tamu.edu](mailto:execprograms@teex.tamu.edu)  
[www.teex.org/esti](http://www.teex.org/esti)



## Course Length

1 Day (6 hours)

## Class Size

30 Participants

## Venue

Jurisdiction

## CE Credits

IACET - 0.6 CEUs

## Participants

The course is designed for senior elected, appointed, and whole of community leaders, including but not limited to:

- Elected officials (city, county, state, and tribal)
- City and county managers
- Emergency management directors/coordinators
- Directors of local response agencies
- Chiefs/department heads
- Local business partners
- Public Information Officers
- Hospital Administration
- Airport and port facility managers
- School and university administrators and security
- Public and private sector executives (e.g., Communications, Transportation, Utilities)
- Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) (e.g., Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.)
- Department of Defense (DoD) installation commanders and representatives
- Stadium and sports facility managers and directors of security
- Resident federal agency representatives (e.g., FBI,

ATF, Secret service, FEMA, TSA)

Scan Here to Register:





## TEEX ONLINE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

### IF YOU **DO** HAVE A TEEX TRAINING ACCOUNT:

- Simply click on the registration link provided above and log in to the TEEX Portal using your TEEX Training Account associated email address and TEEX Training Account password.
- You will then be taken directly to the registration page for this class where you can fill out the class registration data (register for just yourself only) free of charge.
- Once successfully registered, you will immediately receive a registration confirmation email from TEEX.

### IF YOU **DO NOT** HAVE A TEEX TRAINING ACCOUNT:

- Click on the link provided above.
- You will then be prompted to create a TEEX Training Account with an associated email and password that is unique to you.
- Once you have created your TEEX Training Account - then exist the TEEX Portal completely.
- Return to the same email. Then click on the same TEEX link that you used to create a TEEX Training Account a SECOND time.
- You will then be prompted to log in to the TEEX Training Portal using your new TEEX Training Account associated email address and password.
- Once logged in - you will then be taken directly to the registration page for this class and prompted to fill out the class registration data (register just for yourself only) free of charge.
- Once successfully registered - you will immediately receive a registration confirmation email from TEEX.

# NALOXONE TRAINING

Overdose Education



Sign Up



Wednesday - April 22, 2026

Thursday - April 23, 2026

10am or 2pm



LRGVDC

301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, TX 78596

Ken Jones Boardroom Building B



BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH  
SOLUTIONS



Call Us  
956-787-7111

Contact: Megan Perez  
mperez@bhsst.org



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

## Item #5: Department Reports

### C. Public Safety

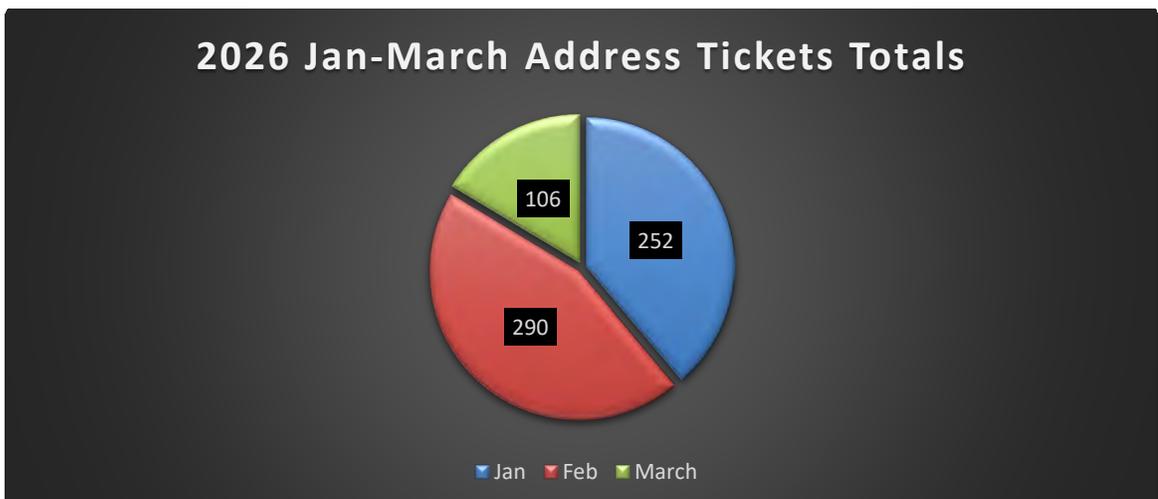
#### Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

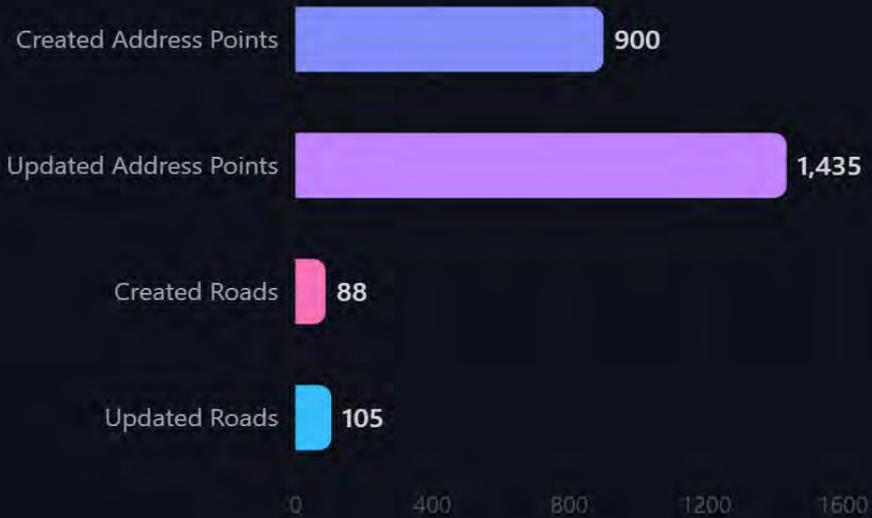
The GIS Division continues to demonstrate growth and innovation. The GIS team has created a functioning test model for Indoor mapping using LRGVDC Headquarters as the testbed. This project would help convert building outlines into an indoor 3D model that would potentially allow a 9-1-1 call taker to get a better view when a call comes in from a public building. After the Initial proof of concept, we met with Region One Director Jesus Aguayo. He is helping us coordinate an effort to find a small ISD that is willing to cooperate with us to begin mapping the schools withing that district. This effort is something completely new to 9-1-1 and we hope to pioneer this effort to eventually have all our schools completely mapped to help the telecommunicators during a live 9-1-1 call.

The Division has also begun working with the Intrado **SSC Mapping Project**, with GIS staff collaborating closely to streamline the process of making regional GIS data available to the new mapping solution that will be utilized by PSAPs. We have successfully coordinated data standards, schema alignment, and automated data-sharing workflows to ensure timely, accurate, and consistent GIS data delivery to support next-generation call handling and dispatch operations across the region.

In March, GIS Team member Rosemary Contreras attended the Texas 9-1-1 GIS User group meeting. This meeting gives our team the unique opportunity to sit and discuss different issues within the 9-1-1 GIS community. Comparing emerging technologies and lessons learned.

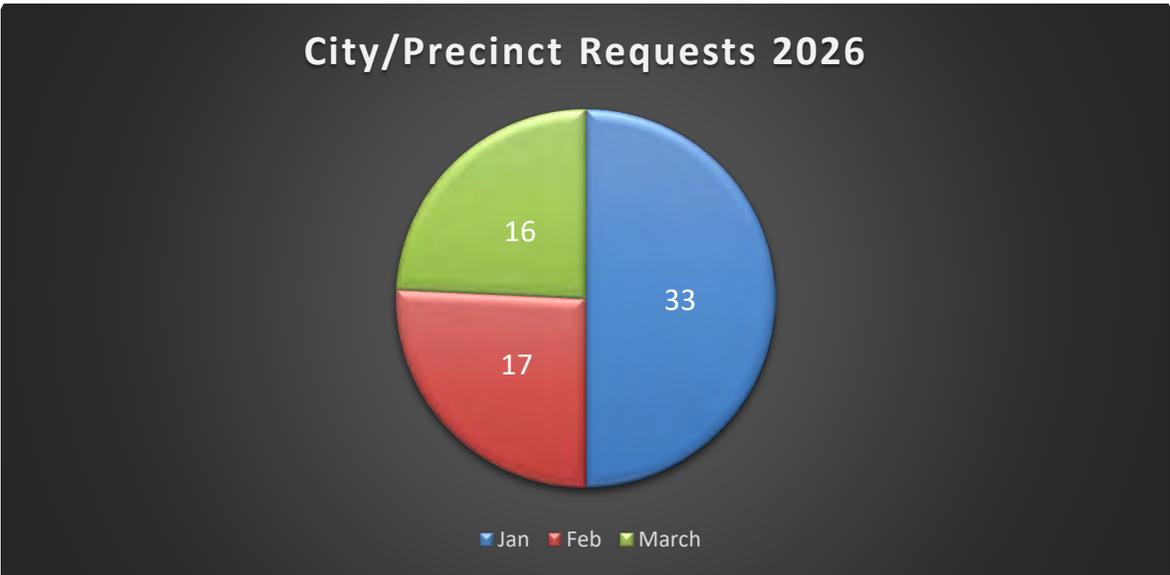
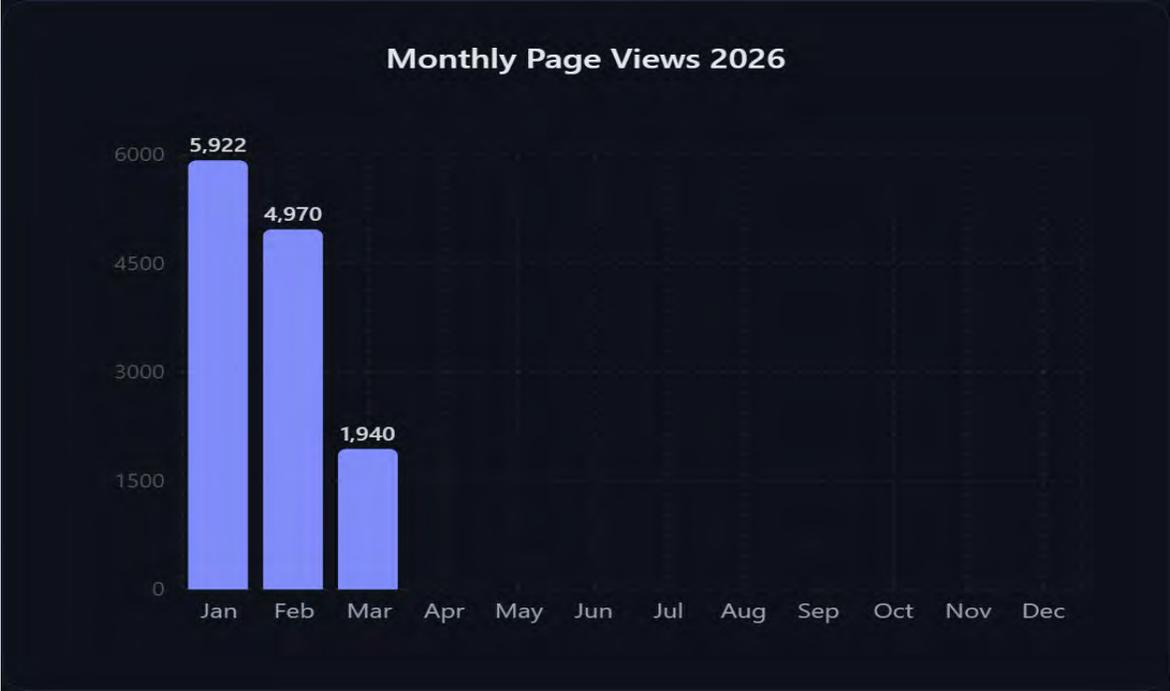


## February - March 2026 Mapping Features



## 2026 Mapping Features





- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

Our District recently received our new Mobile Command Unit and is currently working through testing all systems and features to ensure full operational readiness. We are also preparing to display the unit at the South Texas All Hazards Conference on March 25th and 26th, where it will be formally unveiled and showcased.

