

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 12:00 noon

Audio access is available by calling: (669) 224-3412, Access Code: 202-084-885

Presiding: Judge Aurelio Guerra

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Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve
Meeting Minutes (February 23, 2022) -----President

Item #3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation

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

- A. Consideration and ACTION to Approve R4 Management, LLC,
DBA EZ Testing Now to Use LRGVDC North Parking Lot as a COVID-19 Testing Site
- B. Executive Director Report
 - 1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Item #5: Department Reports

**A. Community & Economic Development Rick Carrera
Director**

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution 2022-01 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting the Awareness of Fair Housing
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Nomination of an Elected or Appointed Official of a Non-entitlement Community to be Considered for Appointment to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) by the Agriculture Commissioner
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Solid Waste Sub-Grantee Applications for Funding Year 2022-2023
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve a Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Nomination to Fill Private Sector Vacancy

Program Status Reports

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

**B. Health & Human Services Jose L. Gonzalez
Director**

Area Agency on Aging Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Contractors for Direct Purchase Services Pool

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Reports

- Annual Appropriations for FY 2022

C. Public Safety

Public Safety Program Action ItemsManuel Cruz
Executive Director

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee Prioritization List of FY 2022-23 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications

Public Safety Program Status Reports

- Criminal Justice Program
- Homeland Security Program
- Regional Police Academy

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Reports

- GIS Division
- Public Education Division
- Systems and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations

**D. Transportation..... Maribel Contreras, Valley Metro Director
Andrew Canon, RGVMPPO Executive Director**

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report
- COVID-19 Precautionary Measures
- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report

Item #6: New or Unfinished Business

Item #7: Adjourn

REMINDER

Next Meetings:
Wednesday, April 27, 2022
12:00 PM

Agenda items may be considered, deliberated and/or acted upon in a different order than numbered above.

The Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) session at any time during the course of 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 Executive Session.

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022

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

PRESIDING: JUDGE AURELIO GUERRA, PRESIDENT

- DRAFT -

President Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

President Guerra then moved to item 2 - Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (January 26, 2022). *Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2022, as presented. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

President Guerra next moved to Item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation, there being none he moved to Item 4: Administration. Executive Director Manuel Cruz was recognized to address the following:

A. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that three (3) new staff members have recently joined the LRGVDC:

- Ms. Celia Mata, Non CDL Driver for Valley Metro
- Mr. Raudel Gonzalez, Motor Vehicle Technician III for Valley Metro
- Mr. Oscar Colon, CSR III Housing Navigator for Area Agency on Aging.

2. Presentation on COG's/RPC's Survey on Compensation

Mr. Cruz stated that this presentation is in response to a request from Board Members at last month's meeting. The question is, are LRGVDC salaries consistent with those of other Regional Planning Commissions (RPC)/Councils of Government (COG). **He emphasized that each of the 24 COG regions is unique in its own right.** After researching this topic, they found that the current salaries for LRGVDC staff and Executive Director are in alignment with the State Auditor's Office Job Description Index. Mr. Cruz provided detailed information comparing LRGVDC salaries with those of the top five (5) most populated COG regions. Of the 24 regions, the LRGVDC is the fifth largest region in population as noted in the table below:

Reg #	COG Name	Location	# of Counties	Population
4	NCTCOG	Arlington	16	7,400,000
16	HGAC	Houston	13	6,700,000
18	AACOG	San Antonio	13	2,500,000
12	CAPCOG	Austin	10	2,100,000
21	LRGVDC	Weslaco	3	1,300,000
8	RGCOG	El Paso	7	1,000,000

Mr. Cruz and Mr. Eddie Reyes, Director of Human Resources, reported the detailed findings from this research to the Board's satisfaction.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Rick Salinas asked for clarification on the procedure to evaluate the LRGVDC Executive Director. Mr. Cruz stated that the Executive Committee is tasked with evaluating the Executive Director using an evaluation sheet to guide the process. Over the years this evaluation sheet has been updated as needed, but an official Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is currently not in place. President Guerra, who is a member of the LRGVDC Executive Committee participated in Mr. Cruz' evaluation this year. He has also participated in the evaluations of previous Executive Directors, and he stated that the current method to evaluate the Executive Director's performance has been working out to his, and the other Executive Committee members' satisfaction.

Mayor Salinas asked about amending the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual to include a procedure for evaluating the Executive Director. Mr. Cruz stated that a revision would not be needed, but an addition could be included. President Guerra stated that in his opinion the way the Executive Director evaluations have been conducted has been working well. He added that the question at hand is regarding LRGVDC salaries as they compare to other COGs; the evaluation process is a different topic. President Guerra thanked Mr. Cruz and Mr. Reyes for providing this information.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, President Guerra moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Director Rick Carrera was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Officers for Year 2022

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that at their recent meeting, the RSCC nominated the following officers:

- Chair: Mayor Alma D. Salinas, Sullivan City
- Vice Chair: Commissioner Maria Luisa Gonzalez, City of Lyford
- Secretary: Mr. Ben Medina, City of Rio Hondo

Board approval is needed to finalize these nominations. ***Mayor Rick Salinas made a motion to approve the RSCC officers as presented. Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr. seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nomination for Large City Representative

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that at the February 16, 2022, RWRAC meeting, the committee recommended Mr. Xavier Cervantes, Planning & Development Director for the City of Harlingen, as a Large City representative. A Large City is defined by having a population over 25,000. ***Mayor Chris Boswell made a motion to approve Mr. Xavier Cervantes as a Large City representative to the RWRAC. Councilwoman Norie Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Regarding the current reservoir levels, Mr. Carrera noted that they are still below 50% capacity, and asked Mr. Jim Darling for his comments. Mr. Darling suggested that cities look at their water conservation ordinances, because they are triggered based on reservoir capacity.

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that the Community & Economic Development department is stepping up their outreach efforts in light of the recent decrease in COVID-19 active cases. Staff recently conducted public outreach at the Winter Outdoor Wildlife Expo on South Padre Island and the Los Fresnos Rodeo, and they look forward to another outreach opportunity by participating in the Keep McAllen Beautiful Arbor Day event on March 6, 2022, where they will have a booth to educate the public about their programs. On February 22, he and staff went to the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the South Texas EcoTourism Center in Laguna Vista. At this event Mr. Carrera and Mr. Cruz had the opportunity to speak with Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Alejandra Castillo along with Jorge Ayala, Regional Director of the EDA about various funding opportunities and several initiatives that will be available soon.

B. Health & Human Services

Director Joe Gonzalez was recognized to report on the following:

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Contractors for Direct Purchase Services Pool

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to add contractors to the Area Agency on Aging's contractor pool. Case Managers will utilize these contractors to purchase services such as residential repairs, medications, homemaker, and respite for their clients. The list of service providers is as follows:

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>	<i>RATE</i>
AmeriCare Nursing Services PLLC	Homemaker	AAA: 15.00
	Incontinence Services • Package includes 160 adult diapers, 120 bed liners, and 2 boxes of hand wipes	AAA: \$300.00
Stay Healthy Home Care Inc	In-Home Caregiver Respite	AAA: \$11.35
	In- Home Homemaker	AAA: \$12.80
	Institutional Caregiver Respite	AAA: \$11.35
First Choice Health Care	Respite	AAA: \$13.30
Calvary's Love Home Care Services	Homemaker	AAA: \$15.00

Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve these contractors for the Direct Purchase Services Pool as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Gonzalez noted that the status report was in the meeting packet for review.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

Director of Public Safety Randall Snyder was recognized to address the following items:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Recommendation for Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that as per HSAC bylaws, annual elections were held for Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2022-23. Mr. Tom Hushen (Cameron County) was re-elected as Chair and Mr. Jeff Johnston (City of McAllen) was elected as Vice Chair. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to***

approve the HSAC recommendation of Mr. Tom Hushen as Chair and Mr. Jeff Johnston as Vice Chair. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution for FY 2022-23 Homeland Security Grants Funding

Mr. Snyder stated that as part of the Public Safety Office's Homeland Security Grants Division (HSGD) grants guidelines, applications must include a resolution that contains information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of an application. The LRGVDC Homeland Security program will apply for the Non-profit Security Grant. ***Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the resolution for FY 2022-23 Homeland Security Grants Funding as presented. Councilwoman Norie Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Entering into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Texas Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that this MOU establishes permissions and guidelines for use of interoperability or mutual aid radio channels by: local government jurisdictions and their associated emergency response agencies; State agencies in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations, Local agency units in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations, Federal agency local units in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations, Local agency units in Texas and their associated emergency response organizations to use designated Federal interoperability channels, and; Private sector emergency response organizations licensed or otherwise entitled to operate in the Public Safety Pool as defined in Federal Communication Commission Rules, Part 90 (47CFR, subpart B, paragraphs 90.15-90.20).

