

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

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

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Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 12:00 noon via GoToMeeting Video Conference

Members of the public can attend this meeting by calling 1-888-204-5987, Access Code 5435817

Presiding: President Jim Darling

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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 (March 31, 2021)President

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

Item #4: AdministrationPresident

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Set Date and Format for 2021 Nominating Committee Meeting
- B. Presentation and **ACTION** to Accept Quarterly Investment Report Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance
- C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Amendment to LRGVDC
Procurement PolicyManuel Cruz
Executive Director
- D. Presentation from Texas GLO on Community Development
and Revitalization (GLO-CDR).....Donna Johnson
Texas GLO VP of Housing, Grant Works
- E. Presentation and Possible **ACTION** on Texas Gas Service
Cost of Services Adjustment.....Stacey McTaggart
Rates and Regulatory Director

- F. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Estimated Local Contributions for Hidalgo County Active Transportation & Tourism Plan
- G. Executive Director Report

ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

LRGVDC Updates & Activities

- 1. Introduction of New StaffMembers
- 2. 87th Legislature Updates
- 3. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- 4. It's Time Texas Community Challenge

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Program Action Items

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nomination
- 2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Bylaws Amendment
- 3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Interlocal Agreement between City of Edinburg and LRGVDC

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 ServicesJose L. Gonzalez
Director**

Program Action Items:

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Add Vendors (Contractors) to Vendor Pool

Program Status Reports:

- Expanding Caregiver Programing
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Funding
- Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Member Vacancies

**C. Public Safety Randall Snyder
Director**

Program Action Items:

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee Rankings and Resolutions for FY 2021-2022 Criminal Justice Grant Conditionally Approved Projects
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution to Apply for Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF)
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution to Apply for Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy FY 2021-FY 2023

Program Status Reports:

- Emergency Communications/9-1-1
- Criminal Justice Program
- Homeland Security Program
- Regional Police Academy

**D. Transportation Tom Logan, Valley Metro Director
Andrew Canon, RGVMPD 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, May 26, 2021

Annual Elections Meeting at 12:00 PM

Board of Directors Meeting Immediately Following

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

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021
GLOBAL GOTOMEETING VIDEO CONFERENCE PLATFORM
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM
LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS - 301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS
BUILDING B, KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: MAYOR JIM DARLING, PRESIDENT

- DRAFT -

President Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

He then moved to item 2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (February 24, 2021). ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2021 meeting as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

President Darling then moved to item 3: Public Comment and/or Report from Legislative Delegation and recognized Ms. Maricela De Leon. She introduced herself as the new Board Representative for Texas State Technical College (TSTC). She is the Regional Executive Director of Government Affairs and looks forward to collaborating with Board Members and being a part of the LRGVDC.

Executive Director Manuel Cruz was recognized and gave the sad news that one of our own has succumbed to the COVID-19 virus. Longtime employee Mary Villarreal passed away on March 2, 2021; she had been with the Area Agency on aging for 25 years. A moment of silence was observed.

President Darling next moved to item 4: Administration.

A. Consideration and Action to Approve Lease Agreement between LRGVDC and RGVMPPO

Recently the RGVMPPO has expressed interest in acquiring a larger office and relocating its operations to a facility that would be able to accommodate its staff. Since the merger of the Brownsville, Harlingen-San Benito, and Hidalgo County MPOs, more staff have been hired and its current location is not suitable for the overall number of staff required to efficiently conduct day-to-day operations. The new location, LRGVDC Valley Metro's Transit facility located at 617 W. University Drive in Edinburg, can accommodate the increased number of staff and allow for future growth. This lease is necessary because the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires this document to be in place to comply with the tri-annual audit requirements. The execution of the lease agreement by both parties is contingent upon the RGVMPPO receiving written approval from its funding agency; once approved, the LRGVDC Executive Director will execute the final document.

Commissioner Rick Salinas asked how much office space the RGVMPPO has at its current location in Weslaco. RGVMPPO Executive Director Andrew Canon stated that the Weslaco location has 2,000 square feet, and the office space at the Valley Metro Transit Terminal has 6,000 square feet. Mayor Jorge Ledezma asked if other locations would be considered. Mr. Canon clarified that both the Weslaco location and the Edinburg location are owned by the LRGVDC and that Edinburg is providing some furnishings. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the lease agreement between LRGVDC and RGVMPPO contingent upon FTA approval. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Presentation on Economic Development Administration Programs

Mr. Robert Peche, Economic Development Representative with the U.S. Economic Development Administration was recognized, however there were technical difficulties in starting the presentation, and it was the consensus of the Board to hear this presentation later in the meeting.

C. Executive Director Report

President Darling recognized Mr. Cruz to address the following:

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz announced that Ms. Olga Rodriguez joined the ECOMMS/9-1-1 Team as a Customer Service Representative, Ms. Vanessa Salinas and Ms. Karla Perez joined the Area Agency on Aging as Customer Service Representatives, Mr. Juan Pena joined the RGVMPD as a GIS Specialist and Mr. Christopher Nelson and Mr. Javier Dominguez joined the RGVMPD as Planners. Additionally, former receptionist Ms. Monic Galvan applied for and was hired as the Administrative Assistant for the Regional Police Academy, and former BikeShare Program Specialist Mr. Juan Macias applied for and was hired as a Purchaser for the Business Operations Department.