In addition, our team supports the City of Weslaco Police and Fire Departments through the deployment of our new Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) during the Onion Festival on March 28, 2026. The Mobile Command Center has been configured with 9-1-1 call-handling capabilities for Weslaco PD, allowing a telecommunicator stationed inside the unit to receive live calls and assist with operational needs during the event.

At the same time, the team is working to bring in an additional network provider for the PSAP network. This will add another layer of redundancy to our infrastructure and strengthen the resilience of our 9-1-1 network, helping ensure the system continues to operate at an optimal level even during outages or service interruptions.

As part of these ongoing resiliency efforts, we are currently obtaining transfer switches and camlock cables for the two mobile generators. These will be deployed to PSAPs that already have existing generators. This will help ensure that those sites can quickly connect to backup power when needed.

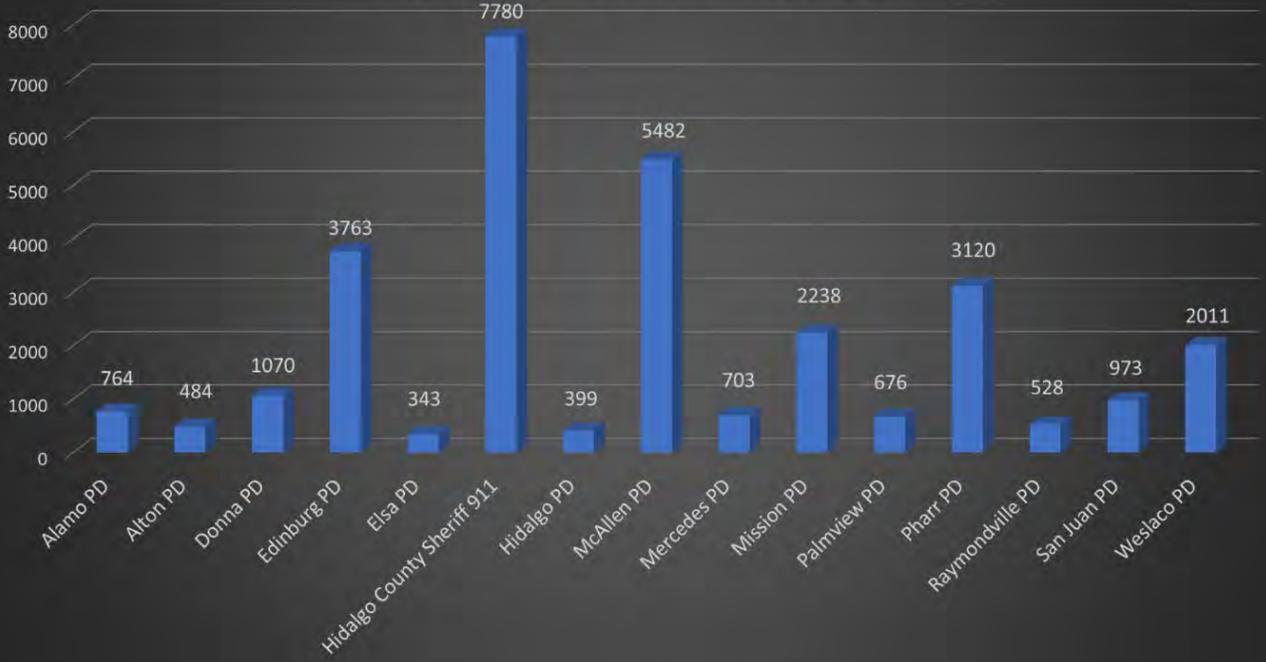
In addition, two staff members will be attending Fortinet Firewall Administrator training in April and May. This training will expand our team's expertise in managing and maintaining firewalls for both RGV9-1-1 and LRGVDC, ensuring that new systems and network additions are configured securely and efficiently.

IT personnel are in the process of doing Semi-Annual Preventative Maintenance at all PSAPs, which entails testing every aspect of 9-1-1, its functions, transfers and capabilities, along with hardware maintenance, and network testing for optimal measures.

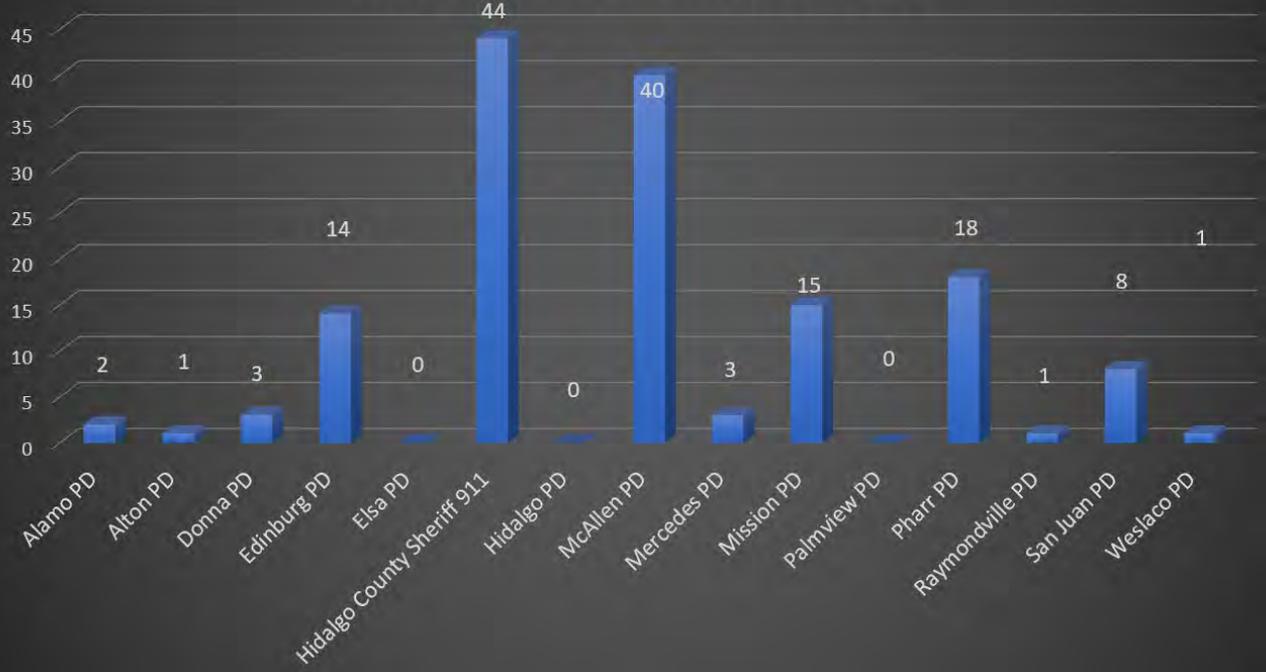
The SCC Mapping Project, which was approved and purchased last quarter, is currently underway. Staff participate in conference calls every other Friday with the vendor, and we have completed our fifth meeting. The project timeline is approximately six to eight weeks for development and implementation. Once completed, we plan to provide the Board with a demonstration of the system and its capabilities. As part of the deployment process, staff are also making necessary firewall adjustments at our host sites to ensure the system traffic is properly configured and secured.

We remain committed to maintaining 99.999% operational reliability by ensuring seamless integration between our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping infrastructure. These efforts help us continue providing dependable emergency communication services to our public safety partners and the communities we serve.

### Call Summary Feburary 2026



### Text to 9-1-1 Feburary 2026



- **Community Engagement Division**

From February through early April 2026, the RGV911 team participated in numerous community events, trainings, conferences, and outreach initiatives across the Rio Grande Valley and Texas. These activities focused on public safety education, proper use of 9-1-1 services, violence prevention, disaster preparedness, and collaboration with local agencies, schools, and community organizations. Through presentations, community fairs, youth events, and professional conferences, the team worked to strengthen partnerships, shared critical emergency communication information—including Text-to-911 and addressing awareness—and support ongoing efforts to improve safety and emergency response throughout the region.

**Young Hearts Matter Proclamation- February 3, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

Our team attended the **Young Hearts Matter Proclamation** hosted by the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office, where multiple agencies gathered to show support for teens in our community. The event reminded us of the importance of unity and collaboration among organizations addressing issues impacting youth.

**Weslaco FD Ribbon Cutting Ceremony- February 17, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

RGV 9-1-1 joined the Weslaco Fire Department in celebrating the ribbon cutting for their newest & the refurbished fire engine.

**HSAC Special Meeting: 2026-2027 SHSP Regular and LETPA grand update- February 18, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

Our team attended the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Special Meeting, where agencies reviewed the 2026–2027 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA) grant updates.

**Driscoll Health Plan Presentation- February 19, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

The Public Education team presented at a San Carlos Endowment Center for Edinburg area residents. The presentation covered who RGVECD911 is and provided guidance on the appropriate use of 9-1-1 services.

**Benefits Training for Emergency Services Staff- February 19, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

This training focused on available benefits and procedures following an unfortunate life event. Led by legal professional Paul Zamby from the Texas Benefits Office, provided guidance to help agencies better prepare and support emergency services personnel.

**STC Rio Grande Valley Disaster Ready Expo- February 20, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

We will provide information about calling and text to 911, non-emergency numbers and other disaster ready tips for STC students and high school students as well.

**Tree Planting with LRGVDC- February 25, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

The team shared information with attendees, including teens, about the availability of Text-to-911 in Hidalgo and Willacy counties and highlighted that 9-1-1 services may vary by location when traveling or attending school in other areas.

**Young Hearts Matter: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Event- February 25, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

Hosted by the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office at Weslaco East High School. The event focused on educating students on how to recognize warning signs of unhealthy relationships and the resources available to seek help.

**Young Hearts Matter: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Event- February 26, 2026, Mission, TX**

Hosted by the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office at Sharyland HS Advanced Academic Academy. The event focused on educating students on how to recognize warning signs of unhealthy relationships and the resources available to seek help.

**Remember the Cause Committee Meeting- February 27, 2026, Virtual**

Our Public Education team collaborates with public educators from various agencies around Texas. The meeting focused on developing coordinated public safety education campaigns to be shared during upcoming awareness periods, including summer safety and the FIFA World Cup.

**Texas Preventing Violence Conference- March 1-5, 2026, Fort Worth, TX**

The RGV911 Staff members attended the Texas Preventing Violence Conference, which brought together professionals focused on violence prevention and community safety. The conference provided insight into strategies, resources, and collaborative efforts aimed at addressing and preventing violence across communities

**NENA Public Information Network (PIN) Meeting- March 3, 2026, Virtual**

Public Safety Information Officers and public educators discussed challenges and strategies related to 9-1-1 public education and community outreach. The first-ever meeting for this group also included collaboration on upcoming awareness initiatives such as National 9-1-1 Education Month, Telecommunicators Week, and messaging for large-scale events like the FIFA World Cup

**Celebrate your Family with Lyford ISD- March 5, 2026, Lyford, TX**

RGV911 staff shared information on the appropriate use of 9-1-1 and emphasized the importance of proper addressing, particularly in rural areas, to community members of Lyford.

**San Carlos Community Health Fair- March 10, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

The Public Education team connected with community members to discuss when to appropriately contact 9-1-1. The team also highlighted the importance of accurate addressing and location information to support GIS and ensure emergency services can respond effectively, especially in rural areas.