It imposes certain protocols, procedures, and obligations upon jurisdictions hereby authorized to use state-licensed radio channels held by the Texas Department of Public Safety. This agreement supersedes any other previous versions of the MOU. Agencies under this agreement are required to participate in regional communications planning (generally arranged by a Regional Council of Governments) that provides for Regional radio communications interoperability. This MOU authorizes the use of certain radio frequencies by emergency response organizations as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Communications Division and the Texas Department of Public Safety. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve entering into an MOU for a Texas Statewide Interoperability Communications Plan as presented. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Mr. Snyder stated that the status reports for Public Safety programs and the Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District were available in the meeting packet for review.

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Director Maribel Contreras was recognized to report on the following items:

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy

Ms. Contreras stated that Valley Metro is committed to providing a drug/alcohol-free workplace through enforcement of the regulations issued by the Federal Transit Administration. Section 5.0 SAFETY SENSITIVE POSITIONS of this policy has been updated to reflect the current titles for management, supervisors, and those with professional responsibilities. Any changes to this policy require approval

from the Board of Directors, and the full Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy document was posted on the LRGVDC website for review. ***Mayor Rick Guerra made a motion to approve the revisions to the LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy as presented. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Operating Policies & Procedures Manual

Ms. Contreras informed the Board that the Operating Policies & Procedures Manual governs the performance and conduct of all LRGVDC Regional Transit Service employees, including supervisors, dispatchers, customer service representatives, and drivers. The purpose of this manual is to provide a handy reference for employees regarding daily transit operations. A copy of the manual with the recommended revisions noted throughout in red font was made available for review on the LRGVDC website. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the revised LRGVDC Regional Transit Service Department's Operating Policies & Procedures Manual as presented. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Implementation of New Fare Structure for Valley Metro Service

Ms. Contreras stated that back in March of 2017, Valley Metro introduced a Fare-free Pilot Program throughout their service area, the program was to last for a period of six months. The benefits to this program were listed as a basic means of mobility for the public good, to promote public transit, improve performance, increase ridership, and potential funding. It was also noted as a source of community bonding and pride to help local communities improve their quality of life. At the end of the six-month pilot program, in August of 2017, with Board approval, the Fare-free Initiative was extended to December 31, 2017.

At the December 6, 2017, Board of Directors Meeting, Valley Metro received approval to extend the system-wide Fare-free program indefinitely. The program was revisited at the December 5, 2018, Board of Directors meeting and Valley Metro requested an indefinite extension to the Fare-free initiative. The main goal in 2018 was to improve performance measures such as: passengers per mile, passengers per hour, overall ridership, bus passenger miles, and service miles. The Fare-free program has been in place since then.

At the August 25, 2021, Board of Directors meeting, Valley Metro requested, and the Board unanimously approved the purchase of new fareboxes along with farebox management software, peripherals, and a vault system for their fleet of busses. This purchase was in preparation for ending the Fare-free program and implementing a new fare structure.

At this time, staff requests Board approval to implement a new Fare Structure for Valley Metro Service to become effective on March 15, 2022. The new structure is needed due to increased costs related to the overall Transit operations including, but not limited to, operating costs, preventative maintenance, fuel, parts, supplies, and equipment. The recommended Fair Structure is as follows:

Valley Metro Regular Fare Structure	
\$2.00	Adults (Regular Fare)
50% Discounted Fares	Elderly (60 +) People with Disabilities, Veterans, Medicare recipients and students with valid ID.
\$1.00	Transfer to another line within the same day – NOT for roundtrips
Free	STC, TSTC, and UTRGV Students with valid ID, Cameron County Workforce with Valid ID or Voucher. Children (under age 7 and must be accompanied by an adult)

20-Ride Pass	
\$20.00	Adults (Regular Fare)
\$10.00	Discounted fares: Elderly (60 +) People with Disabilities, Veterans, Medicare recipients and students with valid ID.
Demand Response – Regular Fare for the following services:	
Demand response service is curb to curb and is also provided to Valley destinations with 24-hour advance reservation. Service is provided in Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties.	
\$3.00	City Limits
\$6.00	Within County
\$8.00	One County Over
\$12.00	Two Counties Over
50% Discounted fares	Elderly (60 +) People with Disabilities, Veterans, Medicare recipients and students with valid ID.
\$1.00	Transfers – Transfers to another line within the same day – NOT for roundtrips
FREE	Children under 7, must be accompanied by a paying adult
Daily Pass	
\$6.00	City Limits
\$9.00	Within County
\$12.00	One County Over
\$16.00	Two Counties Over
50% Discounted fares	Elderly (60 +) People with Disabilities, Veterans, Medicare recipients and students with valid ID.
Weekly Pass	
\$30.00	City Limits
\$45.00	Within County
\$60.00	One County Over
\$80.00	Two Counties Over
50% Discounted fares	Elderly (60 +) People with Disabilities, Veterans, Medicare recipients and students with valid ID.

Ms. Contreras added that public meetings were held to get input on the new fare structure and that the new rates will be advertised on all Valley Metro busses as well as their website. Mayor Jorge Ledezma recommended pushing the implementation date back from March 15th to 60 days to allow the public plenty of time to be aware, and to prepare for paying bus fares.

Mr. Cruz added that Valley Metro staff has been preparing for the end of the Fare-free program for some time, and that the new fare boxes that were purchased last August have been installed and are ready to go. The Fare-free program has been in place for five years. The Valley Metro system is at the point where inflation and costs have increased, and on top of that, the grant match requirement must be met. Currently there are cities requesting bus routes, but even some of those cities are not providing their contribution, which has not increased in some time. All of these factors have been considered in this request.

Mr. Jim Darling added that Valley Metro has been subsidized by the federal government, which has now ended. Mr. Cruz added that after those subsidies ended, luckily the CARES Act funding became available, and the Valley Metro service qualified to receive some of those funds. Mr. Darling stated that we do not have a choice but to reimplement charging fares, otherwise Valley Metro service will have to be curtailed.

Mr. Cruz added that staff has made a cost comparison with bus fares charged by other COGs such as the Alamo Area Council of Government (AACOG) in San Antonio and other large metropolitan areas. The findings are that Valley Metro has the lowest bus fares in the entire State of Texas.

It was the consensus of the Board that March 15, 2022, was too soon to implement the new fares and recommended that the implementation date be moved to April 1, 2022. Upon conclusion of discussion, ***Mayor Rick Salinas amended his motion to approve the new fare structure with the start date of April 1, 2022. Mayor Jorge Ledezma seconded the amended motion, and upon a vote motion carried unanimously.***

4. Consideration and Action to Approve new Fare Structure RGV Metro Express Service

Ms. Contreras stated that at this time, staff requests Board approval of new fare structure for the Valley RGV Metro Express Service to become effective on March 15, 2022. The new structure is needed due to increased costs related to the overall Transit operations including, but not limited to, operating costs, preventative maintenance, fuel, parts, supplies, and equipment. The recommended increased fare structure is as follows:

ID must be presented when boarding bus.

RGV Metro Express Fare Structure	
\$5.00 \$10.00	Daily Pass (Unlimited Pass)
\$25.00 \$50.00	Weekly Pass
\$100.00 \$200.00	Monthly Pass (Unlimited Pass)
\$25.00 \$50.00	30-day Pass – Students and Faculty other than UTRGV ID Holders
Free	UTRGV Students and Faculty – must present ID
Free	Up to one (1) child age 2 and under FREE with a paying adult. Children under 7 FREE, must be accompanied by paying adult

Ms. Contreras stated that this fare increase is needed to continue delivering a high level of service and that partners are providing a local match. But even with the local match, additional funds are needed to continue the current level of service. She stated that a series of public meetings were held to inform the public about the new fare structure for the RGV Metro Express service. For this service, Valley Metro works in partnership with McAllen Metro, B-Metro, South Padre Island, the City of Harlingen, and the City of Edinburg. But even with the amount of local match provided by these partners, additional funds are needed from these fares in order to continue providing the current level of service.

Mr. Cruz added that the RGV Metro Express has always had fares for its service, except for the first year when this service was funded 100% by TxDOT and it was fare free. TxDOT provided funding for this project for one year only while working to establish a sustainability funding plan. UTRGV, Brownsville, and McAllen provided a local match for this service, and recently Harlingen and Edinburg became partners. Mr. Darling observed that with the expansion of partners comes an increase in cost to provide the service. Mr. Cruz acknowledged that this is a concern because there have been requests for bus service from other cities. He added that Valley Metro has a committee in place who reviews these requests, and they will be mindful that adding cities adds more stops along the route; and the more stops on the route, the word “Express” no longer applies.

Mayor Rick Salinas asked about also extending the target date for the RGV Metro Express fare increase from March 15, 2022, to April 1, 2022, Ms. Contreras agreed that this extended start date would be fine.

Mayor Rick Salinas made a motion to approve the RGV Metro Express Service fare increases as presented with the implementation date of April 1, 2022. Mayor Jorge Ledezma seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports

Ms. Contreras gave the ridership report which was also provided in the meeting packet; she noted that January Ridership was down due to schools being closed during their winter break.