2. 87th Legislature Updates

Mr. Cruz reported that the legislature has filed almost 7,000 bills this session and he highlighted a few that are pertinent to the LRGVDC and this region. HB 5 relates to the expansion of broadband services for underserved areas including rural areas. Legislators are very interested in HB 3 that relates to electric power redundancy systems and upgrades to weatherization of power generators, transmission lines, natural gas facilities and pipelines which are two hot topics. We are also tracking bills that may impact LRGVDC programs. HB 2911 is related to Next Generation 9-1-1 services and the ability to increase the 50 cent fees for 9-1-1 that are charged to phone bills.

Previously President Darling requested staff to contact our legislators regarding a modification to the Texas Open Meetings Act that would include conducting hybrid in-person/virtual conference participation during public meetings. Mr. Cruz has been notified that approximately five bills on this topic have been submitted and sent to committee for review; he reminded the Board that this is a fluid situation, and these bills change on a weekly basis.

3. COVID-19 Vaccinations

Mr. Cruz was recognized and informed the Board that in January, when COVID-19 vaccines were being developed, President Darling identified the issue of how to vaccinate our vulnerable elderly homebound population who could not get out and go to the mass vaccination clinics that were being held. A work group was developed that identified 2,937 elderly homebound individuals. LRGVDC staff were able to assist some of the city and county vaccine providers with program resources. The ECOMMS/9-1-1 department developed and provided a GIS map that plotted the location of all the individuals identified. The Valley Metro program provided transportation to vaccination clinics for some senior citizen communities in Weslaco. The Area Agency on Aging staff identified their Case Management clients who are homebound, and their staff was provided vaccination information they were able to pass on to callers. Mr. Cruz thanked all those that have been involved for the great effort that has been put forth for this needed service. He added that this is an ongoing effort and the LRGVDC stands at the ready to continue providing support as needed. President Darling also expressed his appreciation to all those involved in this effort.

4. American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Mr. Cruz reported that the LRGVDC will receive funding allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for the Health & Human Services Department, the Transportation Department, the Economic Development Program, and the Homeland Security Program. Texas will receive approximately \$16.7 billion; in addition to that, \$10 billion will be allocated to local jurisdictions in Texas. Other than the total amount of funding, there currently is not much guidance as far as the actual programmatic allowable costs. Staff anticipates that guidance will be developed as the funding is allocated.

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

A. Community & Economic Development

Director Rick Carrera was recognized and informed the Board that the earlier technical difficulties had been resolved and he yielded the floor to Mr. Peche to address item B – Presentation on Economic Development Administration Programs. Mr. Peche introduced himself as the Economic Development Representative for the Southwestern area of Texas. He serves this region by helping economic development non-profit organizations put together projects that can be funded by the EDA. The EDA is a small agency within the Department of Commerce, and they work closely with their districts which are the councils of government. His presentation will be available for review on the LRGVDC website, and it has information on EDA Disaster Assistance, EDA Cares Act Disaster Assistance, and the American Rescue Act. He encouraged the Board and staff to think about projects for which they can request funding at the local level. They would like to see projects for significant economic development initiatives that could bring up segments of the economy that perhaps are not as strong as they could be. He asked that they look for projects that will impact not only a local community, but the greater Rio Grande Valley area and bring in new job creation opportunities to the local level. President Darling thanked Mr. Peche for his presentation and suggested the Board and staff meet to consider regional projects and take advantage of this funding.

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Road-to-Recycling Tire Disposal Services Request for Proposals (RFP) Award (Tabled 2/24/2021)

Commissioner Rick Salinas made a motion to remove this item from the table. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Carrera reminded the Board that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) met on February 23 and reviewed vendor proposals submitted in response to the RFP for the Road-to-Recycling Tire Disposal Services. Two (2) proposals were submitted, however only one met the qualifications specified in the request. The SWAC unanimously approved the proposal from Republic Services.

Additionally, since the February 24 LRGVDC Board Meeting, the SWAC met on March 16 to consider an additional provider of tire disposal services, the Brownsville Landfill. This addition will better serve our region during this event by providing an additional option for the participating communities. The Brownsville Landfill has provided these services to the LRGVDC for several previous Road-to-Recycling events. The SWAC unanimously approved the Brownsville Landfill to continue to implement these services. ***Commissioner Rick Salinas made a motion to approve both proposals as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Resolution 2021-01 Proclaiming April as National Fair Housing Month and Supporting Awareness of Fair Housing

Mr. Carrera reported that the principles of fair housing are not only a 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. **Mayor Trey Mendez made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01 as presented. Ms. Maricela De Leon seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Program Status Reports

The status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review, and Mr. Carrera announced the following meetings:

- Region M meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 7 at 10:30 am
- LRG-15 Flood Planning Group meeting has been moved from April 1 to April 21
- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually on April 21 at 2:30 pm

He brought the reservoir level report to the Board's attention and noted that our region is currently in a drought situation. President Darling stated that for those cities that have ordinances, we have now moved into another level and encouraged those city leaders to be aware of water conservation and drought contingency procedures.