**UTRGV Spring Break Luau- March 12, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

Our team aims to provide safe travel tips and information on appropriate usage of 911 to students who will soon be facing Spring Break.

**CapTel Captioned Phones: Outreach, Education & Installations- March 13, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

Our staff will host a training course to learn more about services/phones that support individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. The session will focus on outreach strategies, education, and the application process for free captioned phone technology.

**Staycation 2026 with Mission PD- March 17, 2026, Mission, TX**

Our team will engage with residents to share guidance on the proper use of 9-1-1 services. The team will also discuss the importance of texting to 911.

**Remember the Cause Committee Meeting- March 23, 2026, Virtual**

We will collaborate with fellow public educators to plan & create coordinated safety awareness campaigns. The discussion will focus on developing shared messaging and outreach efforts for upcoming public awareness initiatives.

**South Texas All Hazards Conference- March 24, 2026, McAllen, TX**

The team will exhibit the Multi-Agency Command Unit, share lifesaving 9-1-1 information with attendees, and host educational giveaways and raffles. Our Public Educator Jaquelin Duenez will also present alongside Dr. Matthew Atterberry from VAIL.

**LIIFE Conference- March 27, 2026, Weslaco, TX**

The RGVECD911 Public Education team will attend the LIIFE Conference, where the Public Education team and the Emergency Services Director will present on technology that helps keep caregivers connected. The session will highlight tools and resources that support communication and safety for individuals receiving care.

**27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary San Carlos Kite Fun Fly Festival- March 28, 2026, Edinburg, TX**

Our team will engage with community members about the appropriate use of 9-1-1 services and discuss the importance of accurate addressing and location information to support GIS and help first responders locate emergencies more efficiently, particularly in rural areas.

**Texas Public Safety Conference- March 29 to April 1, 2026, Denton, TX**

The RGVECD911 Public Education team will travel to Denton to attend the Texas Public Safety Conference. Participation in this conference allows the team to stay informed on current public safety practices and emerging initiatives to better serve community stakeholders.

**Donations:**

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

Mercedes ISD

Weslaco ISD

Alton Fire Department

# MACC Operational Trial Run with Weslaco Police and Fire Departments – Weslaco Onion Festival



# Young Hearts Matter Proclamation



# Weslaco FD Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

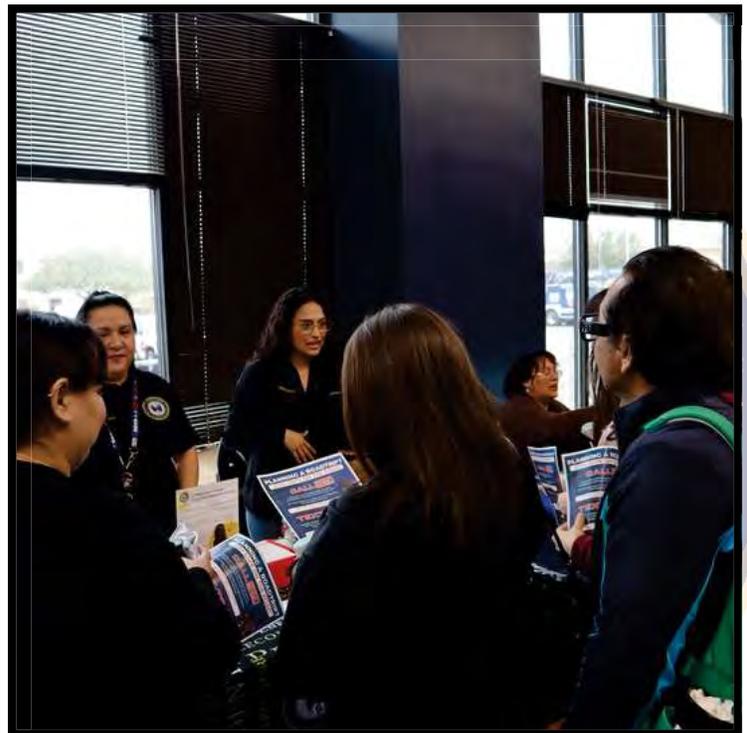


# Driscoll Health Plan Presentation



EST. 2021  
RGVECD  
9-1-1

# STC Rio Grande Valley Disaster Ready Expo



# Tree Planting with LRGVDC



# Young Hearts Matter: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Event



# Young Hearts Matter: Teen Dating Violence Prevention Event



EST. 2021  
RGVECD  
9-1-1

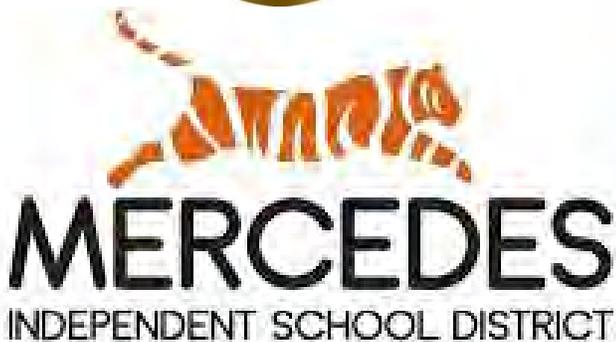
# Texas Preventing Violence Conference



# San Carlos Community Health Fair



## Donations



# Multi-Agency Communication Center (MACC) Delivered: February 13, 2026









**ITEM # 5.C.2**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

**LOWER RIO  
GRANDE  
VALLEY  
ACADEMY**

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Department Reports

**Public Safety - Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy**

- Our Weslaco Class 231 is in their final week of training. These cadets are set to take their end of course final examination next week on Tuesday March 31. They have been enrolled in the Basic Peace Officer Course for the past six months and are nearing the end of their academy. They are scheduled to attempt TCOLE licensing on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Graduation will take place at the Knapp Hospital Conference Center on April 13, 2026, at 6 P.M.
- Our 232<sup>nd</sup> Mission Class has completed training on Texas Traffic and Transportation Code and are currently undergoing standardized field sobriety training to recognize intoxicated impaired drivers.
- Our LRGV Academy class 233 is set to commence on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Background investigations are being completed on enrolling cadets. This academy will be a part time academy which will be housed here in the City of Weslaco on our LRGVDC main campus.
- We are also preparing to launch our 234<sup>th</sup> police academy in the City of Rio Grande City. We will begin background investigations starting in April, and we are planning to launch the academy at the beginning of May.

**ITEM #5. D.1**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation.....Dr. Sandra Carrizales  
VM Director

Valley Metro Status Report

- Ridership Report

**Y-T-D Total Ridership FY 2025-2026:**

Total ridership: **493,052 riders**

**Breakdown of Ridership per system:**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Small Urban and Rural Ridership</b>	<b>Large Urban Ridership</b>	<b>Total Ridership</b>
Valley Metro	58,161	108,502	166,663
UTRGV	-	389,622	389,622
STC	-	5,166	5,166
TSTC	778	-	778
	58,939	434,113	562,229

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

## RTAP Subcommittee updates:

### RTAP Subcommittee Meeting Summary – February 26, 2026

The RTAP Subcommittee convened on February 26, 2026, to review ongoing regional transit coordination efforts and advance key initiatives aimed at improving connectivity, service reliability, and rider experience across the Rio Grande Valley. The meeting focused on strengthening intercity transfer points, expanding mobility partnerships, enhancing real time technology systems, and aligning agency schedules and service frequencies. Additional discussions covered project tracking expectations and upcoming meeting timelines to ensure continued progress on regional transit priorities.

#### Regional Connectivity & Transfer Points

- Agencies agreed to create a regional connectivity map to display all inter-city transfer locations.
- Claudia reached out to the RGV MPO for mapping support.

#### TNC Partnerships

- Brownsville Metro expanded the Route 30 Uber partnership to full-day, seven day- service (6 a.m.–8 p.m.).
- Ridership on Route 30 has increased by approximately 60%.

#### Technology Upgrades & Real-Time Tracking

- **Valley Metro:** Advancing implementation of a new AVL system and exploring integration with Google Transit.
- **Metro McAllen:** Transitioning from TransLoc to Swiftly; experiencing APC, tablet, and feed issues. Riders are being directed to Transit App. Considering a 5310 grant for IT upgrades.
- **UTRGV / RGV Metro Express:** Stressed the importance of regional consistency in real time- tracking platforms to support seamless rider experience.

#### Schedule Coordination

- All agencies will review internal headways to reduce transfer wait times.
- Metro McAllen reports most routes operate hourly; Route 11 runs every 30 minutes. Printed schedules are available upon request, with online schedules preferred.

#### Service Frequency Improvements

- **Brownsville Metro:** Route 30 now operates full day, seven- -day service with strong ridership growth.
- **Valley Metro:** Working to reduce headways on Routes 31, 32, and Business 83 corridors; improvements will be phased.

#### Project Tracking

- Claudia distributed a regional project tracking workbook to monitor milestones, challenges, and progress.
- Agencies must designate and submit project leads.

#### Upcoming Meetings

- RTAP Meeting: March 24, 2026
- Next Subcommittee Meeting: April 23, 2026

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

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

The team also conducted Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) service data analysis to support Chapter 5, Transportation services assessment, of the Interim Plan. Routine project management activities continued throughout the month.

## **Current Project Stage**

The project is actively progressing through the following scope areas:

- **Task II – Stakeholder & Public Engagement**
  - o Task II.1 Review of Previous Coordination
  - o Task II.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan
  - o Task II.3 Communication Plan
  - o Task II.4.1 Survey Preparation
- **Task III – Existing Conditions Analysis**
  - o Task III.4 Duplication and Gap Analysis (NEMT-focused)

# Valley Metro Activities

## Planning Outreach Report

Planning staff participated in several community focused events in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, which included:

- **PSJA Transition Fair**
- **Laguna Madre Vet Fest**, and
- **STC Disaster Ready Expo**.

These events provided valuable opportunities to share transit information, engage directly with residents, and strengthen partnerships with local organizations. Outreach efforts focused on increasing awareness of regional services, gathering feedback, and supporting community needs across diverse audiences.



### PSJA Transition Fair Metrics

At the PSJA Transition Fair on February 11, 2026, staff distributed a total of 203 brochures across a wide range of routes, with the greatest interest seen on the Purple Line (35 brochures), Route 30 (45 brochures), and Route 31 (43 brochures). In total, 39 attendees were engaged at the booth, including 10 adults, 29 students, and representation from individuals aged 60 and older and veterans. The strong student participation highlights the relevance of transit information for youth preparing for postsecondary transitions and reinforces the value of maintaining a presence at education focused community events.

## Laguna Madre Vet Fest Snapshots



### Laguna Madre Vet Fest Metrics

At the Laguna Madre Vet Fest on February 19, 2026, staff distributed 70 brochures across multiple routes, with the highest engagement on the Blue Line and Route 50 (21 brochures). A total of 21 attendees visited the outreach table, including 14 veterans, 4 adults, 2 individuals aged 60 and older, and 1 person with a disability. These metrics highlight strong veteran engagement and continued community interest in available transit services.

## STC Disaster Ready Expo Snapshots



### STC Disaster Ready Expo Metrics

During the STC Disaster Ready Expo on February 20, 2026, staff distributed a total of 207 brochures across multiple Valley Metro routes, with the highest engagement on Route 31 (47 brochures), Route 12 (45 brochures), and Purple Line (38 brochures). Overall, 55 attendees engaged directly at the booth, including 21 adults, 33 students, 1 veteran, and several individuals requesting additional route information. These metrics reflect strong community interest in transit resources and reinforce the value of participation in regional preparedness events.

**ITEM #5.D.2**

**RGVMPO**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday March 25, 2026

Item #5: RGVMPPO

D. Rio Grande Valley MPO

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an interlocal agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount of \$559,281.00 to perform a special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program as Subtask 5.1: International Border Crossings System-Wide Analysis.