RGVMPO Status Report

RGVMPO Assistant Director Luis Diaz was recognized and informed the Board that staff was in the process of collecting amendment updates from local governments throughout the region for their 4-year plan and 25-year plan. The amendments are being collected all the way from Starr County to South Padre Island. All the amendments are being reported and staff is also preparing to score projects for the 4-year plan to determine which ones will be included in the plan.

President Guerra stated that one of the biggest accomplishments the Rio Grande Valley has made is in merging the Brownsville MPO, the Harlingen-San Benito MPO, and the Hidalgo County MPO into the Rio Grande Valley MPO; and he asked Mr. Diaz if we are already seeing the benefits of having one regional MPO. Mr. Diaz responded in the affirmative and stated that having the one RGVMPO has provided the opportunity to do more region-wide projects, as opposed to projects that are locally driven. As a larger area, the RGVMPO has been able to request funds for longer corridors and longer types of facilities.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business

Mr. Cruz encouraged those present to visit the new South Texas EcoTourism Center on their way to the Island and reminded everyone that there is no charge to enter. He stated that it is an impressive facility that is good for the community. He added that according to Assistant Secretary Castillo, there will be more funding available through the EDA in the near future and staff plans to engage with different communities to bring more projects like this to the area.

Item 7. - Adjourn.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Guerra adjourned the meeting at 1:16 pm.

Judge Aurelio Guerra, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

ITEM #4. A.

ADMINISTRATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #4: Administration

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve R4 Management, LLC,
DBA EZ Testing Now to Use LRGVDC North Parking Lot as a
COVID-19 Testing Site Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

In February, EZ Testing Now established an MOU with Hidalgo County to set up testing sites in the county.

Staff requests approval to allow EZ Testing Now to use LRGVDC's far north parking lot (Property ID #321689) as a testing site to administer free COVID-19 Rapid & PCR tests. The tests administered will be for the public as it relates to the provision of additional COVID testing programs to individuals and families of the community that have been directly or indirectly impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. This serves a public purpose for the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of the community, subject to procurement and legal review, if required.

ITEM #4. B.

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

REPORT

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution 2022-01 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting the Awareness of Fair Housing

The principals 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 2022-01

PROCLAMING APRIL AS NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

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 Judge Aurelio Guerra, President of LRGVDC do hereby proclaim the month of **April** as:

“NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH”

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 30th, day of March 2022.

Judge Aurelio Guerra
LRGVDC Board President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

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

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

The regional representative for the last biennium was Mayor Rick Salinas of Lyford. The members of the Regional Small Cities Coalition were polled, and the feedback received was unanimously in favor of keeping Mayor Salinas as the regional representative.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Solid Waste Sub-grantee Applications for Funding Year 2022-2023

On March 8, 2022, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met to score, and rank submitted applications for funding year 2022-2023. Six (6) applications were received, however, three (3) of those applications were not complete and/or submitted by the designated deadline.

Below are the scores for the three (3) applications that were complete and submitted on time.

Entity	Funding Amount	Score
Fiscal Year 2022		
1. City of Weslaco	\$24,375.00	83.07
2. City of Harlingen	\$23,625.00	80.07
Fiscal Year 2023		
3. City of Mission	\$25,000.00	77.69

Board approval is needed to finalize this process.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Nomination to Fill Private Sector Vacancy

At their March 8, 2022 SWAC meeting, the committee selected Mr. Jaime Diez with Valley Tire Recycling to fill the vacancy in the Private Sector vacancy. This nomination requires Board approval.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Staff continue to meet with regional EDOs concerning the planning of projects that will provide economic impact. Technical assistance continues to be provided as well as beneficial workshops and outreach. Staff continue to monitor opportunities that will potentially be made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and will continue to disseminate that information as it becomes available. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to disseminate information accordingly.

Staff participated in a tour of EDA funded projects in Cameron County, which included meeting with EDA Regional Director Jorge Ayala and U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Castillo in addition to participating in a roundtable to discuss economic and funding opportunities for the region as well as the impacts of current and new projects.

Staff are available to provide technical assistance, project development, and grant administration on EDA proposals and projects. For any assistance or information on EDA in general, or if you are interested in the ARPA opportunities with a regional approach in mind, contact Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org.

- Pandemic Response

To better inform and keep our region up to date with COVID-19 and CARES Act resources the LRGVDC developed this webpage designed to provide the latest resources and information available. The LRGVDC's intent is to improve capacity in our region to recover quickly from difficulties from current and potential future adversities with grant opportunities and resources to sustain living situations.

Outreach efforts to area stakeholders will continue and increase in the near future, as part of efforts to develop an Economic Resiliency Plan is needed to address short-term and long-term economic development impacts and aid in the economic recovery for future pandemics and disasters. The Plan will serve as a path for regional recovery and a guide to prepare for and sustain future economic pandemic, disasters, and recoveries

The LRGVDC continues to be proactive as a liaison between various governmental levels and stakeholders. Staff coordinated a recent workshop designed to help local

vendors obtain the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification. This certification will facilitate their efforts in obtaining business opportunities with transit and transportation related government contract work as either a prime contractor or a sub-contractor. Staff have also brought together and coordinated efforts between governmental, workforce, higher education, and other entities to encourage collaboration on funding opportunities. Participation in local area economic development groups continue as well to further provide regional efforts.

Please reach out! We are happy to provide any information, resources, or assistance available. Visit our COVID-19 Resources webpage at: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/covid19.html>. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, contact Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org

- Regional Small Cities Coalition

A Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) meeting will be held on May 12, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., via GoToMeeting.

- Explore RGV

The RGV is filled with culture and history. Learn more about some of the historical sites in the region. #ExploreRGV#Search#Find#Go. Explore RGV's mission is to provide the community with a great regional leisure offer, to assist the hospitality industry to recover from the significant financial losses caused by the pandemic and to develop a resilient economy in the RGV by creating a global destination brand of the RGV. Explore RGV is pending the finishing touches to the changes recently made to update the website. Updates to the app with similar modifications made to the site will also follow to give both a relatable look and feel for the user in making a seamless transition between devices. Staff continue to meet with participating cities to incorporate them in advertising and media opportunities. In addition, outreach to the local hospitality industry continues in order to introduce the overall plan and generate participation. Many outreach efforts have been undertaken that provide the opportunity to speak directly to area and regional residents and visitors resulting in effective promotion of the project, plans, and mission of Explore RGV. Feedback has been highly positive with demonstrated excitement about the updates and plans that will serve the region with promotion of available leisure opportunities in this area. Additionally, interest by new partners has been experienced, and efforts to include them will continue. The activities and efforts will be beneficial in the encouragement of regional leisure travel and visitation of the many venues available in the area which contribute to the overall economic growth of the region.

We invite you to Download the Explore RGV app at the Apple Store and GooglePlay or visit www.explorergv.com and to follow @goexplorergv on Twitter and Facebook.

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

Visit our Community & Economic Development department webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html>. There you can find information and

resources on the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) funding opportunities. Eligible applicants are non-entitlement general purpose units of local government including cities and counties that are not participating or designated as eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). Non-entitlement cities that are not participating in urban county programs through existing participation agreements are eligible applicants (unless the city's population is counted towards the urban county CDBG allocation).

You can also find additional resources, such as Section 3 HUD Opportunities <http://www.lrgvdc.org/hud.html>, with a list of Section 3 certified businesses and resources for individuals and businesses to sign-up.

- Solid Waste Management Program

The Request for Applications for Municipal Solid Waste Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2022/2023 opened January 10, 2022, at 12:00 noon and closed February 18, 2022, 12:00 noon. The SWAC subcommittee met to screen the six (6) applications that were submitted for administrative completeness on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the CIEDO Building, 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco TX. Three (3) of the six (6) applications were deemed administratively complete.

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting was held on Tuesday, March 08, 2022, 10:00 a.m. at the Ken Jones Board Room, 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco TX., to score and rank the administratively complete Solid Waste Applications submitted.

On March 11, 2022, staff attended the City of Alamo's Ribbon Cutting for the recycling drop off facility funded through the FY 2020/2021 Solid Waste grant. The residents will be able to drop off their recycling items throughout the day and will also be available after 5 pm and on the weekends.



City of Alamo Mayor Diana Martinez

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

- Water Quality Program

Staff continues to educate the public on water quality issues for the month of March with the theme “New Technologies”. You can find educational social media postings on the LRGVDC Facebook page. Outreach efforts for this program include a presence at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and the Los Fresnos Rodeo. Staff also participated at the environmentally focused City of McAllen Arbor Day Event on March 5.

Staff continues to support the Fresh Water Flows Project for four (4) water quality monitoring stations where Real Time Hydrologic Stations are installed within the LRGV main outflow drains. Updates on this project occur on a regular basis, and progress on data collection and other aspects of this project are good.