The program status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

B. Health & Human Services

Director Jose Gonzalez was recognized to address the following items:

Program Action Items

1. Consideration and Action to Add Vendors (Contractors) to the Vendor Pool

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that in response to the open enrollment for the Direct Purchased Services contractor pool, the Area Agency on Aging received one (1) additional application. The Advisory Council recommends the addition of Progressive Skill Home Health Services from Pharr to provide Homemaker and Respite In-Home care. **Commissioner Edward Gonzalez made a motion to approve Progressive Skill Home Health Services as a vendor (contractor) to the Area Agency on Aging Vendor Pool. Mayor George Rivera seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to Amend Amigos Del Valle Budget

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends an amendment to the Amigos Del Valle Budget. The recommended budget change includes prior year, prior year COVID, and the COVID supplemental funding approved in December. The amendment will affect congregate meals and home delivered meals. **Ms. Veronica Gonzalez made a motion to approve the amended Amigos Del Valle budget as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

President Darling asked for a report at the next meeting on how the Meals on Wheels program works in order to help answer some of the questions posed by Board Members.

Program Status Reports

The status reports on Senior Centers/Nutrition Sites and the American Rescue Plan Act funding were available for review in the meeting packet.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

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

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Prioritization List of FY 2021-22 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications

Mr. Snyder reported that the HSAC met on March 24 and recommends approval of the prioritization list for the FY 2021-22 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Applications. ***Ms. Maricela De Leon made a motion to approve the HSAC prioritization list of FY 2021-22 Homeland Security Grants Division Regional Grant Application as presented. Commissioner Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of Telecommunicators Week Items

Mr. Snyder informed the Board that the week of April 11-17 is National Telecommunicators Week. The 9-1-1 program has consistently recognized our local tele-communicators for their dedication and hard work. This year staff would like to recognize them with tokens of our appreciation that feature the LRGVDC Public Safety 9-1-1 tele-communicator logos. The estimated cost for these items is \$46,634.97. This is a previously budgeted item approved by the Commission on State Emergency Communication (CSEC). As required by LRGVDC Procurement Policy, all procurements exceeding \$25,000 require approval from the Board of Directors. ***Ms. Maricela De Leon made a motion to approve the purchase of Telecommunicators Week Items as presented. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action President Darling thanked the ECOMMS/9-1-1 staff for their assistance in the homebound vaccination project by creating an interactive map of their locations and the locations of vaccination clinics.

Program Status Reports

The program status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Program Director Tom Logan was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Amendment Number 5 to Interlocal Agreement for Joint Development of Edinburg Transit Terminal

Mr. Logan stated that staff requests approval to finalize this project which will complete the terminal's first floor mixed use area, fulfill parking requirements, and implement necessary minor improvements. This second project of the Downtown Revitalization Streetscape will ensure the visibility and use of transit service, provide increased mobility and access for the elderly and disabled, improve safety, generate economic activity, and enhance the value of local property.

The amendment to the Interlocal Agreement reflects the updated expiration date of June 30, 2022 and includes additional funds that have been awarded through the FTA in the amount of \$800,000 with a \$200,000 local match from the Edinburg EDC. All other provisions of the Amendment dated December

2, 2014, not specifically in conflict with this amendment Number 5 shall remain the same.
Commissioner Rick Salinas made a motion to approve amendment number 5 to the Interlocal Agreement for joint development of the Edinburg Transit Terminal as presented. Ms. Maricela De Leon seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action Mr. Logan informed the Board that the program status reports were provided in the meeting packet for review.

RGVMPO Executive Director Andrew Canon was recognized and reported on transportation related legislation that is being considered.

Item 6. - New or Unfinished Business

Mr. Cruz announced that the Public Safety Program Orientation will be scheduled on Wednesday, April 28 at 11:30 am, prior to the Board Meeting. There being no further business to come before the Board, ***President Darling adjourned the meeting at 1:09 pm.***

Mayor Jim Darling, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

ITEM #4. B.

ADMINISTRATION

**QUARTERLY
INVESTMENT
REPORT**

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Quarterly Investment Report
January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021

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

Recorded Interest Income for the quarter		\$373.11
	Beginning 01/01/21	Ending 03/31/21
Investments in TexPool Prime:		
Water Plan	\$63,074.51	\$63,090.52
9-1-1	615,502.86	591,978.18
TCEQ	289,578.69	110,873.89
Transit	94,511.88	94,535.85
TWDB	5,164.80	166.01
GLO-Closing Cost	99,179.37	99,204.50
Kari's Law	75,900.47	62,404.66
Tire Project	22,914.88	22,920.67
RGV Explorer	56,672.75	56,687.13
Total	\$ 1,322,500.21	\$1,101,861.41

TexPool Prime Rate as of March 31, 2021 – 0.0849%

Crystal Balboa
Director of Finance

ITEM #4. C.