This subtask will involve the development of a dynamic traffic assignment model encompassing all international border crossings within the RGVMPPO region. The study will examine extant passenger and freight movements to understand cross-border origin destination patterns and to develop multiple “what-if” scenarios, such as opening new crossings, converting a crossing to cargo only, or implementing programs like SENTRI-type lanes in both northbound and southbound directions. The study will also examine potential disruption scenarios to understand the economic impact on the region. Strong participation and coordination with stakeholders on the Mexican side will be a priority.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday March 25, 2026

Item #5: RGVMPPO

D. Rio Grande Valley MPO

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve an interlocal agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute in the amount of \$328,327.00 to perform a special study identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program as Subtask 5.4: Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study.

This subtask is to conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential establishment of a Regional Transit Authority. This initiative aims to identify and evaluate alternative modes of transportation that enhance regional mobility while integrating with the existing network.

FY 2026 - 2027  
Unified Planning  
Work Program



# Background Information

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the federally mandated two-year work plan, outlining the transportation planning activities to be conducted, along with the corresponding federal, local, and state funding sources.

- The UPWP is organized into 5 Major Tasks:
  - Administration and Management
  - Data Development and Maintenance
  - Short-Range Planning
  - Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - Special Studies

## UPWP Approval Dates

The FY 2026-2027 UPWP was approved by RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board on July 21, 2025, and received Federal Approval on September 17, 2025.

# Applicable Subtasks

## **Subtask 5.1: International Border Crossings System-Wide Analysis:**

This subtask will involve the development of a dynamic traffic assignment model encompassing all international border crossings within the RGV MPO region. The study will examine extant passenger and freight movements to understand cross-border origin destination patterns and to develop multiple “what-if” scenarios, such as opening new crossings, converting a crossing to cargo only, or implementing programs like SENTRI-type lanes in both northbound and southbound directions. The study will also examine potential disruption scenarios to understand the economic impact on the region. Strong participation and coordination with stakeholders on the Mexican side will be a priority.

## **Subtask 5.4: Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study:**

Conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential establishment of a Regional Transit Authority. This initiative aims to identify and evaluate alternative modes of transportation that enhance regional mobility while integrating with the existing network.



**RGVMPO**

# Thank You.

**Next RGVMPO Policy Board Meeting:**

April 15, 2026

LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room  
301 W Railroad St, Weslaco, TX 78596

***Contact us:***

 956-682-3481

 [www.rgvmpo.org](http://www.rgvmpo.org)

 [info@rgvmpo.org](mailto:info@rgvmpo.org)

 617 W. University Drive,  
Edinburg, TX 78539



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION    FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 14A02    300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003    AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

September 17, 2025

Approval of Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO)  
FY 2026-27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Raymond G. Sanchez  
Transportation Planner  
Texas Department of Transportation  
Transportation Planning & Programming Division  
125 East 11th Street  
Austin, TX 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Sanchez:

We have reviewed the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) FY 2026-27 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) adopted by the MPO policy board on July 21, 2025 and transmitted to our office with your e-mail of August 25, 2025.

Based upon our review and per your recommendation, the Rio Grande Valley MPO's FY 2026-27 UPWP is hereby approved. For questions or concerns regarding this approval, please contact Mr. Kwasi Bosompem, FTA at (817) 978-0553, or Mr. Kirk D. Fauver, FHWA at (512) 536-5952.

Sincerely yours,

**DAVID EDMUND**  
**BARTELS**  
Digitally signed by DAVID  
EDMUND BARTELS  
Date: 2025.09.17 08:35:28 -05'00'  
David Bartels, Director  
Planning and Programming Development  
Federal Transit Administration

**ED KENNETH**  
**BURGOS GOMEZ**  
Digitally signed by ED  
KENNETH BURGOS  
GOMEZ  
Ed Burgos-Gomez, Acting Director  
Program Development  
Federal Highway Administration  
Texas Division

**FY 2026 and FY 2027**

**UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

**Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO)**



**TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA (TMA) STATUS:**

**Transportation Management Area (TMA)**

**AIR QUALITY STATUS:**

**Attainment**

The preparation of this report has been financed in part through grant(s) from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), under the State Planning and Research Program, Section 505 [or Metropolitan Planning, Section 104(d)] of Title 23, U.S. Code. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

**This UPWP complies with federal and state requirements, is true and correct, and is approved by  
(Transportation Policy Board): July 21, 2025**

**Amended: XXXX**

**Federal Approval: September 17, 2025.**

**RGVMPO - 617 W University Dr. - Edinburg, TX 78589 - (956) 682-3481 - [www.rgvmpo.org](http://www.rgvmpo.org)**

# Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the federally mandated biennial statement of work and fiscal plan for the RGVMP. It identifies the regionally significant transportation planning activities that will be conducted within the planning area during a two-year period (October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2027). It functions as an open and transparent public resource as required under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). It delineates how the MPO will allocate its federal and state transportation planning funds in alignment with its long-term vision, goals, and objectives. The UPWP integrates a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C's) approach, and promotes the continued development and improvement of the transportation planning process. At a minimum, the UPWP contains a description of the planning work, expected products, who will perform the work, time frames for completion, sources of funding, and costs.

### **Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Boundary Area**

The RGVMP is the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization for the southernmost region of Texas, the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

On April 24, 2019, elected officials representing the planning areas of Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito, and Hidalgo County drafted an agreement requesting to merge into one consolidated MPO and established a proposed boundary to include all the territory in the existing metropolitan planning areas. On May 14, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott ratified the agreement, formally establishing the RGVMP.

On June 26, 2019, the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) approved the newly created Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) map which was subsequently approved by Governor Abbott on March 5, 2021. Then, on April 28, 2021, the TPB amended the MAB to include Starr County, and on October 29, 2021, it was approved by Governor Abbott.

The updated RGVMP planning area jurisdiction encompasses the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and a portion of Starr County, along with their respective cities and towns. A map of the area can be found in Appendix B.

### **RGVMP FY 2026 – 2027 UPWP Tasks**

The Rio Grande Valley MPO has identified the following tasks to be executed or addressed during the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years.

**Administration and Management:** Covers administrative activities, in support of the 3-C's transportation planning process.

**Data Development and Maintenance:** Covers work elements designed to collect, update, and report data required to perform both long and short-range transportation planning.

**Short-Range Planning:** Addresses planning activities related to immediate implementation and near-term time frame.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan:** Includes work associated with the development and updating of the area's long range multi-modal transportation plan.

**Special Studies:** Provides work elements that are generally outside the scope of the planning process but are necessary for the continued development of a viable transportation plan in the area.

## **Rio Grande Valley Planning Goals and Priorities**

The UPWP is guided by the RGVMPPOs goals to address mobility through added capacity and rehabilitation of the existing system, as well as public transportation needs with limited financial resources. Moreover, it encourages system continuity and collaboration with partners to advocate a system of national significance.

## **RGVMPO UPWP Funding Sources**

The UPWP apportions planning funds for construction, corridor studies, feasibility studies, initiatives, transportation alternative set-aside programs and projects. RGVMPPO projects are primarily funded through PL funds [23 § U.S.C. 104] from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intended to support significant transportation planning activities in the region. As well as funding from the Federal Transit Administration which under MAP-21 provides MPOs with funding through programs such as 5303 (Metropolitan Planning and Research), 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Grants).

## **Total Funds**

The FY 2026-2027 work program identifies \$11,939,890.78 in federal and non-federal funding for these efforts.

## INTRODUCTION

The Federal Highway Act of 1962 set precedent by mandating that all urban areas with a population of 50,000 or more develop, maintain, and enforce a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing (3-C's) planning process. The process would establish a transportation plan and provide the procedure by which it would be maintained and revised on a continuing basis. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the mechanism for coordinating metropolitan transportation and planning activities in the Rio Grande Valley area. This UPWP serves as a two-year transportation planning work program detailing transportation planning, programs, and activities to be performed in the Metropolitan region for the period of October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027. The RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board (TPB) approved this UPWP on July 21, 2025.

### A. Purpose

The UPWP serves as a guided document for annual and multi-year transportation planning efforts, highlighting the responsibilities of the RGVMPPO in supporting the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process (23 CFR § 450.500). MPO's in conjunction with state and transit operators, have been required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program that meets the requirements stipulated under 23 CFR § 420, and:

- (1) discuss the planning priorities facing the metropolitan area and describe the metropolitan transportation plan and transportation-related planning activities anticipated within the next two-year period, regardless of funding sources or agencies, in sufficient detail to indicate who will perform the work, the schedule for completion, expected products, proposed funding by activity/task, and a summary of the total amounts and sources of federal and matching funds.
- (2) document planning activities to be performed with funds provided under Title 23 and Chapter 53 of Title 49 U.S.C. To effectively identify all work tasks, RGVMPPO prepares this UPWP with input from federal, state, and local jurisdictions and transportation providers in the transportation planning region.

Work tasks within this UPWP also consider federal performance goals under 23 USC § 150 (b) in the following areas:

- Safety – To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- Infrastructure Conditions – To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair.
- Congestion Reduction – To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System.
- System Reliability – To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system.
- Freight movement and economic vitality – To improve the National Freight Network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development.
- Reduced Project Delivery Delays – To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices.

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21) legislation carries on the eight planning factors established under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The current transportation-enabling legislation, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) adds further considerations.

- Consideration of state and local housing patterns in the planning process
- Requires MPOs to ensure the consistency of data in the planning process
- Permits the use of social media and other web-based tools to encourage public participation
- Requires MPOs to consider an impartial and proportional representation of the population when initially designating officials
- Permits a greater than 80 percent federal share for transportation planning in certain circumstances

## Planning Factors

The work tasks contained in this UPWP for the 2026-2027 fiscal years have considered the following factors as expressed under 23 CFR 450.306 (b):

- Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- Increase the safety and security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- Increase the accessibility and mobility options available for people and for freight.
- Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life; and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes throughout the State for people and freight.
- Promote efficient system management and operation; and
- Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- Improve the reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation; and
- Enhance travel and tourism

## **B. Definition of Area**

On May 14, 2019, Governor Greg Abbott ratified the re-designation agreement, thus merging the three previously existing MPOs: Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito, and Hidalgo County; into a singular regional planning organization named the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO). Further expansion occurred on April 28, 2021, when the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) amended the MAB to include a portion of

Starr County. This collaborative effort has solidified the RGVMPPO's role in overseeing regional transportation planning and coordination across the Rio Grande Valley.

The updated RGVMPPO planning area jurisdiction encompasses the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and a portion of Starr County, along with their respective cities and towns. (See Appendix B for a full map of the region.)

#### Texas Department of Transportation

The RGVMPPO planning area is served by the Texas Department of Transportation Pharr District. The Pharr District plans, designs, builds, operates, and maintains the state transportation system.

#### Public Transit Providers

Valley Metro, Metro McAllen, and Brownsville Metro are the three public transit providers in the Metropolitan Planning Area. They are responsible for providing transit planning in the region, and have the duty to ensure the safe, reliable, and accessible operation of public transportation systems. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on September 27, 2019, between the three transit providers, TxDOT, and the MPO. This MOU formally established provisions to cooperatively develop and share information that supports the metropolitan planning process and performance-based planning in accordance with 23 CFR 450.314 (a).

### **C. Organization**

The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) serves as the decision-making body of the Rio Grande Valley MPO and was created to ensure that all regional transportation studies, plans, projects, and programs are performed in accordance with local governments' desires and in conformance with federal and state laws, regulations, and rules. The board is composed of 13 voting members and is comprised of local elected officials, county representatives, transit agencies, and transportation agencies. A complete membership list can be found in Appendix A.