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee

The Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting was held on February 16, 2022, to review the latest FIF progress from RATES, among status reports from the GLO, Region M, and RFPG #15. The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. The GoToMeeting link and public comment form can be found at LRGVDC’s calendar webpage at www.lrgvdc.org.

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The next meeting of the Region M Group is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 10:30 am. These meetings are currently being conducted in person and online. For more information on Region M, please visit their website:

<http://riograndewaterplan.org>

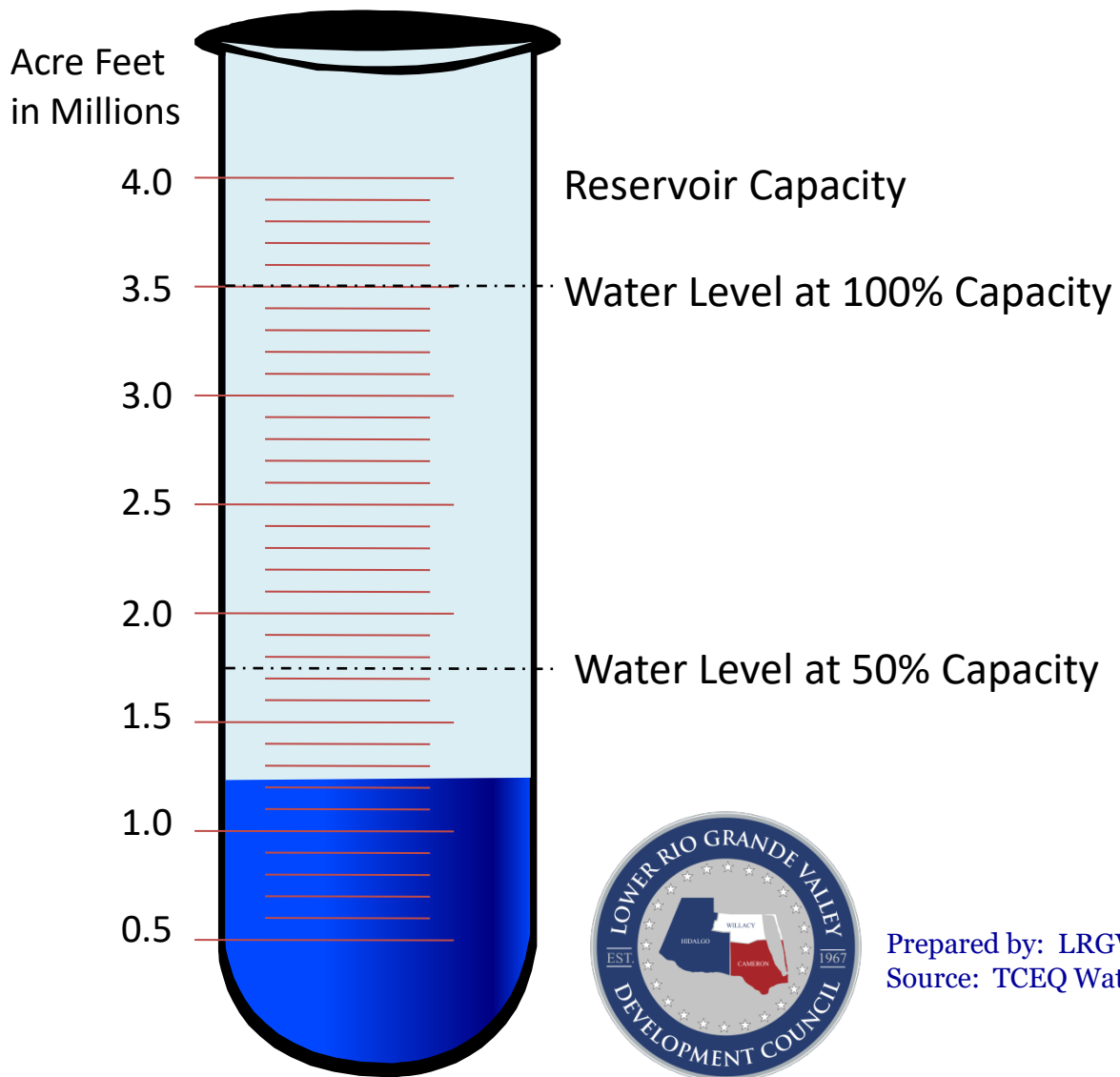
- Reservoir Levels

On March 19, 2022, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 36.14% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,225,877 acre-feet, down from 43.85% (1,487,472 AF) of normal conservation a year ago. Overall the system is holding 25.29% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,497,587 acre-feet with Amistad at 31.91% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,045,312 acre-feet and Falcon at 17.09% of conservation capacity, impounding 452,276 acre-feet. Mexico has 10.74% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 271,710 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

Water Levels at Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs (U.S. Ownership)

3/19/2022, 36.14% of Capacity or 1,225,877 AF

Down from 1,487,472 AF of Normal Conservation a year ago



**NOTE: Mexico Ownership/Reservoir Capacity for
March 19, 2022: 10.74% (271,710) A.F.**

Rio Grande Watermaster Report

03/19/22

Amistad Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	340.462 Meters	1,117.00 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	325.170 Meters	1,066.83 Feet	-50.17
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	1,289.378 MCM	1,045,312 Acre-Feet	31.91%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	1,087.141 MCM	881,356 Acre-Feet	84.32%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	202.237 MCM	163,956 Acre-Feet	15.68%
Total Releases (Average)	61.50 CMS	2,172 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	16.60 CMS	586 CFS	26.99%
Mexico Release (Average)	44.90 CMS	1,586 CFS	73.01%
Total Inflows (Average)	30.70 CMS	1,084 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	23.30 CMS	823 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	7.40 CMS	261 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	10.40 CMS	367 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	8.66 CMS	306 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	1.74 CMS	61 CFS	

Falcon Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	91.805 Meters	301.20 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	79.290 Meters	260.14 Feet	-41.06
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	557.876 MCM	452,276 Acre-Feet	17.09%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	424.962 MCM	344,521 Acre-Feet	76.17%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	132.914 MCM	107,755 Acre-Feet	23.83%
Total Releases (Average)	25.60 CMS	904 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	23.30 CMS	823 CFS	91.02%
Mexico Release (Average)	2.30 CMS	81 CFS	8.98%
Total Inflows (Average)	54.10 CMS	1,911 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	13.40 CMS	473 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	40.70 CMS	1,437 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	7.54 CMS	266 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	5.87 CMS	207 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	1.67 CMS	59 CFS	

Overall Status

Amistad

Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	2,270,663 TCM	1,840,849 Acre-Feet	
Current U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	1,087,141 TCM	881,356 Acre-Feet	47.88%
Mexico Share Normal Conservation	1,769,662 TCM	1,434,683 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	202,237 TCM	163,956 Acre-Feet	11.43%

Falcon

Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	1,913,180 TCM	1,551,034 Acre-Feet	
Current U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	424,962 TCM	344,521 Acre-Feet	22.21%
Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	1,351,633 TCM	1,095,782 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	132,914 TCM	107,755 Acre-Feet	9.83%
Total Normal Capacity in Amistad/Falcon System	7,305,138 TCM	5,922,348 Acre-Feet	
Total Normal Conservation Capacity for the U.S.	4,183,843 TCM	3,391,883 Acre-Feet	57.27%
Total Normal Conservation Capacity for Mexico	3,121,295 TCM	2,530,465 Acre-Feet	42.73%
Current Combined Storage for the U.S.	1,512.103 MCM	1,225,877 Acre-Feet	36.14%
Current Combined Storage for Mexico	335.151 MCM	271,710 Acre-Feet	10.74%
Current Storage in the Amistad/Falcon System	1,847,254 TCM	1,497,587 Acre-Feet	
Percent of Storage Capacity			25.29%

ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item Jose L. Gonzalez, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Contractors for Direct Purchased Services Pool

The Advisory Council recommends approval to add Contractors to the Area Agency on Aging's Contractor Pool. Case Managers utilize these contractors to purchase services such as homemaker and respite as such for their clients.

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>	<i>RATE</i> Hourly Rate
Faith Primary Home Care LLC	Homemaker	AAA: \$13.13 Standard: \$13.50
Adorable Primary Home Care Inc.	Homemaker Respite	AAA: \$13.10 Standard: \$15.00 AAA: \$13.10 Standard: \$15.00

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

- Annual Appropriations for FY2022

Congress has passed the annual appropriations that will fund Aging services for the rest of fiscal year 2022. According to reports, there are some very minor increases in the amount of funds for support services, nutrition services, and family caregiver programs. HHSC has not yet released the funds.

ITEM #5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action ItemManuel Cruz, Executive Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Prioritized List of FY2022-23 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications

The HSAC met on March 21st and recommends approval of the attached prioritization list for the FY 2022-23 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications.