ADMINISTRATION

**PROCUREMENT
POLICY
AMENDMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, 2021

Item #4: Administration

C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Amendment to LRGVDC Procurement Policy

The proposed amendment will include the addition of the Code of Federal Regulations which references the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). This amendment is necessary to remain in compliance with all FHWA activities including the procurement, management, and administration of engineering and design related services. Specifically, the Procurement Policy should now include the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 172 (23 CFR 172.5(c)) and include the responsibilities of the LRGVDC and guidelines on procurement methods and procedures, project management, etc.

This amendment will not interfere with the standard operating procedures of the LRGVDC.

The proposed amendment will go in the Procurement Policy manual under Article III, PART B, section 3-208, letter D, pgs. 44-45. The amendment is in red font in the excerpt of the Procurement Policy below.

Staff recommends approval.

Lower Rio Grande Development Council



301 West Railroad Weslaco, Texas 78596

PROCUREMENT POLICY

**April 2021
As
Amended**

Procurement Act sets forth the State of Texas requirements for qualifications-based procurements for architectural and engineering services.

D. *CFR Title 23 Ch. I Sub Ch. B Part 172.5 (c)*: This CFR states, “The STA or other recipient shall approve the written policies and procedures, including all revisions to such policies and procedures, of a subrecipient to assess compliance with applicable requirements. These policies and procedures shall address, as appropriate for each method of procurement a contracting agency proposes to use, the following items to ensure compliance with Federal and State laws, regulations, and the requirements of this part.

- 1. Preparing a scope of work and evaluation factors for the ranking/selection of a consultant;**
- 2. Soliciting interests, qualifications, or proposals from prospective consultants;**
- 3. Preventing, identifying, and mitigating conflicts of interests for employees of both the contracting agency and consultants and promptly disclosing in writing any potential conflict to the STA and FHWA, as specified in 2 CFR 200.112 and 23 CFR 1.33, and the requirements of this part.**
- 4. Verifying suspension and debarment actions and eligibility of consultants, as specified in 2 CFR part 1200 and 2 CFR part 180;**
- 5. Evaluating interests, qualifications, or proposals and the ranking/selection of a consultant;**
- 6. Determining, based upon State procedures and the size and complexity of a project, the need for additional discussions following RFP submission and evaluation;**
- 7. Preparing an independent agency estimate for use in negotiation with the selected consultant;**
- 8. Selecting appropriate contract type, payment method, and terms and incorporating required contract provisions, assurances, and certifications in accordance with §172.9;**
- 9. Negotiating a contract with the selected consultant including instructions for proper disposal of concealed cost proposals of unsuccessful bidders;**
- 10. Establishing elements of contract costs, accepting indirect cost rate(s) for application to contracts, and assuring consultant compliance with the Federal cost principles in accordance with §172.11;**

11. Ensuring consultant costs billed are allowable in accordance with the Federal cost principles and consistent with the contract terms as well as the acceptability and progress of the consultant's work;
12. Monitoring the consultant's work and compliance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of the contract;
13. Preparing a consultant's performance evaluation when services are completed and using such performance data in future evaluation and ranking of consultant to provide similar services;
14. Closing-out a contract;
15. Retaining supporting programmatic and contract records, as specified in 2 CFR 200.333 and the requirements of this part;
16. Determining the extent to which the consultant, which is responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy, and coordination of services, may be reasonably liable for costs resulting from errors and omissions in the work furnished under its contract;
17. Assessing administrative, contractual or legal remedies in instances where consultants violate or breach contract terms and conditions, and providing for such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate; and
18. Resolving disputes in the procurement, management, and administration of engineering and design related consultant services. (Amended 4/28/2021)

II. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PROCESS

A. *Developing the Scope of Work:* The User Department (Sponsor) shall develop a Scope of Work that completely describes and communicates the project parameters. It is very important the scope of work be well-defined so that firms can correctly tailor their statements of qualifications to the project. Following are the basic elements that need to be included in the Statement of the Scope of Work:

1. Name of Owner (LRGVDC)
2. Description of the Organization—its goals and mission
3. Project Name/Identification
4. Project Location
5. Contact Person
6. Identification and explanation of involvement by any other entities (City, County, etc.) impacting on scope of work
7. Description of any collateral activities in process or planned for the same project

ITEM #4. D.

ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION

FROM

TEXAS GLO

2018/2019 Disasters

Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Programs (HARP)



Overview

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) allocated **\$137.8 million** in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing and reimbursement recovery following severe flooding in 2018 and 2019 in South Texas and the Lower Rio Grande Valley as well as Tropical Storm Imelda in Southeast Texas.

The Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Programs (HARP) provide:

- Repair or reconstruction of owner-occupied single-family homes.
 - Reimbursement up to \$50,000 for certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred for repairs including reconstruction, rehabilitation, or mitigation.
- Repayment of SBA loans is also eligible for reimbursement.**

Residents in the following counties are eligible for assistance: Cameron, Chambers, Harris, Hidalgo, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, San Jacinto, Willacy.