The TPB has the sole responsibility of creating and implementing regional transportation policy for the RGVMPPO. The TPB is responsible for the RGVMPPO's regional transportation planning and programming process. This ensures the proper coordination of transportation modes; cooperatively establishes transportation needs; proposes projects from all transportation modes for recommendation to those governmental entities responsible for program development and project implementation.

To aid in further decision-making, the TPB established the following committees.

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews technical matters and develops preferred technical alternatives and recommendations for TPB action.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) established to promote biking and walking across the community, including but not limited to incorporating the consideration of the needs of cyclists and pedestrians in the RGV. As well as ensuring education and outreach efforts involving city officials, residents, and commercial entities. The committee evaluates and makes recommendations to the Technical Advisory Committee/Transportation Policy Board regarding bike and pedestrian initiatives.

## **D. Non-MPO/Private Sector Involvement**

The private sector is encouraged, to the maximum extent feasible, to participate in the MPO planning process. Consultants have and will continue to be used on an as-needed basis as allowed under 23 CFR 450.310 (f). These consultants will provide specialized services, including but not limited to; legal assistance, corridor studies, enhancements to the regional travel demand model, and Metropolitan Transportation Plan, to support transportation programs and planning processes.

Private, non-profit organizations, and member agencies are encouraged to actively participate in public meetings. In addition, the RGVMPO will also engage private entities, such as economic development councils, through targeted presentations that highlight the dynamics between transportation planning and economic opportunity. These efforts also include initiating discussions on key planning tools and strategies, such as the Congestion Management Process (CMP) and deploying a demographic Delphi committee.

## **E. Planning Issues and Emphasis**

This UPWP addresses several interrelated multimodal transportation issues identified in the RGVMPO planning area. The RGVMPO is dedicated to addressing these issues and facilitating the implementation of transportation projects and programs through a performance-based planning and programming approach.

The FY 2026-2027 UPWP addresses several interrelated transportation issues aimed at facilitating the implementation of transportation projects and programs. The activities outlined in this UPWP fall into five primary tasks:

- **Administration and Management:** Contains the work associated with administrative support of the 3-C transportation planning process.
- **Data Development and Maintenance:** Covers work elements designed to collect, update, and report data required to perform both long and short-range transportation planning.
- **Short-Range Planning:** Addresses planning activities related to immediate implementation and near-term time frame.
- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan:** Includes work associated with the development and updating of the area's long range multi-modal transportation plan.
- **Special Studies:** To provide for work elements that are generally outside the scope of the planning process but are necessary for the continued development of a viable transportation plan in the area.

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

FHWA and FTA encourage MPOs to implement PEL as part of the transportation planning and environmental process. The use of PEL is a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision making 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 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 to serve the community's transportation needs more effectively while avoiding and minimizing the impacts on human and natural resources.

## **Data in Transportation Planning**

The use of data in the transportation planning process aids in addressing emerging topic areas of data sharing, needs, and analytics. FHWA and FTA regional offices should encourage State DOTs, MPOs, and public transportation providers 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/ped planning, performance management, mobility services, and safety. Developing and advancing data sharing principles allows for efficient use of resources and improved policy and decision-making at the State, MPO, regional and local levels for all parties.

## **Public Involvement**

It is the policy of the RGVMPO, and established under the Texas Government Code, Sec. 551, that all meetings of the Transportation Policy Board and its committees are to be open to the public. Agendas with open comment opportunity as a standing item, shall be posted on the RGVMPO website. Open meetings will be announced on the RGVMPO official website, as well as in RGVMPO's social media pages.

Public review of new planning or programming documents will occur with consideration of the 30-day minimum rule. Public meetings/hearings and document review sessions will be held for major projects such as those in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), or the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). With consideration to certain situations where an in-person meeting may not be feasible, the RGVMPO will utilize virtual public involvement strategies.

In rare instances, which may require urgent modification of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), or Congestion Management Process (CMP) due to funding requirements or timeliness, there shall be an exception to the 30-calendar day comment period, and an abbreviated comment period of at least 7 days will supersede. Adequate public notice of the abbreviated period will be communicated to the public.

Longer comment periods are preferred and will be offered whenever possible. RGVMPO's Public Participation Plan is available on the [RGVMPO website](#).

**I. TASK 1 – ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

**A. OBJECTIVE**

To execute, on an ongoing basis, the necessary plans, programs, and activities required to successfully facilitate the transportation planning process and administer federal transportation funding in and for the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Area.

**B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS:**

<b>Expected Product</b>	<b>Estimated Timeframe for Product Delivery</b>
General administration and management of the RGVMPPO, including coordination with legal counsel	N/A - Continuous
Host and/or attend workshops, conferences, and other training opportunities	N/A – As needed
Annual Listing of Obligated Projects (ALOP)	FY 2025 – 12/2025 FY 2026 – 12/2026
Annual Performance Expenditure Reports (APER)	FY 2025 – 12/2025 FY 2026 – 12/2026
Development of the FY 2028-2029 UPWP, and management of the FY 2026-2027 UPWP.	FY 2026/27: N/A – to be amended as needed FY 2028-2029: FY 2027
Maintenance of the RGVMPPO Website and applicable software	N/A – As needed
Metro McAllen Transit Planner acquisition	FY 2026

**C. PREVIOUS WORK-**

- Purchased materials necessary to enhance office functionality and data analysis in the 2024-2025 fiscal years.
- Conducted organizational tasks such as hiring staff, engaging recruitment firms, and procuring legal services.
- Supported staff development by facilitating attendance at relevant conferences, courses, seminars, and workshops.
- Facilitated and provided support for TPB and TAC meetings and will continue to do so as part of ongoing coordination efforts.

- Collaborated with partner agencies on planning and implementation efforts, with continued engagement moving forward.
- Developed and maintained key planning documents such as the MTP, PPP, and TIP, with efforts ongoing.
- Conducted capacity-building workshops for TPB and TAC and will continue offering these sessions regularly.

## **D. SUBTASKS**

### **Subtask 1.1: Program Administration**

This activity includes the development and implementation of essential policies and guidelines necessary to maintain the cooperative, comprehensive, and continuous transportation planning process.

This activity includes:

- Coordinating and working with other agencies and organizations involved in planning, programming, and implementation of transportation projects,
- Budgeting and management of transportation planning funds,
- Sponsoring and conducting meetings including providing support to policy and advisory bodies,
- Managing the cost of operating the RGVMPPO, including the management of office lease
- Procuring equipment, audio/video equipment, servers', computers, computer hardware and software, to include the maintenance of state of practice platforms.
  - The purchasing of equipment in excess of \$10,000 will necessitate TxDOT and FHWA approval in accordance with 2 CFR §200.439: "Capital expenditures for special purpose equipment are allowable as direct costs, provided that items with a unit cost of \$10,000 or more have the prior written approval of the Federal agency or pass-through entity." For a list of equipment expenditures over \$10,000, please see Appendix G.

### **Subtask 1.a: Legal Counsel**

The RGVMPPO Transportation Policy Board will retain independent legal counsel to render legal advice relating to transportation issues. This activity will involve collaborating with legal counsel to support planning efforts and ensure compliance with relevant regulations and requirements.

### **Subtask 1.2: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)/Annual Performance Expenditure Report (APER), and Annual Listing of Projects (ALOP)**

Maintain and revise the FY 2026-2027 UPWP by developing and processing changes for any future amendments. Develop the upcoming UPWP for the 2028-2029 Fiscal Years. Prepare the APER for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026, analyzing the amount of transportation planning

funds budgeted to the amount expended. Develop the ALOP for transportation projects that used federal aid during FY 2025 and FY 2026.

### **Subtask 1.3: Professional Development/ Training and Travel**

Organize relevant training and workshops for the Transportation Policy Board, subcommittees, local governments, as well as participating agencies with planning funds. These funds will also be used to provide and develop learning materials, as well as pay for any venue expenses incurred.

Transportation planning funds will also be utilized to support MPO staff attendance at conferences, courses, seminars, and workshops, which may include international travel. Funds will also be used to cover any expenses incurred such as registration fees. \*

\*The RGV MPO will ensure TxDOT pre-approval for any out-of-state travel according to 43 TAC §16.52(b), prior to incurring any costs associated with the actual travel (e.g., registration fee). This provision will not apply if the travel is at the request of the department.

MPO staff will attend trainings, conferences, and workshops provided by, but not limited to, the following associations:

- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO)
- American Planning Association (APA)
- Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
- Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)
- Transportation Research Board (TRB)

### **Subtask 1.4: Software and Website Maintenance**

General information about MPO activities and events will continue to be posted, as part of the Public Participation Process, and will allow all users to provide comments. MPO staff will provide routine updates to general information regarding activities and events, as well as providing video streaming for applicable meetings. This task will also include the management and upkeep of any applicable software.

### **Subtask 1.5: Employee Time**

This task addresses employee time including sick and vacation hours.

### **Subtask 1.6: Transit Administration/Metro McAllen**

Federal 5307 funding will be utilized to cover the salary for the Metro McAllen Transit Planner position for a period of 12 months or longer. This ensures continuity and support in transit planning efforts, including local transit studies and operational planning. [Originally programmed in FY 2024-2025 UPWP and expected to be complete FY 2026]

### Subtask 1.7: Audit

The RGVMPPO will implement an internal annual audit process to assess the effectiveness of financial management practices, ensure compliance with federal funding requirements, strengthen internal controls, and promote organizational accountability, in alignment with applicable federal regulations and best practices. The audit will evaluate financial integrity, ensure regulatory compliance and support transparent and responsible use of funds in accordance with statutes, MPO policies, and grant requirements.

**Responsible Agency for Subtask 1.1 – 1.7:** RGVMPPO, Consultants, TxDOT, Metro McAllen

**Funding Requirements:** \$4,070,000

**Product(s):** Program Administration, UPWP, APER, ALOP, audit, professional development, software and website maintenance, Metro McAllen TOD/BRT.

### E. Task 1 – Funding Summary

Table 1a: Task 1 – FY 2026 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>1</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>2</sup>
1.1	MPO	\$1,650,000	-	-	-	\$1,650,000	-
1.a	MPO	\$60,000	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
1.2	MPO	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	-
1.3	MPO	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	-
1.4	MPO	\$60,000	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
1.5	MPO	\$20,000	-	-	-	\$20,000	-
1.6	Metro McAllen	-	\$60,000	-	\$15,000	\$75,000	-
1.7	Consultant	\$200,000	-	-	-	\$200,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,010,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$2,085,000</b>	<b>-</b>

<sup>1</sup>TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>2</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

Table 1b: Task 1 – FY 2027 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>1</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>2</sup>
1.1	MPO	\$1,650,000	-	-	-	\$1,650,000	-
1.a	MPO	\$60,000	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
1.2	MPO	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	-
1.3	MPO	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	-
1.4	MPO	\$60,000	-	-	-	\$60,000	-
1.5	MPO	\$20,000	-	-	-	\$20,000	-
1.6	Metro McAllen	-	\$60,000	-	\$15,000	\$75,000	-
1.7	Consultant	\$100,000	-	-	-	\$100,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,910,000</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$1,985,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## II. TASK 2 - DATA DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

### A. OBJECTIVE

To provide updated planning information, Geographic Information Systems data, demographic data and analysis to support the Metropolitan Planning Organization's efforts.