ATTACHMENT A

FY2023 Regional Allocation Estimated Total \$463,822.58

SHSP: \$347,866.93

LETPA: 25% \$115,955.65

HSAC Recommendations FY2022/2023 Homeland Security Grant Program Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Activities (LETPA)

Conditionally Approved

Score	LETPA	Rankings	Project Title	Discipline	Request	Approved	Equipment Request	Notes
75.3	City of Harlingen	2	SHSP SWAT Equipment	LE	\$ 36,485.00	\$ 36,485.00	Plantronics headset for negotiations, headset Mic LED indicator, BluetoothWireless Technology Cellular Interface, Third Party Message Input, Command Speaker, Digital Audio Recorder, 3 Dual Ear Headphones, Pelican@Throw Case with a Walker Handset Phone Assembly with a 19" Stainless Steel Armored Cable and Wire Spool with 1,000 feet of telephone wire.Rescue Phone Sniper Video System - \$23,495.00 (Requires QUAD) Includes: Vizio LED LCD 7" Video Monitor with remote control, video throwphone. PLEASE REFER TO APPLICATION FOR COMPLETE LIST.	Fully funded
56	Brownsville, City of	3	Brownsville PD SWAT	LE	\$ 201,863.87	\$ 55,010.65	25 units of N94 ultra light weight ballistic bump helmet at \$859.00 per unit. 17 units of binocular night vision goggles/thermal imaging at \$10,611.11 perunit.	Funding only binoculars & helmets. If additional letpa funding becomes available, the HSAC & LRGVDC Board requests PSO to consider funding project at 100%.
53.4	Weslaco, City of	4	Weslaco SHSP - LETPA Project	LE	\$ 23,376.00	\$ 11,400.00	ProTech Patroller Entry Shield \$1800 x 4, BLACKHAWK! Back Pack Entry Kit, \$700 x 6 packs, TruckVault Captain LX Universal SUV Storage Unit with 5 Drawers, Flip-up Map Board, Cubby Area for Bulk Storage,Includes T-Handle Keyed Locks & 1 Combo Lock, Dividers (3 Diagonal)	Fund only backpacks and shields. Not approving storage unit.
50.7	City of Mission	5	Mission Police SWAT Equipment	LE	\$ 35,480.00	\$ 13,060.00	KBT Breaching Tool, includes: sling, 2 cylinders, 100 rounds, and case with foam. Additional attachments: KBT power cartridges x 200, bufferspring x1, and shipping x1WolffTracker 1 PLEASE REFER TO APPLICATION FOR COMPLETE LIST.	HSAC not funding drones. Funding all other items. Due to limited funding, awarding remaining amount as noted. If additional funding becomes available the HSAC & LRGVDC Board request the PSO to fund project at 100%.
					Total	\$ 297,204.87	\$ 115,955.65	This amount is in accordance with Federal mandate of 25%, from the original minimum of \$115,955.65 for Law Enforcement.
					Total Available for Project	\$	115,955.65	
					Balance	\$	-	



**HSAC Recommendations
FY2022/2023 Homeland Security Grant Program
State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)**

FY2023 Regional Allocation Total \$463,822.58

SHSP: 347,866.93

LETPA: 25% 115,955.65

Conditionally Approved

SCORES	SHSP	Rankings	Project Title	Discipline	Request	Approved	Focus	Equipment Request	Comments
85.3	LRGVDC	1	Regional Planning Staff and Related Costs	All	157,302.00	\$ 157,302.00	State, Regional & Local	Staff Planning and M&A (As per guidelines, 25% of total regional allocation is used for this projects)	Fully funded
79.9	LRGVDC	6	Regional Fire Academy Training Coordinator	All	30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	State, Regional & Local	Continue to contact a part-time coordinator to sustain training coordination and directing day-to-day operations of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection's Basic Firefighter I & II curriculum, which includes Hazardous Material awareness, operations, PPE, product control, EMT. Estimated 900 hours curriculum.	Fully funded
70.6	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	7	Hidalgo County Interop Comm Expansion Project	PD	\$ 257,851.00	\$ 100,564.93	Interoperable Communications	Funding will be used to purchase twenty-one P25 700/800MHz Mobile Radios for the Regional Radio System along with antennas and required accessories at approximately \$2,425 per unit. Please refer to application for complete list of equipment.	Partial funding. However, if additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
70.4	City of Raymondville	8	Portable Communication	PD	\$ 86,776.00	\$ 60,000.00	Interoperable Communications	The Raymondville Police Department will procure fifteen (15) Encrypted portable radios to provide communication to be used to communicate between local, state and federal agencies during disasters to coordinate response by all parties. During disasters the first thing is loss of electricity. And portables run on batteries that can be recharged with car chargers. The homeland equipment number is 06CP-01-Port	Partial funding. However, if additional funds are available the committee would like for it to be applied to Hidalgo first and then to Raymondville project at 100%
					Total	\$ 531,929.00	\$ 347,866.93		
							\$ 347,866.93		
							\$ -		



LETPA PAGE 2

Conditionally Approved

Score	LETPA	Rankings	Project Title	Discipline	Request	Approved	Equipment Request	Notes
50.1	Donna, City of	9	ST/CP Donna Police SHSP Project	LE	\$ 49,323.24	\$ 49,323.24	(4) - Philips HeartStart Frx AED, includes : Adult pads, pediatric key, cubix compact defibrillator wallcabinet with window) **Ships for fee (1) FS Criminal Palm Scan Station Print Pack (Includes Fed Submit Mug Shot Pack & Maintenance). (1)Shipping \$1,050	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
46	City of Alamo	10	Alamo PD Anti-Terrorism Enhancement Project	LE	\$ 119,670.55	\$ 119,670.55	APD is proposing to purchase 1 small unmanned aircraft; (1)-DJI Matrice 300 RTK Combo Kit, (6) TB 60 batteries, (1) M300 DualDownward Gimbal Connector, (1) DJI H20T Camera,(1)Night Owl IR laser Night Vision Camera, (1) Dromight TalonPayload Drop System for Matrice 300RTK, (1) Wingsland Z15-Gimbal Spotlight, (1) Terrestrial Imaging Megaphone forDJI Matrice 300 RTK Speakers PLEASE REFER TO APPLICATION FOR COMPLETE LIST.	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
42.6	Edcouch, City of	11	LETPA Projects	LE	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	Drone for use in protecting/monitoring critical infrastructure, high foot traffic areas, densely populated areas like shoppingmalls, border crossing etc x1HP Touch Screen All in One Desktop, i7, 16 gb memory, 1TB hard drive x3	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
41.1	City of Mission	12	Mission Police LPR System	LE	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	Generic Sharp Z3 Camera x 4 @ \$ \$3465 Cost: \$13860 Accompanying accessories: -AutoVu Sharp Z3 LAW Quad base KIT includes processing unit w/mounts, wiring, USB GPS, in vehicle mapping and Genetec Patroller - AutoVu Sharp Z3 single direction light per bracket -AutoVu Sharp V GenericCamera Kit, mounting bracket and camera connection -Associated hardware and Consumables for mounting fixed cameras -Shipping Total AccessoriesCost: \$15029.95 Software and Installation: -Installation services for mobile LPR vehicle -Fixed LPR camera installation . PLEASE REFER TO APPLICATION FOR COMPLETE LIST.	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
38.4	San Juan, City of	13	LETPA Project	LE	\$ 214,000.00	\$ 214,000.00	Skywatch Intermediate Tower, diesel, with PA system, spotlights, FLIR camera, thermal/day camera, andjoystick controller x1	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
36.3	Penitas, City of	14	SHSP LETPA	LE	\$ 98,750.00	\$ 98,750.00	Mobile Light Tower, towable with engine and electric winch x1 @ Estimated \$13000D3 Edge Security Trailer, include 15 GB cellular data, bandwidth management, health monitoring, full archiving, techinal support, 1optical camera, 2 thermal cameras, stober and flood light, alert system. x1	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
32	City of Palmview	15	LETPA	LE	\$ 238,972.57	\$ 238,972.57	Palmview PD will purchase a Skywatch security trailer with grant funds. The police department will deploy the security trailers in high traffic areas and near criticalinfrastructure in order to prevent/respond to terror threats/attacks. Deploying the security trailer in high traffic areas(event venues, supermarkets, shopping centers etc.)will allowable for improved and advanced security and protection of those areas and surveillance in order to be able to prosecute criminals	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
					Total	\$ 797,216.36	\$ 797,216.36	This amount is in accordance with Federal mandate of 25%, from the original minimum of \$115,955.65 for Law Enforcement.
					Total Available for Project	\$ 115,955.65		
					Balance	\$ 681,260.71		