Apply for Assistance

- ☐ **Step One:** Visit recovery.texas.gov/harp.
- ☐ **Step Two:** Review the document checklist and gather all necessary items.
- ☐ **Step Three:** Submit a single application with all federally required documentation to the GLO to assist with repairs or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Check the status of your application at recovery.texas.gov/harp.

A single application can be submitted for reimbursement and repair assistance. An application must be submitted along with required documents for consideration. HARP is a **first-come, first-served basis** and all homeowners are encouraged to apply immediately. Households applying for reimbursement that do not meet the low-to moderate-income (LMI) threshold will be processed after the first six months from application opening, but may receive construction assistance prior to then, based on their application date. HARP is only available for a main home (primary residence).

I Applied. What's Next?

- Program staff will follow up with the applicant **within 7 days** of receiving the application to request additional information, if needed.
- Applicants will have **14 days** to respond to requests for additional information.
- Applicants will be notified of preliminary eligibility following complete application review.
- An environmental review and damage assessment will be scheduled and conducted for the applicant's home.
- Once approved, a program staff member will let the applicant know the assistance that they qualify to receive, which may include the reimbursable amount, scope of work, and construction time frame as applicable.
- When program agreements are signed, reimbursement will be approved, and construction may begin as applicable and in accordance with the agreed upon schedule. For homeowners receiving construction assistance, it will likely be required that the homeowner vacate, and reimbursement funds won't be received until construction is complete.

Top 5 Reasons Applications Don't Move Forward

1. No receipts or insufficient receipts to prove how other disaster money was spent.
2. **For applicants in floodplains** – prior assistance was received and they didn't keep insurance, or they were not low- to moderate-income and didn't have insurance when disaster happened.
3. Applicants don't provide all required documentation on time or at all.
4. Applicants don't want to accept the type or amount of assistance we offer.
5. For construction activities, applicant wants to keep existing home.

All activities under this program will be conducted according to the GLO's Housing Guidelines, which outline the limitations for reimbursements, repairs, environmental regulations, and other rules that the GLO must follow in administering this program.

Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Programs (HARP)

Applicant Document Checklist



❑ VALID PHOTO I.D. FOR APPLICANT

- Driver License
- State/Government-Issued ID
- Passport

❑ INCOME INFORMATION FOR ALL ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (18+)

- Latest tax return (IRS form 1040 signed and submitted) **OR**
- Salary/Wage: last 3 months of pay stubs OR signed statement from employer stating wage and frequency of payment
- Benefits: social security or disability, retirement, TANF, pension or annuity - current letter of benefits should include benefit amount

❑ PROOF OF OWNERSHIP (1 of the following)

- Warranty Deed/Deed of Trust
- Affidavit of Ownership along with
 - Property tax records (tax records that show deed)
 - Homeowner's Insurance
 - Utility bills
- Other documentation acceptable to the GLO including
 - Fee simple title
 - 99-year leasehold interest as lessee
 - Life estate/trusts
 - Court order/affidavit/succession
 - Proof of mortgage

❑ PROOF OF PRIMARY RESIDENCY/OCCUPANCY (1 of the following)

- Homestead Tax Exemption from the tax records; **OR**
- Documentation from the month preceding and the month of the event for which the homeowner is applying for assistance.

The applicant or co-applicant's name and address must match the information on the application:

- Utility bill (electric, phone, water, etc.)
- Voter registration card
- Credit card statement
- Bank account statement
- Homeowners insurance policy (declarations page)

All records must be from the months preceding and month of the event for which the homeowner is applying for assistance and must match the name and damaged property address on the application.

❑ PROOF OF CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT FOR ALL ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (18+)



- Documentation of current child support payments
- Documentation of a payment plan

❑ DISASTER ASSISTANCE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED



If a homeowner received Imelda or flood related assistance for damage from the storm from any source he/she should provide documentation and information about the amount received, homeowner name, damaged residence address, and the use of those funds.

Typical sources include:



- FEMA Award Letter
- SBA Award Letter



- Insurance (obtain a copy of the Claim Summary outlining structural payments vs. contents)



- Any other sources of funds or assistance provided to repair the home
- If you are in a floodplain, you may be asked for flood insurance coverage even if claims have not yet been paid out

❑ PROOF OF PROPERTY TAXES



- Documentation of CURRENT property tax payments **OR**
- Documentation of a payment plan

❑ MANUFACTURED HOUSING UNIT DOCUMENTATION (if applicable)



- Proof of structure ownership (examples)
- Statement of Ownership

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS MAY ALSO BE NEEDED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM:

- Proof of Current Flood Insurance (applicants in the flood plain)
- Proof of Disability (if applicable)

Translation services will be available upon request.

After your initial application is submitted, a representative will advise you of any additional required documentation.

QUESTIONS?

cdr@recovery.texas.gov

1-844-893-8937

<https://recovery.texas.gov/harp/>

ITEM #4. F.