### B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

<b>Expected Products:</b>	<b>Estimated Timeframe for Product Delivery</b>
Continue ongoing work/data collection and analysis to support the CMP	N/A - Continuous
Update Data Tables and GIS Layers	N/A - Continuous
Develop Regional and Corridor Transportation Model	N/A - Continuous
Continuing UMAP development and updates	N/A - Continuous

### C. PREVIOUS WORK

- Ensured the compilation of accurate transportation data by refining demographic datasets and analyzing transportation and census data.
- Monitored neighborhood developments.
- Evaluated food source proximity by gathering data within the RGV MAB.
- Assessed current, anticipated, and desired performance levels; analyzed trade-offs between scenarios; and tracked progress to enhance system efficiency and reliability.
- Collaborated with County Appraisal Districts to obtain parcel data, to aid in the development of a comprehensive countywide map.
- B-Metro staff completed transit route and service area maps to enhance connectivity within the service area.
- Conducted transportation modeling activities to forecast and analyze future regional transportation demand, with modeling efforts continuing as an integral part of planning operations.
- Monitored performance measures and collaborated with planning partners to evaluate and update regional targets, this is an ongoing effort.

## **D. SUBTASKS**

### **Subtask 2.1: Geographic Information System (GIS) Data Development and Analysis**

Specific activities to be undertaken will include reviewing and providing directions on the development and dissemination of geospatial databases on residential and commercial growth and transportation data, as well as:

- Mapping databases supporting RGVMPPO programs.
- Providing maintenance to the demographic and modeling databases of the MTP and TIP amendments.
- Providing enhancements to the interactive online mapping application UMAP.
- Continuation and support of the interactive web viewer for sharing GIS data on growth, demographic forecasts, travel demand modeling output, the MTP and TIP.
- Developing maps and materials for work groups and public meetings.
- Providing technical memoranda documenting completed work.

### **Subtask 2.2: Congestion Management Process (CMP) and Operations Planning**

This subtask will cover activities related to managing the Congestion Management Process (CMP), and Operations Planning. Specific activities include:

- Updating, refining, and implementing the CMP.
- Incorporating congestion analysis findings into the regional planning process.
- Post-CMP Analysis

### **Subtask 2.3: Performance Based Planning and Programming**

The development and implementation of a performance-based approach to transportation planning and programming includes the development and use of transportation performance measures, target setting, performance reporting, and transportation investments that support the achievement of performance targets. The RGVMPPO sets targets for federal performance measures in three categories: safety, maintenance, and system reliability. The activities to be conducted under this task include:

- Continuous monitoring of adopted federal performance measures and collaborating with transportation planning partners to set and reassess regional targets.
- Post-performance reporting.
- Reviewing evolving regulations, overseeing data collection and analysis, as well as enhancing coordination between staff, regional partners, elected officials, and the public.
- Integration of a project selection process

### Subtask 2.4: Regional Transportation Modeling Activities

Develop, amend, and/or update regional and corridor travel demand modeling including sketch planning methods, four-step demand models, activity models, and other advanced disaggregate modeling techniques which enable applications for all types of data, to include surveys and for all modes of transportation ideally for building transportation information and decision support systems. A consultant will be retained for these activities.

### Subtask 2.5: Open Data Repository

Continue development of the transportation-related geospatial data warehouse, known as United Metropolitan Area Planning (UMAP). The open data repository contains data and links to participating entities' transportation-related data elements such as thoroughfare plans. Open data sites users (citizens and agency staff) can query, view, download, and disseminate data. Data updates to UMAP online viewers will continue.

**Responsible Agency for Subtasks 2.1 – 2.5:** RGVMPPO, TxDOT, Consultants

**Funding Requirement:** \$1,920,000

**Product(s):** Geographic Information System activities, maintenance or updates to Congestion Management Process, Performance Based Planning and Programming, Planning, Regional Transportation Modeling Activities and Open Data Repository development.

### E. Task 2.0 – Funding Summary

Table 2a: Task 2 – FY 2026 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>3</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>4</sup>
2.1	MPO	\$40,000	-	-	-	\$40,000	-
2.2	Consultant	\$50,000	-	-	-	\$50,000	-
2.3	MPO	\$40,000	-	-	-	\$40,000	-
2.4	MPO/ Consultant	\$800,000	-	-	-	\$800,000	-
2.5	MPO	\$80,000	-	-	-	\$80,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,010,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$1,010,000</b>	-

<sup>3</sup> TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>4</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

Table 2b: Task 2 – FY 2027 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>3</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>4</sup>
2.1	MPO	\$40,000	-	-	-	\$40,000	-
2.2	Consultant	\$50,000	-	-	-	\$50,000	-
2.3	MPO	\$40,000	-	-	-	\$40,000	-
2.4	MPO/ Consultant	\$700,000	-	-	-	\$700,000	-
2.5	MPO	\$80,000	-	-	-	\$80,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$910,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$910,000</b>	-

### III. TASK 3 - SHORT RANGE PLANNING

#### A. OBJECTIVE

Conduct transportation and transportation-related planning activities with a focus on short-term planning and implementation, including the development and administration of the Transportation Improvement Program.

#### B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

Expected Products	Estimated Timeframe for Product Delivery
Amendments to FY 2025 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program	N/A – Continuous, Quarterly STIP Revisions
Development and upkeep of project requests, evaluation and scoring methods	N/A - Continuous
Development of the FY 2027 – 2030 TIP & amendments processing	N/A – Continuous as needed
Maintenance, updates, and dissemination of the Public Participation Plan	N/A – As needed
Metro McAllen TOD/BRT study	FY 2026

#### C. PREVIOUS WORK

- Developed and maintained the 2025-2028 TIP.
- Reviewed traffic impact studies for city Planning and Zoning Boards, providing feedback and guidance.
- Participated in the district’s Regional Transit Advisory Panel (RTAP).
- Provided planning assistance for regional transit development projects through data sharing, map preparation, and coordination with TxDOT and planning partners.
- Developed a financial forecast tool.
- Developed, maintained, and updated the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), with continued updates to support evolving planning priorities.
- Prepared the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report (APER) and Annual Project Listing (APL) and will continue to do so as part of annual reporting requirements.
- Updated the Short-Range Transportation Plan, with ongoing efforts to keep it aligned with current transit needs and priorities.
- Engaged in performance management to align activities and outputs with defined goals, a practice that continues to guide planning and implementation.

## **D. Subtasks**

### **Subtask 3.1: Transportation Improvement Program**

Maintain and revise the current TIP as necessary to program projects and demonstrate year of expenditure and associated revenues for federal, state, and local sponsors. Total project costs, which include construction, preliminary engineering, right of way, and other associated costs, will be provided. RGVMPO staff will also develop and maintain the FY 2027-2030 TIP. Quarterly project readiness and completion reports will be developed to track TIP project development and construction status.

### **Subtask 3.2: Public Participation**

This activity supports the implementation of RGVMPO's Public Participation Plan (PPP), to include the conduct of community outreach and public meetings/hearings as needed. Efforts involve the use of questionnaires, online surveys, newsletters, and other engagement techniques. As well as:

- Creating and providing materials where appropriate.
- Promoting public information exchange and educational programs to enhance public interest and participation in transportation planning.
- Development and use of online tools, platforms, and software, including surveys, polling, and live streaming of Transportation Policy Board meetings and other events are utilized to increase regional participation.
- Maintenance, updates, and dissemination of the Public Participation Plan.

### **Subtask 3.3: Metro McAllen Transit Oriented Development/Bus Rapid Transit Study**

Metro McAllen will conduct a Transit Oriented Development/Bus Rapid Transit study through 5307 funds. With an aim to increase housing and enhance walkability around downtown McAllen Central Station, which houses the city's primary transit terminal. There is also an opportunity to explore potential for mixed-use development and multimodal connections that would connect transit services offered with the city's new North Transfer Station. [Originally programmed in FY 2024-2025 UPWP and expected to be completed in FY 2026].

### **Subtask 3.4: Call for Projects**

Coordinate and manage the process of receiving, evaluating, and developing recommendations to the TAC and TPB on project applications for funding opportunities. This subtask includes staff time devoted to the development of the project request form, project call timelines, development of project evaluation methods, production, and dissemination of informational materials, providing technical assistance, assisting in requests for functional classification, interfacing with applicants and potential applicants, and management of project call-related ad-hoc committees, and project application review/evaluation. Call for projects, RFP's, and RFQ's will be posted on the RGVMPO website.

**Responsible Agency subtask 3.1 – 3.4:** RGVMPO, TxDOT

**Funding Requirements:** \$870,000

**Product(s):** Transportation Improvement Program, Public Participation Plan, Transit Oriented Development/Bus Rapid Transit Study

**E. Task 3.0 Funding Summary Table**

Table 3a: Task 3 – FY 2026 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>5</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>6</sup>
3.1	MPO	\$150,000	-	-	-	\$150,000	-
3.2	MPO	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	-
3.3	Metro McAllen	-	\$500,000	-	-	\$500,000	-
3.4	MPO	\$25,000	-	-	-	\$25,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$185,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	-	-	<b>\$685,000</b>	-

Table 3b: Task 3 - FY 2027 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>7</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>8</sup>
3.1	MPO	\$150,000	-	-	-	\$150,000	-
3.2	MPO	\$10,000	-	-	-	\$10,000	-
3.3	Metro McAllen	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.4	MPO	\$25,000	-	-	-	\$25,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$185,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$185,000</b>	-

<sup>5</sup> TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>6</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

<sup>7</sup> TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>8</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

#### IV. TASK 4 - METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

##### A. OBJECTIVE

To develop, maintain, and update the long-range multi-modal Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and address related transportation activities for the RGVMPO planning area.

##### B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

Expected Products	Estimated Timeframe for Product Delivery
Development and Maintenance of the 2050 MTP	Development: 12/2025, Amendments – As needed
Amendments and maintenance of the 2045 MTP	12/2025; until 2050 MTP implementation
Completion of various tasks by a general planning consultant	N/A – Continuous, As-needed

##### C. PREVIOUS WORK

- Collaborated with federal and state partners to maintain and update functional classification documentation for the RGV MAB, including monitoring and amending classifications as needed.
- Collaborated with local trucking and freight stakeholders and companies to initiate the development of a comprehensive freight plan for integration into MTP.
- Developed and refined project selection criteria to enhance performance-based planning and decision-making for the MTP, TIP, TASA, and other federal funding programs, with ongoing refinement as planning needs evolve.
- Reviewed project submittals, scored them against streamlined criteria, and assessed factors such as project readiness and priority, with these activities continuing to support transparent and data-driven investment decisions.
- Maintained and updated the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), with updates continuing to ensure alignment with regional goals and federal requirements.

##### D. SUBTASKS

###### Subtask 4.1: Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Activities related to maintenance of the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and development of its successor, the 2050 MTP. A contract with a consultant group was acquired in FY 2024 and is expected to be completed in FY 2026. This subtask involves continuous development, refinement, and documentation of the region's transportation system. RGVMPO is also in the process of updating the project readiness report/project evaluation framework and will utilize it to develop project prioritization for the next MTP.

## Subtask 4.2: General Planning Consultant

This task involves utilizing a general planning consultant contract to assist with the following tasks in support of RGVMPO’s transportation planning requirements:

- Development and maintenance of long and short-range transportation plans.
- Development and maintenance of the Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Performance and Expenditure Report.
- Assistance with web-based applications.
- Assistance with travel demand modeling.
- Assistance with transportation performance measurement and management.
- Compiling data as required for planning activities.
- Assistance with new federal/state planning requirements.
- General transportation planning support.

**Responsible Agency for Subtasks 4.1 – 4.2:** RGVMPO, Consultants, TxDOT

**Funding Requirements:** \$ 800,000

**Product(s):** MTP related activities, utilization of a planning consultant

### E. Task 4.0 Funding Summary

Table 4a: Task 4 – FY 2026 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>9</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>10</sup>
4.1	MPO	\$200,000	-	-	-	\$200,000	-
4.2	Consultant	\$250,000	-	-	-	\$250,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$450,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$450,000</b>	-

Table 4b: Task 4 – FY 2027 Funding Summary Table

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>9</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>10</sup>
4.1	MPO	\$100,000	-	-	-	\$100,000	-
4.2	Consultant	\$250,000	-	-	-	\$250,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$350,000</b>	-	-	-	<b>\$350,000</b>	-

<sup>9</sup> TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>10</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

**V. TASK 5 - SPECIAL STUDIES**

**A. OBJECTIVE**

Grants awarded by federal, state, and/or local agencies for planning activities that are of regional significance, specific studies, and transportation planning reports and/or documents as directed by the Transportation Policy Board are not traditionally programmed in the UPWP and non-reoccurring transportation planning activities.