Conditionally Approved

SCORES	SHSP	Rankings	Project Title	Discipline	Request	Approved	Focus	Equipment Request	Comments
61.2	Brownsville, City of	16	Special Operations Confined Space Equipment	FD	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	Regional Response Teams	Training manikin; Simulaid's manikin are the best way to maintain the reality of rescue training without using a live subject. Fully articulated, can be positioned in every conceivable situation. Please refer to application for complete list of equipment.	Not funding the compressor, funding other equipment only. If additional funding is available they will be applied to Hidalgo first, then Raymondville, then Brownsville
52.1	Hidalgo County	17	HS-Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)	PD	\$ 144,330.26	\$ -	Regional Response Teams	Dispatch console Position - Base Radio system	HSAC recommended no funding for this project. This is not a 24 hour operation and currently has communication capabilities within portable radios and with Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Dispatch. However, if additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests consideration to fund this project at 100%.
52	City of McAllen	18	FY 2023 SHSP Public Works	PW	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 275,000.00	Regional Response Teams	Drone Equipment, 100-kilowatt generator, 2 Drainage Pumps	Not funding the drone, funding the generator and the drainage pumps
49.7	City of Palmview	19	SHSP Regular Project	PD	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	Interoperable Communications	EMD Training and software for PD dispatchers and trainees=\$26,000	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
43.9	City of Edinburg	20	City of Edinburg SHSP LETPA Project	PD	\$ 92,400.00	\$ 92,400.00	Regional Response Teams	The CCTV system will allow the Edinburg Police Department to share information with the region's first responders in the event of a terrorist attack. Half of the cameras will be fixed and the other half are mobile, and deployable. The cost for the cameras is \$45,000 and the cloud subscription is \$36,000, for a total of \$81,000	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
41.6	City Of Edcouch	21	SHSP	PD	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	Regional Response Teams	Canon EOS 5D Mark IV DSLR x2 @ \$4500 each= \$9000 ATIN BINOX 4T Smart HD Thermal Binoculars w/ LRF x8 @ estimated \$3000 each. Total cost: \$24000	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
41.4	Penitas, City of	22	SHSP Regular Projects	PD	\$ 36,383.50	\$ 36,383.50	Regional Response Teams	Live Scan finger print scanner package x1 @ \$12000. This package includes the Fed Submit TX (Small Agency) Live Scan System forelectronically capturing and submitting Class C arrest & 10-prints to Texas DPS. The system supports Applicant and Sex Offender submissions. The first year of annual maintenance is included with the Fed Submit TX (Small Agency) Live Scan system. Included is Mentalix Fed Submit Mugshot (Add-On) software, with annual maintenance, Mugshot Camera & Desktop Tripod	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
37.7	City of Sullivan City	23	SHSP Regular Project	PD	\$ 206,449.00	\$ 206,449.00	Regional Response Teams	Generac Mobile 6kW Towable Diesel Vertical Mast Light Tower w/ Mitsubishi Engine and Electric Winch x1 @ \$12,449 Skwatch Surveillance Tower, basic package (PA system, FLIR Day-Night PTZ Camera), diesel version x1 @ \$194,000	Not funding skywatch tower. If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
37.3	Cameron County	24	HS-Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)	PD	\$ 103,469.55	\$ 103,469.55	Regional Response Teams	CBRN PAPR (Breathing apparatus) Quantity 15 Total = \$1,297.97 = \$19,469.55 CBRN (Haz-Mat) Suit- Quantity 15 @ 1,500.00 = Total \$22,500.00 Tactical CBRN Decon Systems Quantity 15 = \$4,100.00 Total = \$61,500.00	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
12.5	City of Raymondville	25	Portable Communication	PD	\$ 86,776.00	\$ 86,776.00	Interoperable Communications	The Raymondville Police Department will procure fifteen (15) Encrypted portable radios to provide communication to be used to communicate between local, state and federal agencies during disasters to coordinate response by all parties. During disasters the first thing is loss of electricity. And portables run on batteries that can be recharged with car chargers. The homeland equipment number is 06CP-01-Port	If additional funding is available, the HSAC and LRGVDC requests PSO's consideration to fund this project at 100%.
Total					\$ 1,003,808.31	\$ 859,478.05			
						\$ 347,866.93			
						\$ 511,611.12			

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff assisted stakeholders with grant applications on March 15, 2022.

Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Prioritization and Advisory Meeting, March 18, 2022.
- Staff assisted stakeholders with grant applications on March 15, 2022.
- Staff attended the “Just the Facts Ma’am” Domestic Violence workshop March 10- 11, 2022.
- Staff hosted the Interoperable Communication Focus Meeting February 28, 2022.
- Staff attended FEMA Strategic Plan training on February 24, 2022

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Regional Police Academy

- The Mission Day Academy (216th) started on March 14, 2022 with 16 Cadets
- The 211th Harlingen Day Academy graduated nine Cadets on Saturday March 19, 2022.
- Regional Police Academy Administrative Assistant, Monic Galvan has been elected to serve as the Secretary of the Texas Association of Collegiate Veteran Program Officials
- In-service training continues in person and is being conducted at various locations throughout the region. This provides officers with opportunities to attend without having to travel long distances.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

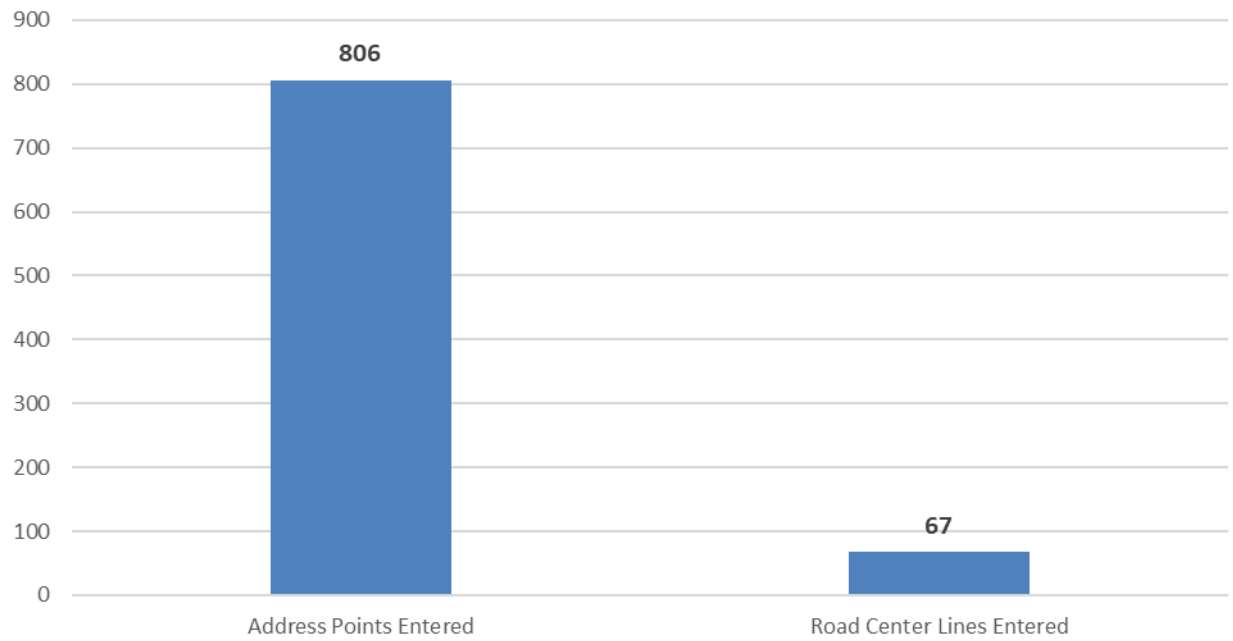
Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

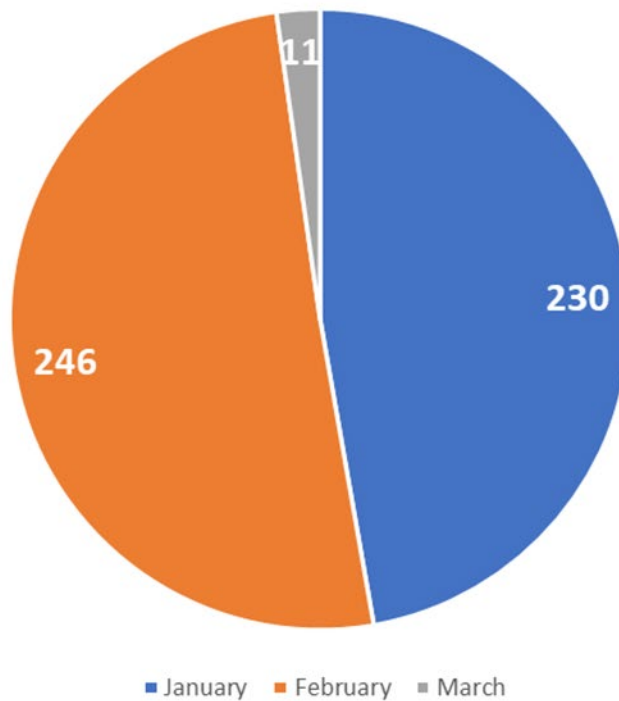
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District

- **GIS Division**
The GIS team completely incorporated the different sections of the address ticket taking process. Our GIS team now takes customer requests from start to finish. This allowed for us to create a smoother workflow and quicker turn around for the average address request from residents. The GIS team has continued to maintain the GeoMSAG. The GIS team has achieved 100% geocode matching on the GeoMSAG. With this matching, every call in Hidalgo/Willacy should route to the correct PSAP. The GIS team member Selenne is leading a project to upgrade our Mapflex servers at the PSAPs.
- **Public Education Division**
The public education division attended providing special needs shelters in the RGV webinar on March 1st, 2022. All items for TC Week are in and will be ready for delivery to all PSAPS for TC Week. Pub-Ed attended the wildfire preparedness meeting in Linn TX on March 10th, 2022. Currently there are conversations with AT&T, Spectrum and Channel 4 for potential advertising. Power 9-1-1 and Mapflex 9-1-1 trainings have been scheduled for March 28th through April 1st. Public Education will be attending the South Texas All Hazards Conference March 23rd and 24th at the McAllen Convention Center.
- **The Systems and PSAP Operations Team**
Our Systems & PSAP Operation Team have conducted thirteen audits for our first quarter. Our team also inspects all PSAPs generators during our audits. This ensures optimal readiness during unforeseen events. Our team is dedicated to increasing the resiliency of our 9-1-1 Network. Staff is preparing to install our new Viper7 upgrade this summer. This installation is a critical element for our PSAPs can build services toward Next Generation 911.