ADMINISTRATION

CONTRIBUTIONS

FOR

ACTIVE

TRANSPORTATION &

TOURISM PLAN

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

June 24, 2020

Item #4: Administration

F. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Estimated Local Contributions for Hidalgo County Active Transportation & Tourism Plan

This formula provides a breakdown of local cash match contribution for cities in Hidalgo County to participate in the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Tourism Plan project. This formula breakdown uses populations of each incorporated city and unincorporated areas (Hidalgo County) to ensure the most equitable option for participation in this project. This project local match is determined by a grant through the Texas Department of Transportation and is 25% of the estimated total project cost of \$379,500.00.

The scope of the Hidalgo County Active Transportation and Tourism Plan will be to seek a qualified firm to provide consultation services to provide a detailed strategic plan leading to the development and implementation of an active, seamless multimodal transportation network in Hidalgo County. This plan will unify all efforts of current bicycle and pedestrian facilities while identifying new opportunities for this network in areas lacking the necessary infrastructure. This plan will highlight the efforts of the larger cities with current plans and allow for smaller cities to have a framework for developing connective facilities for their communities.

LRGVDC Hidalgo County Active Transportation & Tourism Plan Contributions 2021

Financial Estimate Hidalgo County Active Transportation & Tourism Plan			\$115,500
City	Population	% Population	Contributions
Alamo	19,892	2.31%	\$ 2,670.65
Alton	16,057	1.87%	\$ 2,155.77
Donna	17,143	1.99%	\$ 2,301.57
Edcouch	3,363	0.39%	\$ 451.51
Edinburg	90,888	10.56%	\$ 12,202.38
Elsa	7,546	0.88%	\$ 1,013.11
Granjeno	304	0.04%	\$ 40.81
Hidalgo	13,398	1.56%	\$ 1,798.78
Hidalgo County	259,357	30.15%	\$ 34,820.59
La Joya	4,280	0.50%	\$ 574.62
La Villa	2,433	0.28%	\$ 326.65
McAllen	142,733	16.59%	\$ 19,162.96
Mercedes	17,113	1.99%	\$ 2,297.55
Mission	83,859	9.75%	\$ 11,258.69
Palmhurst	2,717	0.32%	\$ 364.78
Palmview	6,796	0.79%	\$ 912.41
Peñitas	4,946	0.57%	\$ 664.04
Pharr	80,143	9.32%	\$ 10,759.79
Progreso	5,864	0.68%	\$ 787.29
Progreso Lakes	225	0.03%	\$ 30.21
San Juan	37,145	4.32%	\$ 4,986.99
Sullivan City	4,174	0.49%	\$ 560.39
Weslaco	39,912	4.64%	\$ 5,358.48
Totals	860,288	100.00%	\$115,500

ITEM #4. G.

ADMINISTRATION

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, 2021

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Nomination

During the March 10, 2021 RWRAC meeting, a vacancy was announced for a Large City Position within the committee. At the April 21, 2021, the members of the RWRAC recommended Ms. Carol Vasquez to serve as a Large City representative. She is employed as the City of Brownsville's Environmental Coordinator / Stormwater Manager.

Action by the LRGVDC Board of Directors is required to confirm RWRAC nominations.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, 2021

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

D. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) Bylaws Amendment

The RWRAC met on April 21, 2021 to discuss amending their bylaws. Concern was raised in previous meetings regarding member terms terminating at the same time which would jeopardize continuity. Initially the member terms were two (2) years, and the proposed bylaws would include staggered terms. All members would draw lots to determine whose terms would end after two years, in May 2021, and whose terms would continue to complete 4 years.

In addition, a member had vacated their position without a letter of resignation due to disqualification of representation. As a result, RWRAC members suggested that vacancies be announced at LRGVDC Board of Director meetings to solicit nominations and that nominees provide a resume and complete a nomination form.

The full text of the RWRAC bylaws is attached and the proposed amendment is on page 4 in **red font for proposed additions** and ~~strike throughs for deletions~~.

**LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RWRAC)
BYLAWS**



Article I: Organization:

The official, designated name of the advisory committee shall be Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC). The official acronym shall be “RWRAC.”

Article II: Authority:

The RWRAC was created on January 30, 2019 as approved and under the authority of Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC).

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

Article III: Purpose & Function:

The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on the environmental, economic, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding water resources management.

The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the region on priority matters of water resources management.

Members of the advisory committee will assist and support water issues including, but not limited to the following:

- Rio Grande Valley Reservoir Systems and the supplemental water resources;
- Water usage and conservation issues;
- Reservoir system operations;
- Water Distribution;
- Local and regional water demand;
- Pass-through requirements;
- Water quality requirements;
- Flood mitigation, response and resiliency;
- Drought management planning, and;
- Federal, state and local regulations governing water.