**B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS**

<b>Expected Product</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date (ECD)</b>
Develop a Dynamic Traffic Assignment Model	N/A: Continuous
International Border Crossings System-Wide Analysis	N/A: Continuous
Develop a Multi Mobility Strategy reporting tool for the RGV region	N/A: Continuous
Summary of Complete Streets efforts	N/A: TBD
Hidalgo County West Loop PEL Study	N/A: TBD
RTA Feasibility Study	N/A: TBD
Transit-Oriented Development/Bus Rapid Transit Study	N/A: TBD

**C. PREVIOUS WORK**

- Completed monitoring of crash locations using TxDOT’s Crash Records Information Systems (C.R.I.S) to identify statistically significant “hot spots”.
- Finalized a Comprehensive Transportation Safety Study, to proactively identify areas of safety concern within the Metropolitan Area.
- Collected and mapped data to streamline public accessibility.
- Completed the development of a Congestion Management Plan (CMP).
- Collaborated with local governments to assess off-system roadways, particularly functionally classified roads in a thoroughfare plan.
- Conducted motor vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclist counts.
- Completed the monitoring of congestion as required for TMAs under the FAST Act, with continued efforts to track and analyze congestion trends in support of performance-based planning.

## **D. SUBTASKS**

### **Subtask 5.1: International Border Crossings System-Wide Analysis**

This subtask will involve the development of a dynamic traffic assignment model encompassing all international border crossings within the RGVMPPO region. The study will examine extant passenger and freight movements to understand cross-border origin destination patterns and to develop multiple “what-if” scenarios, such as opening new crossings, converting a crossing to cargo only, or implementing programs like SENTRI-type lanes in both northbound and southbound directions. The study will also examine potential disruption scenarios to understand the economic impact on the region. Strong participation and coordination with stakeholders on the Mexican side will be a priority.

### **Subtask 5.2: Complete Streets**

RGVMPO staff will ensure that, at a minimum, 2.5% of its PL funds will be used to increase safe and accessible options for multiple travel modes for people of all ages and abilities as prescribed in Section 11206 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

The expected efforts include the compilation and sharing of data and information on active transportation, evaluating the active transportation system to understand system performance, researching methods to optimize funding for active transportation projects, support, and align statewide and regional active transportation strategies, and working with other interested parties to advance and improve the program.

### **Subtask 5.3: Multi Mobility Strategy (MMS)**

The purpose of MMS is to develop a mobility vision and funding strategy for the RGVMPPO region that can be used to develop policies, programs, and projects that will provide guidance to the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This will include roadway improvements, transit, active transportation and international ports of entry priorities.

### **Subtask 5.4: Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study**

Conduct a feasibility study to assess the potential establishment of a Regional Transit Authority. This initiative aims to identify and evaluate alternative modes of transportation that enhance regional mobility while integrating with the existing network.

### **Subtask 5.5: Transit Oriented Development – Bus Rapid Transit Study**

Conduct a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) study to develop a conceptual master plan featuring a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system connecting Hidalgo and Cameron counties. The proposed BRT corridor, linking Weslaco and Harlingen, will enhance regional mobility and serve as a backbone for future development. This improved connectivity will support economic growth and expand access to jobs, education, and essential services.

### **Subtask 5.6: Hidalgo County West Loop Planning Environmental Linkages Study**

Conduct a PEL study to assess multiple route alternatives based on environmental, logistic, and economic criteria. These efforts will guide the development of a transportation solution that involves mobility, supports freight movement, and fosters economic growth.

### **Subtask 5.7: City of Harlingen Mobility Master Plan**

Development of a mobility plan that will serve as a strategic policy guide for delivering a safe and efficient multimodal transportation system. This plan will act as the blueprint for the future transportation initiatives in the City of Harlingen.

### **Subtask 5.8: City of McAllen ITS Master Plan**

Creation of an Intelligent Transportation System Master Plan that will enable the city to identify appropriate technologies and develop a deployment plan to improve traffic operations, mobility, efficiency, safety, system monitoring, incident management, performance measurement, and real-time traveler information. The effort will also evaluate integration with TxDOT's Transportation Systems Management and Operations Plan.

### **Subtask 5.9: City of McAllen Active Transportation Plan**

Development of a citywide Active Transportation Plan to enhance mobility and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users by identifying needs, policies, and strategies to build a connected and accessible network.

### **Subtask 5.10: City of Mission Comprehensive Assessment for Transportation Alternative Projects**

The City of Mission will develop its first comprehensive assessment and plan to identify alternative transportation networks, evaluate multimodal options, and prioritize efficient improvements for future implementation within the city limits.

**Responsible Agency subtask 5.1 – 5.10:** RGVMPPO, City of Harlingen, City of McAllen, City of Mission.

**Funding Requirements: \$4,279,890.78**

**Product(s):** International Border Crossing System Analysis, Complete Streets, Multi Mobility Strategy, RTA Feasibility Studies, BRT/TOD Study, HC West Loop PEL Study, City of Harlingen Mobility Master Plan, City of McAllen ITS Master Plan, City of McAllen Active Transportation Plan, City of Mission Comprehensive Assessment and Plan for Transportation Alternatives.

## E. Task 5.0- Funding Summary

**Table 5a: Task 5 – FY 2026 Funding Summary Table**

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>11</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds (Category 7 & Category 9)	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>12</sup>
5.1	MPO	\$280,000	-	-	-	\$280,000	-
5.2	MPO	\$228,195.75	-	-	-	\$228,195.75	\$228,195.75
5.3	MPO	\$75,000	-	-	-	\$75,000	-
5.4	MPO	\$165,000	-	-	-	\$165,000	-
5.5	MPO	\$165,000	-	-	-	\$165,000	-
5.6	MPO	\$475,000	-	-	-	\$475,000	-
5.7	City of Harlingen	-	-	\$450,000	-	\$450,000	
5.8	City of McAllen	-	-	\$650,000	-	\$650,000	
5.9	City of McAllen	-	-	\$350,000	-	\$350,000	
5.10	City of Mission	-	-	\$250,000	-	\$250,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,388,195.75</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,088,195.75</b>	<b>\$228,195.75</b>

<sup>11</sup> TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>12</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

**Table 5b: Task 5 – FY 2027 Funding Summary Table**

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) <sup>11</sup>	FTA Section 5307 Funds	Other Federal Funds (Category 7 & Category 9)	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>12</sup>
5.1	MPO	\$280,000	-	-	-	\$280,000	-
5.2	MPO	\$56,695.03	-	-	-	\$56,695.03	\$45,109.22
5.3	MPO	\$50,000	-	-	-	\$50,000	-
5.4	MPO	\$165,000	-	-	-	\$165,000	-
5.5	MPO	\$165,000	-	-	-	\$165,000	-
5.6	MPO	\$475,000	-	-	-	\$475,000	-
5.7	City of Harlingen	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.8	City of McAllen	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.9	City of McAllen	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.10	City of Mission	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,191,695.03</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,191,695.03</b>	<b>\$45,109.22</b>

## VI. Budget Summary:

Table 6a: Funding Summary - FY 2026

UPWP Task	Description	TPF <sup>24</sup>	FTA Section 5307	Other Federal Funds (Category 7 & Category 9)	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>13</sup>
1.0	Administration-Management	\$2,010,000	\$60,000	-	\$15,000	\$2,085,000	-
2.0	Data Development and Maintenance	\$1,010,000	-	-	-	\$1,010,000	-
3.0	Short Range Planning	\$185,000	\$500,000	-	-	\$685,000	-
4.0	Metropolitan Transportation Plan	\$450,000	-	-	-	\$450,000	-
5.0	Special Studies	\$1,388,195.75	-	\$1,700,000	-	\$3,088,195.75	\$228,195.75
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$5,043,195.75</b>	<b>\$560,000</b>	<b>\$1,700,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$7,318,195.75</b>	<b>\$228,195.75</b>

<sup>24</sup> TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 (including the 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside) and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor work hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

<sup>13</sup> 2.5% Safety/Complete Streets Set-Aside – This funding must come from the PL funds within TPF.

Table 6a: Funding Summary – FY 2027

UPWP Task	Description	TPF <sup>24</sup>	FTA Section 5307	Other Federal Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	Amount of 2.5% Set-Aside Funding <sup>14</sup>
1.0	Administration-Management	\$1,910,000	\$60,000	-	\$15,000	\$1,985,000	-
2.0	Data Development and Maintenance	\$910,000	-	-	-	\$910,000	-
3.0	Short-Range Planning	\$185,000	-	-	-	\$185,000	-
4.0	Metropolitan Transportation Plan	\$350,000	-	-	-	\$350,000	-
5.0	Special Studies	\$1,191,695.03	-	-	-	\$1,191,695.03	\$45,109.22
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,546,695.03</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$4,621,695.03</b>	<b>\$45,109.22</b>

Combined TPF Allocations (WO 1 and WO 2) for FY 2026 and FY 2027	\$2,535,503.98 (2) = \$5,071,007.96
Estimated Unexpended TPF Carryover (WO 3) from Previous FYs	\$5,969,242.21
<b>TOTAL TPF for FY 2026 and FY 2027</b>	<b>\$11,040,250.17</b>

**APPENDIX A**

**Transportation Policy Board (TPB)**

<p><b>Honorable Ellie Torres</b>  <b>Chair</b>  Hidalgo County, Precinct 4 Commissioner  <a href="mailto:Ellie.torres@co.hidalgo.tx.us">Ellie.torres@co.hidalgo.tx.us</a></p>	<p><b>Honorable John Cowen</b>  <b>Vice-Chair</b>  City of Brownsville-Mayor  <a href="mailto:John.cowen@brownsvilletx.gov">John.cowen@brownsvilletx.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Honorable Norma Sepulveda</b>  City of Harlingen – Mayor  <a href="mailto:nsepulveda@myharlingen.us">nsepulveda@myharlingen.us</a></p>	<p><b>Honorable Eddie Trevino</b>  Cameron County–Judge  <a href="mailto:etrevino@co.cameron.tx.us">etrevino@co.cameron.tx.us</a></p>
<p><b>Honorable- Ramiro Garza</b>  City of Edinburg – Mayor  <a href="mailto:rgarza@rgeconomicadvisors.com">rgarza@rgeconomicadvisors.com</a></p>	<p><b>Honorable Norie Gonzalez Garza</b>  City of Mission-Mayor  <a href="mailto:mayorgarza@missiontexas.us">mayorgarza@missiontexas.us</a></p>
<p><b>Honorable Javier Villalobos</b>  City of McAllen – Mayor  <a href="mailto:jvillalobos@mcallen.net">jvillalobos@mcallen.net</a></p>	<p><b>Robert L. Lozano</b>  Hidalgo County RMA  <a href="mailto:Robert.Lozano@hcrma.net">Robert.Lozano@hcrma.net</a></p>
<p><b>Honorable Ricardo “Rick” Guerra</b>  City of San Benito – Mayor  <a href="mailto:rguerra2@cityofsanbenito.com">rguerra2@cityofsanbenito.com</a></p>	<p><b>Honorable Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez</b>  City of Pharr – Mayor  <a href="mailto:mayor@pharr-tx.gov">mayor@pharr-tx.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Frank Parker Jr.</b>  Cameron County RMA  <a href="mailto:fparker@parker-logistics.com">fparker@parker-logistics.com</a></p>	<p><b>Honorable Eloy Vera</b>  Starr County- Judge  <a href="mailto:eloy.vera@co.starr.tx.us">eloy.vera@co.starr.tx.us</a></p>
<p><b>Pedro “Pete” Álvarez, P. E</b>  TxDOT Pharr District – Engineer  <a href="mailto:Pedro.alvarez@txdot.gov">Pedro.alvarez@txdot.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Tom Logan</b>  Valley Metro –Director  <a href="mailto:tlogan@lrgvdc.org">tlogan@lrgvdc.org</a></p>
<p><b>Manuel Cruz</b>  LRGVDC – Executive Director – (Ex Officio)  <a href="mailto:macruz@lrgvdc.org">macruz@lrgvdc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Michael Medina, PTP</b>  Executive Director – RGVMPPO – (non-voting)  <a href="mailto:mmedina@rgvmppo.org">mmedina@rgvmppo.org</a></p>