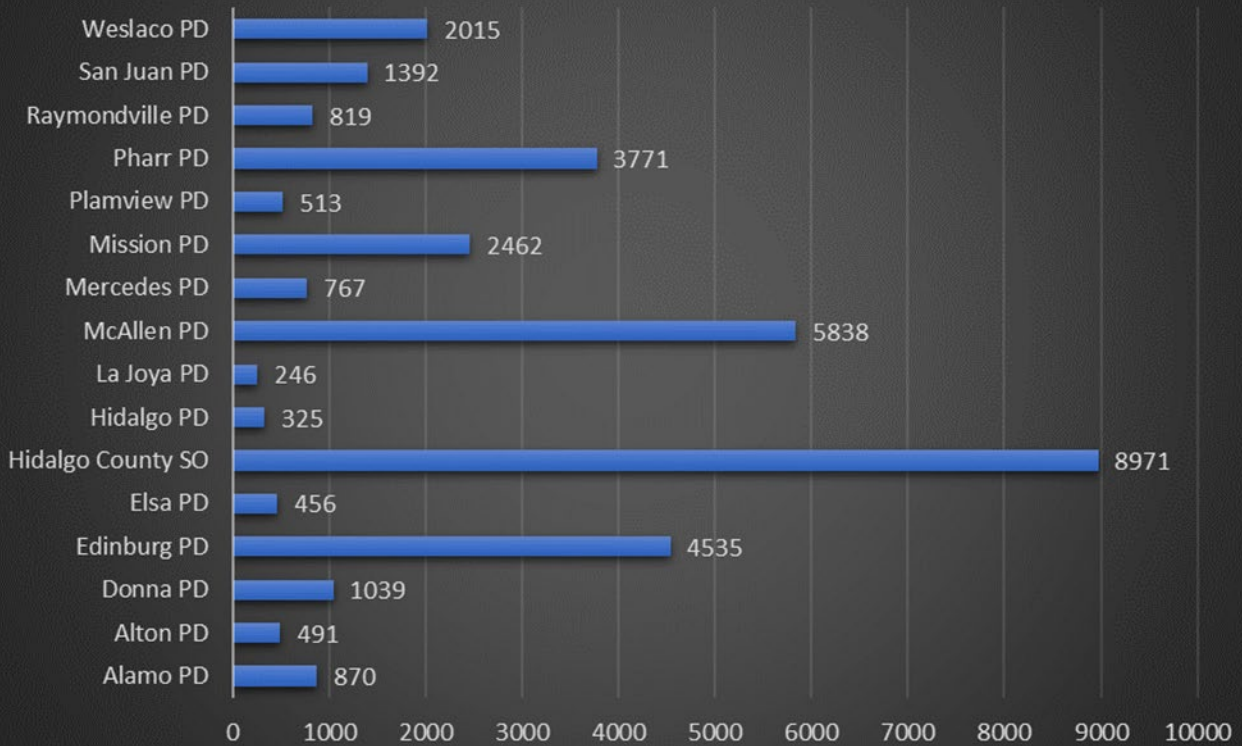
February 2022 New Mapping Features



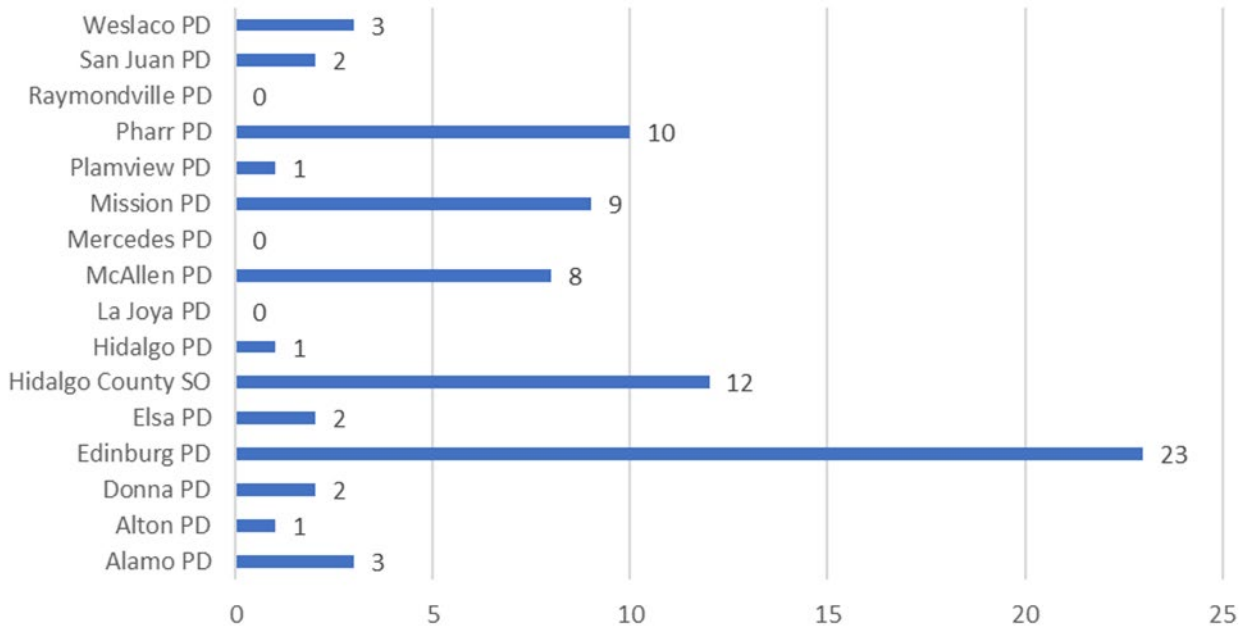
Address Requests from February to March 2nd



Call Summary from February 2022



9-1-1 Text from February 2022



ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status ReportMaribel Contreras, Director of Regional Transit

- Ridership Report

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

Breakdown of Ridership per system with percentage increase or decrease:

System	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	-/+ %
Rural	5,022	5,552	11%
Urban	17,211	42,323	146%
Total Ridership	22,233	47,875	115%
DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY			
Hidalgo County	12,603	37,737	199%
Cameron County	7,870	7,854	3%
Willacy County	265	272	-19%
Starr County	1,379	1,919	39%
Zapata County	116	93	-20%
Total Ridership	22,233	47,875	115%

- COVID-19 Precautionary Measures Continue to be in Effect
 - Facial-covering requirement for all passengers
 - Daily cleaning with CDC-approved disinfectant
 - Usage of rear-doors to board/deboard passengers
 - Cordoning-off driver area
 - Installation of hand sanitizer dispensers inside buses
 - Issuing safety memos to staff

- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity

The final report will be submitted to TXDOT in February 2022. A Continuation Plan was awarded to LRGVDC Valley Metro in the amount of \$17,500. Valley Metro will collaborate with regional stakeholders to:

- Monitor progress of the five-year public transit-human services transportation plan for its respective planning region
- Document any new unmet transportation needs, gaps, or inefficiencies in service
- Document corresponding strategies for resolving any newly identified unmet transportation needs, gaps, or inefficiencies.