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

1. Identify and promote Lower Rio Grande Valley regional water management and conservation strategies ensuring sustainable use of water supplies, enhance economic vitality and protect the base flows of the region's rivers and streams.
2. Maintain strong communication links among federal, state, county, local government, individual citizens and all other stakeholders.
3. Promote education regarding water resource knowledge and promote informed use of water resource studies and planning tools including the development of a regional water resource asset map.
4. Monitor and analyze legislation affecting the management and operation of regional water resources.
5. Research, apply for, and administer suitable funding programs and projects which impact the water resources of the LRGV.
6. Provide water resource coordination in response to regional adversity events and mitigation resilience action planning.
7. Propose revisions, expansions, and deletions to planning, policies and ordinances relating to pass-through requirements, water supply development, water quality, drought management and water conservation issues.

Article IV: Membership:

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

The Committee will consist of fifteen (17) voting members from the region as listed below:

a. Composition.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Cameron County | (1) Representative |
| • Hidalgo County | (1) Representative |
| • Willacy County | (1) Representative |
| • Large City (>25K Pop.) | (3) Representatives |
| • Small City (<25K Pop.) | (1) Representative |

- Special Purpose District – Drainage (*One from each County*) (3) Representatives
- Special Purpose District – Irrigation (1) Representative
- Special Purpose District – General & *Nonprofit* (1) Representative
- LRGV Storm Water Task-Force (1) Representative
- Region M Water Planning Group (1) Representative
- *Institute of Higher Education* (2) Representatives
- International Boundary/Water Commission (USIBWC) (1) Representative

(17) Voting Representatives

b. Qualifications.

1. All committee members must be within the LRGVDC boundary area and reside or work in the county they are to represent.
2. Each membership composition category shall have no more than 2 representatives from the same county.
3. Representative must either be an elected official of the representing county or a designated stakeholder with the professional qualifications to serve as the most applicable representative. Representative shall not be for-profit and otherwise representing outside interests.

c. Voting.

Each member of the Advisory Committee shall have one (1) vote. Typically, the Chair's vote will be utilized as a tie-breaker. Each member must be present at the meeting to cast a vote. No proxy or absentee voting permitted.

d. Officers.

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

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

Officers may only be selected from current committee representatives. The appointment of an officer shall only be granted to a specific individual (not membership composition category representative). Only individuals elected may carry out functions of the officer.

e. Service Terms. (Officers and Representatives)

Advisory committee officers and representatives shall be appointed to ~~two (2)~~ **four (4)** year staggered terms with elections occurring in May on odd numbered calendar years. During the inaugural term, lots will be drawn to determine which (8) positions conclude in calendar year 2021. A member may be reappointed to multiple terms without term limits; however, must be re-designated each term by LRGVDC Board of Directors. **A letter of intent to continue service will be asked for members seeking reappointment.**

f. Attendance.

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

g. Alternates.

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

h. Vacancies.

A vacancy occurs when:

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

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

i. Conduct.

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

j. Conflict of Interest.

All Advisory Committee members must disclose perceived or actual conflicts of interest and/or abstain from applicable votes. It is the responsibility of each Committee Member to discharge his or her duties in those respective capacities in good faith, in a manner the person reasonably believes to be in the best interests of RWRAC and LRGVDC, and with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances. A conflict of interest is defined as referring only to personal, proprietary interests of the persons covered by this policy and their immediate families. Committee members shall not be present during presentations involving funding and/or prioritizations.

k. Ex-Officio Membership:

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

- Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership (ACWP)
- Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Partnership (LLMEP)
- Research, Applied Technologies, Education and Services (RATES)
- South Texas College (STC)
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Texas General Land Office (TGLO)
- Texas Groundwater Protection Committee
- Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)
- Texas State Technical College (TSTC)
- Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
- Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Article V: Procedures:

a. Meetings.

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

business days prior to meeting date. Advisory Committee meetings shall be conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.

b. Quorum.

The quorum for transaction of substantive action shall be fifty-one percent (51%) of the voting membership. In the absence of quorum, the Advisory Committee may choose to discuss topics informally but may take no action or accept recommendations.

c. Minutes.

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

d. Subcommittees.

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

e. Open Meetings.

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

Article VI: Amendments:

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

a. Bylaws Adoption/Amendment History.

Adopted: _____
Date

By: _____

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, 2021

Item #5: Community & Economic Development

B. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Inter Local Agreement (ILA) between City of Edinburg and LRGVDC

This interlocal agreement will allow the City of Edinburg to provide tire disposal services for the Road to Recycling event. Community and Economic Development staff recommends inclusion of the City of Edinburg as it will allow for greater participation and efficiencies in the event by additional communities in the area. Greater participation will help ensure that the event is as effective as possible in collecting improperly disposed of or kept tires and removing them from the critical and problematic areas. The draft ILA documentation will be presented the day of the meeting.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Staff have been working with Economic Development Administration representatives to identify potential projects that would provide positive economic impact in the region. Staff encourages any current or future partners to visit the LRGVDC Economic Development webpage, <http://www.lrgvdc.org/business.html> to learn more about EDA funding opportunities.

Staff will be initiating the formation of a CEDS Committee to develop the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy beginning in May-June 2021. For any questions, please contact Rick Carrera at rcarrera@lrgvdc.org.