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership**

<p><b>Benjamin L. Worsham, P.E.</b> Chair Cameron County <a href="mailto:benjamin.worsham@co.cameron.tx.us">benjamin.worsham@co.cameron.tx.us</a></p>	<p><b>Ramon Navarro, P.E</b> Vice Chair Hidalgo County RMA <a href="mailto:ramon.navarro@hrma.net">ramon.navarro@hrma.net</a></p>	<p><b>Pete Sepulveda, Jr. P.E</b> Cameron County RMA <a href="mailto:psepulveda@ccrma.org">psepulveda@ccrma.org</a></p>
<p><b>Tomas D Reyna</b> City of Edinburg <a href="mailto:treyna@cityofedinburg.com">treyna@cityofedinburg.com</a></p>	<p><b>Luis Vargas, P.E</b> City of Harlingen <a href="mailto:lvargas@harlingen.gov">lvargas@harlingen.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Rene Gonzalez, P.E</b> City of McAllen <a href="mailto:rgonzalez@mcallen.net">rgonzalez@mcallen.net</a></p>
<p><b>Velinda Reyes</b> Hidalgo County <a href="mailto:velinda.reyes@co.hidalgo.tx.us">velinda.reyes@co.hidalgo.tx.us</a></p>	<p><b>Honorable Ambrosio Hernandez</b> City of Pharr <a href="mailto:mayor@pharr-tx.gov">mayor@pharr-tx.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Enrique Hernandez</b> City of San Benito <a href="mailto:ehernandez@cityofsanbenito.com">ehernandez@cityofsanbenito.com</a></p>
<p><b>Nancy Sánchez</b> Valley Metro <a href="mailto:nsanchez@lrgvdc.org">nsanchez@lrgvdc.org</a></p>	<p><b>JP Terrazas, P.E.</b> City of Mission <a href="mailto:ipterras@missiontx.us">ipterras@missiontx.us</a></p>	<p><b>Dora E Robles, P.E</b> TXDOT (Pharr District) <a href="mailto:dora.robles@txdot.gov">dora.robles@txdot.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Alan Johnson</b> Port of Harlingen <a href="mailto:Alanjohnson7@me.com">Alanjohnson7@me.com</a></p>	<p><b>Joel Garza</b> City of Brownsville <a href="mailto:joel.garza@brownsvilletx.gov">joel.garza@brownsvilletx.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Jon Ray Bocanegra</b> McAllen Metro <a href="mailto:jbocanegra@mcallen.net">jbocanegra@mcallen.net</a></p>
<p><b>José Morales</b> Port Isabel – San Benito Nav. District <a href="mailto:Morales_Jose70@yahoo.com">Morales_Jose70@yahoo.com</a></p>	<p><b>Mark Yates</b> Cameron Co. Spaceport Dev. Corp <a href="mailto:Mark.yates@co.cameron.tx.us">Mark.yates@co.cameron.tx.us</a></p>	<p><b>Ariel Chavez III</b> Port of Brownsville <a href="mailto:achavez@portofbrownsville.com">achavez@portofbrownsville.com</a></p>
<p><b>José Escamilla</b> Starr County <a href="mailto:skamia@aol.com">skamia@aol.com</a></p>		<p><b>Gennie Garcia</b> Brownsville Metro <a href="mailto:Gennie.garcia@brownsvilletx.us">Gennie.garcia@brownsvilletx.us</a></p>

## Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Membership

<p><b>Dr. Rose Gowen</b> Chair Caracara Trails <a href="mailto:rmzgmd@mac.com">rmzgmd@mac.com</a></p>	<p><b>Rodney Gomez</b> Vice – Chair University of Texas Rio Grande Valley <a href="mailto:rodney.gomez@utrgv.edu">rodney.gomez@utrgv.edu</a></p>	<p><b>Velinda Reyes</b> Hidalgo County <a href="mailto:velinda.reyes@co.hidalgo.tx.us">velinda.reyes@co.hidalgo.tx.us</a></p>
<p><b>Javier Mendez</b> City of Harlingen <a href="mailto:jmendez@myharlingen.us">jmendez@myharlingen.us</a></p>	<p><b>Joel Garza</b> City of Brownsville <a href="mailto:joel.garza@brownsvilletx.gov">joel.garza@brownsvilletx.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Enrique Hernandez</b> City of San Benito <a href="mailto:ehernandez@cityofsanbenito.com">ehernandez@cityofsanbenito.com</a></p>
<p><b>Agustin Ramirez</b> TxDOT Pharr District <a href="mailto:Agustin.Ramirez@txdot.gov">Agustin.Ramirez@txdot.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Javier Dominguez</b> LRGV Development Council <a href="mailto:jdominguez@lrgvdc.org">jdominguez@lrgvdc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Maria Rangel</b> City of Pharr <a href="mailto:maria.rangel@pharr-tx.gov">maria.rangel@pharr-tx.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Larry Ayala</b> City of Edinburg <a href="mailto:layala@cityofedinburg.com">layala@cityofedinburg.com</a></p>	<p><b>David Hernandez</b> Bike/Ped Citizen At-Large <a href="mailto:vorbargv@gmail.com">vorbargv@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Nazanin Heydarian</b> Bike-Ped Citizen At-Large <a href="mailto:nazanin.heydarian@utrgv.edu">nazanin.heydarian@utrgv.edu</a></p>
<p><b>Robert Ordaz</b> Bike/Ped Citizen At-Large <a href="mailto:robertordaz@msn.com">robertordaz@msn.com</a></p>	<p><b>Jon Ray Bocanegra</b> Bike/Ped Citizen At-Large <a href="mailto:jbocanegra@mcallen.net">jbocanegra@mcallen.net</a></p>	<p><b>Richard Cavin</b> Bike/Ped Citizen At-Large <a href="mailto:rwc5830@gmail.com">rwc5830@gmail.com</a></p>

### Rio Grande Valley MPO Staff

[info@rgvmppo.org](mailto:info@rgvmppo.org)

<p><b>Michael Medina, PTP</b> Executive Director</p>	<p><b>Adriana Estrada, CPM</b> Executive Assistant</p>	<p><b>Rudy Zamora</b> Transportation Manager</p>
<p><b>Claudia Salinas</b> Program Manager II</p>	<p><b>Klarissa González</b> Planner III</p>	<p><b>Melany Rodríguez</b> Planner II</p>
<p><b>Clara Muñoz</b> Planner I</p>	<p><b>Shana Bricker</b> GIS Specialist I</p>	





**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (RGVMPO) APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE FY 2026–2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

**WHEREAS**, the RGVMPO is the designated agency for Transportation Planning in the Transportation Management Area made up of Hidalgo County, Cameron County, and Starr County in the State of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, the RGVMPO is required, by 23 U.S.C. § 134, to employ a continuous, comprehensive, and cooperative approach to the transportation planning process; and

**WHEREAS**, the RGVMPO is required, by 23 C.F.R. § 450.316, to develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing individuals, various stakeholders, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process; and

**WHEREAS**, the RGVMPO has developed the FY 2026-2027 UPWP, which outlines the RGVMPO's planning activities for the for the FY 2026-2027 cycle, and which has undergone the required public involvement and public comment period;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD OF THE RGVMPO** that the FY 2026–2027 Unified Planning Work Program is hereby approved and adopted.

**APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF JULY, 2025.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honorable Ellie Torres  
Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 4  
Chair of the RGVMPO  
Transportation Policy Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pedro "Pete" Alvarez, P.E.  
District Engineer  
TxDOT - Pharr District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Medina, PTP  
Executive Director  
RGVMPO

APPENDIX C

**Debarment Certification  
(Negotiated Contracts)**

(1) The RGVMPO MPO as **CONTRACTOR** certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public\* transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

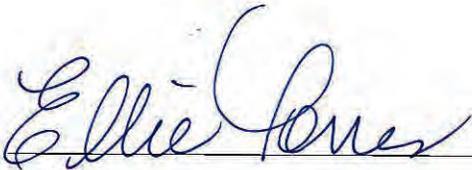
(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity\* with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and

(d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions

\* terminated for cause or default.

(2) Where the **CONTRACTOR** is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such **CONTRACTOR** shall attach an explanation to this certification.

\*Federal, state, or local



July 21, 2025

Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner  
RGVMPO Policy Board – Chair  
Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPENDIX D

**Lobbying Certification**

The undersigned certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief, that:

No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into.

Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

July 21, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner  
RGVMPO Policy Board – Chair  
Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Date

APPENDIX E

Certification of Contract and Procurement Procedures Compliance

I, Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner,

a duly authorized officer/representative of Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization do hereby certify that

the contract and procurement procedures that are in effect and used by the forenamed MPO are in compliance with 2 CFR §200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards," as it may be revised or superseded.

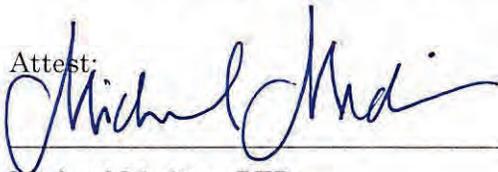


Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner  
RGVMPO Policy Board – Chair  
Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

July 21, 2025

Date

Attest:



Michael Medina, PTP  
RGVMPO Executive Director

**APPENDIX F**

**Certification of Internal Ethics and Compliance Program**

I, Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner,  
a duly authorized representative of the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization,  
do hereby certify that

the aforementioned MPO has adopted and does enforce an internal ethics and compliance program that is designated to detect and prevent violations of law, including regulations and ethical standards applicable to this entity or its officers or employees and hat the internal ethics and compliance program satisfies the requirements of of 43 TAC § 31.39 “Required Internal Ethics and Compliance Program” and 43 TAC § 10.51 “Internal Ethics and Compliance Program” as it may be revised or superseded.



July 21, 2025

Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County Precinct 4 Commissioner  
RGVMPO Policy Board – Chair  
Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

Date

Attest:



Michael Medina, PTP  
RGVMPO Executive Director

**APPENDIX G  
Amendment Summary**

**Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**

**FY 2026 (and 2027) UPWP Amendment Summary**

For UPWPs that have NOT been approved by the governing body, leave this blank.

For amendments to UPWPs that HAVE been approved by the governing body, keep this appendix, and fill out accordingly.

<b>Policy Board Action DATE</b>	<b>Federal Approval DATE</b>	<b>UPWP Amendment Resolution Number</b>	<b>UPWP Page #(s)</b>	<b>CIV Reporting-DBE Goal</b>	<b>UPWP Amendment Summary</b>

**APPENDIX H**  
**Equipment Expenditures over \$10,000**

<b>2YR- QTY</b>	<b>Description of Purchases over \$10,000</b>	<b>Estimated Price</b>