LRGVDC - VALLEY METRO
RIDERSHIP COUNT YEAR TO DATE FY 2022 (February)

FY 2022 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo	34	33	38	35	32	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	175
Edinburg	3,803	4,021	3,250	2,767	2,581	4,344	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,766
UTRGV Edinburg	21,078	18,983	16,944	4,825	2,835	26,305	0	0	0	0	0	0	90,970
Pharr	1,014	1,003	931	911	986	909	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,754
Mission	739	781	859	832	766	705	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,682
McAllen	3,276	3,288	3,212	4,004	3,364	3,345	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,489
Hargill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Carlos	33	32	29	56	54	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	248
La Blanca	4	6	13	2	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Elsa	68	60	49	56	49	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	335
Edcouch	42	53	55	46	9	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	250
Sullivan City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Villa	8	7	32	35	26	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	148
La Joya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penitas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palmview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palmhurst	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Juan	478	520	372	418	417	387	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,592
Alamo	278	259	275	277	237	249	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,575
Donna	364	323	397	578	465	426	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,553
Weslaco	809	755	743	598	523	652	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,080
Mercedes	182	196	240	314	257	225	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,414
La Feria	109	120	106	183	168	156	0	0	0	0	0	0	842
Harlingen	2,303	2,345	1,976	2,237	2,037	1,914	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,812
San Benito	99	104	235	458	420	254	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,570
Los Indios	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Paloma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
El Ranchito	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olmito	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brownsville	2,875	3,081	3,561	4,114	3,258	3,478	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,367
Santa Rosa	0	0	0	10	49	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	93
Primera	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Combes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Fresnos	176	229	121	176	213	315	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,230
Laguna Vista	174	198	175	183	207	252	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,189
Laguna Heights	261	300	195	262	203	201	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,422
Port Isabel	1,549	1,516	1,496	1,562	1,312	1,250	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,685
Rio Hondo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Grulla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rio Grande City	1,372	1,290	1,244	937	842	1,432	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,117
Willacy County	263	341	331	326	265	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,798
Starr County	645	555	352	493	537	487	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,069
Zapata County	206	159	32	223	116	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	829
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	0	0	0	0	0	0	217,089

RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

SYSTEM	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Rural	6,271	6,167	5,480	5,662	5,022	5,552	0	0	0	0	0	0	34,154
Urban	35,971	34,391	31,783	21,256	17,211	42,323	0	0	0	0	0	0	182,935
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	0	0	0	0	0	0	217,089

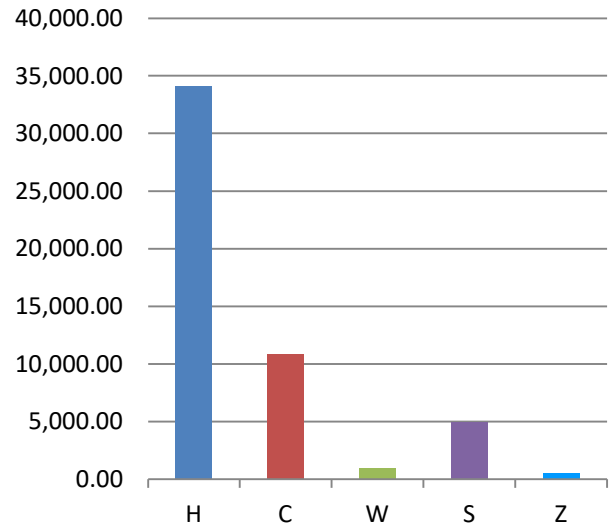
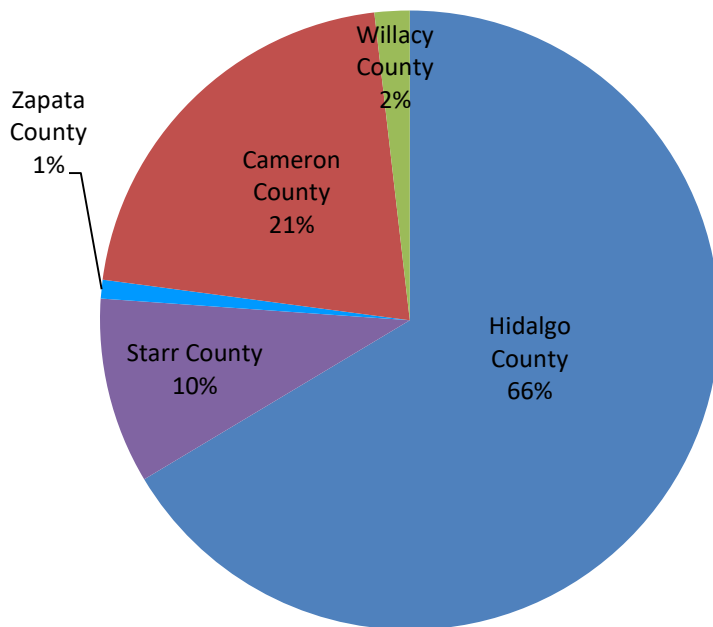
RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	32,210	30,320	27,439	15,754	12,603	37,737	0	0	0	0	0	0	156,063
Cameron County	7,546	7,893	7,865	9,185	7,870	7,854	0	0	0	0	0	0	48,213
Willacy County	263	341	331	326	265	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,798
Starr County	2,017	1,845	1,596	1,430	1,379	1,919	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,186
Zapata County	206	159	32	223	116	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	829
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	0	0	0	0	0	0	217,089

RIDERSHIP BY PRECINCTS

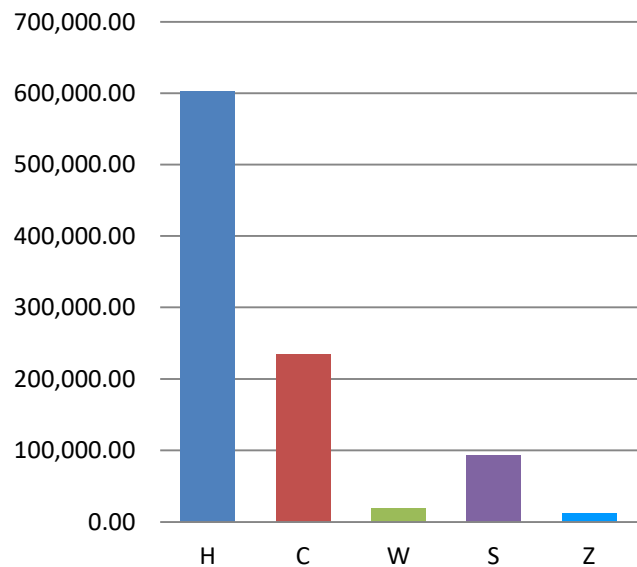
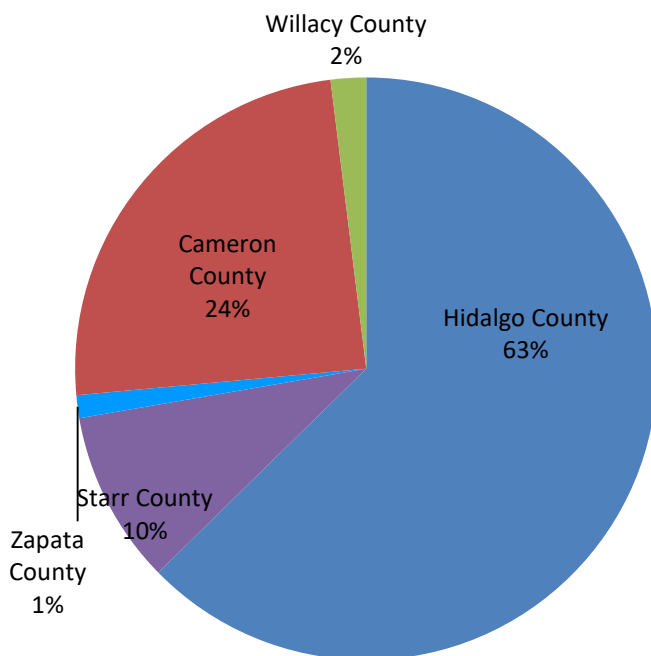
PRECINCT	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Precinct 1	3,918	3,771	3,773	4,379	3,900	3,750	0	0	0	0	0	0	23,491
Precinct 2	7,775	7,941	7,338	7,974	7,346	6,773	0	0	0	0	0	0	45,147
Precinct 3	1,660	1,813	1,537	1,671	1,557	1,447	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,685
Precinct 4	30,112	28,157	25,365	13,355	10,814	35,542	0	0	0	0	0	0	143,345
Harlingen MPO Area	2,693	2,765	2,557	3,202	2,934	2,583	0	0	0	0	0	0	16,734

Distribution of Revenue Hours



Revenue Hours Provided	
Hidalgo County	34,055.31
Starr County	4,977.17
Zapata County	499.35
Cameron County	10,822.00
Willacy County	933.57
Total Revenue Hours	51,287.40

Distribution of Revenue Miles



Revenue Miles Provided	
Hidalgo County	601,466
Starr County	92,380
Zapata County	12,343
Cameron County	235,202
Willacy County	18,714
Total Revenue Miles	960,105



FY 2021-2022 Valley Metro

TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	48	64
October	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	46	54
November	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	23	77
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	37	21	60
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	23
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	23	69
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	152	183	347
FY 2020-2021	4	9	0	1	0	0	29	1	0	0	0	18	91	153
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	5	4	0	0	-29	-1	0	0	2	134	92	194

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	57	52	76	58	23	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	335
Indirect Routes	7	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Monthly Total	64	54	77	60	23	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	347

2021 - 2022 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count