Staff is available to provide technical assistance, project development, and grant administration on EDA proposals and projects. For any assistance, you may contact Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org; Derek Katznelson, dkatznelson@lrgvdc.org; or Valerie Ramos, vramos@lrgvdc.org

- Pandemic Response

To better inform and keep our region up to date with COVID-19 and CARES Act resources, the LRGVDC developed a 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 any future adversities with grant opportunities and resources to sustain living situations.

Additionally, the LRGVDC will proactively act as a liaison between various governmental levels and stakeholders. Staff will bring together different leaders and stakeholders to formulate best practices and actionable deliverables for sectors most affected by COVID-19, this will help establish a method of recovering from similar economic disasters.

The COVID-19 webpage continues to receive updates and the Pandemic Economic Response Coordinator (PERC) is currently assisting with the Regional Tourism & Travel Advisory Committee (RTTAC) and their goal of leveraging Explore RGV. The pandemic has greatly affected the travel and tourism sector and we are seeking a marketing firm to help bolster the website and app to help this hard-hit industry.

Please reach out! We are happy to provide any information, resources, or assistance available. Please visit our Covid-19 Resources webpage at: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/covid19.html>. Questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Rey Soto rsoto@lrgvdc.org.

- Regional Small Cities Coalition

The Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) met on April 13, 2021, to discuss the survey sent to non-entitlement cities. The purpose of the survey is to get a census on which cities are applying for Community Development (CD) funds. After much discussion, it was agreed, among the RSCC that the non-entitlement cities would continue with what the RSCC members refer to as a Gentleman's Agreement (equal distribution of grant funds) as they apply for the CD grant. It was made clear that the decision made within this committee was not a legally binding agreement and made by the members of the RSCC as the LRGVDC served only as the meeting organizer.

The next RSCC Advisory Committee meeting date is to be determined and will be held via GoToMeeting. The GoToMeeting link and public comment form can be found at LRGVDC's calendar page: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/calendar.html> or you can reach out to Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org

- Explore RGV

Do you miss going to the movies? Many theaters have made accommodations for socially distanced viewing! Plan a date night at one of these great locations or book a whole theater for you and your friends (where available). Find a theater near you at <https://explorergv.com/listing-category/movie-theaters/> #ExploreRGV #ShopLocal

Explore RGV has hosted two FREE GIVEAWAYS with the support and donations from our partner cities. Be on the lookout for FUTURE GIVEAWAYS you don't want to miss!

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

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

The Community & Economic Development Department promotes April as National Fair Housing Month. This Act protects people from illegal discrimination when they are renting or buying a home, getting a mortgage, seeking housing assistance, or engaging in other housing-related activities. Visit the "Fair Housing" webpage to provide information and resources on the Fair Housing Act. <http://www.lrgvdc.org/fairhousing.html>

Visit our "Community & Economic Development" webpage, <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html> that provides 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).

The Application Deadline for the (3) grant opportunities is May 3, 2021.

2021-2022 Community Development Fund is available on the application portal, TDA-GO! <https://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/OpenGrants.aspx>. All applicants must refer to the Community Development Fund Application Guide for complete details and information. [CD App Guide 2021-2022 12.3.20.pdf](#)
Contact vramos@lrgvdc.org or dkatznelson@lrgvdc.org for technical assistance on the

portal or application requirements.

- Solid Waste Management Program

Road to Recycling Tire Collection Event will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021! Be on the lookout for tire disposal drop-off sites list. For questions regarding this event, you may reach out to Valerie Ramos, vramos@lrgvdc.org or Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org.

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

The next SWAC meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via GoToMeeting. The GoToMeeting link and public comment form can be found at LRGVDC's calendar page: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/calendar.html> or reach out to Brenda Salinas, bsalinas@lrgvdc.org

- Water Quality Program

Staff continues to educate the public on water quality issues. The theme for the month of April is: Water Testing. You can find our weekly educational social media postings on the LRGVDC Facebook page.

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.

The Annual LRGV Watershed Protection Plan Meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2021 in the Ken Jones Executive Board Room here at the LRGVDC. If interested in attending or if you know of someone who would like to attend, please reach out to Derek Katznelson at dkatznelson@lrgvdc.org.

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee

Staff met with US Army Corps of Engineers representatives and stakeholders on March 31 to discuss potential programs and projects under their CAP program. If you would like more information on flood mitigation grants, please contact Derek Katznelson at dkatznelson@lrgvdc.org.

At the RWRAC meeting on April 21, the committee was briefed on GLO's new Housing Program (HARP) for the LRGV for the 2018 & 2019 Flood Disasters, 319 Watershed Protection Plans' progress, and a bylaws amendment. More information on the GLO's HARP can be found at www.recovery.texas.gov/harp.

The next Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting is TBD. The GoToMeeting link and public comment form can be found at LRGVDC's calendar page: <http://www.lrgvdc.org/calendar.html>.

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The next meeting of the Region M Group is scheduled for Wednesday July 7, 2021 at 10:30 am via GoToMeeting. For more information on Region M, please visit their website: www.riograndewaterplan.org or contact Debby Morales at dmorales@lrgvdc.org.

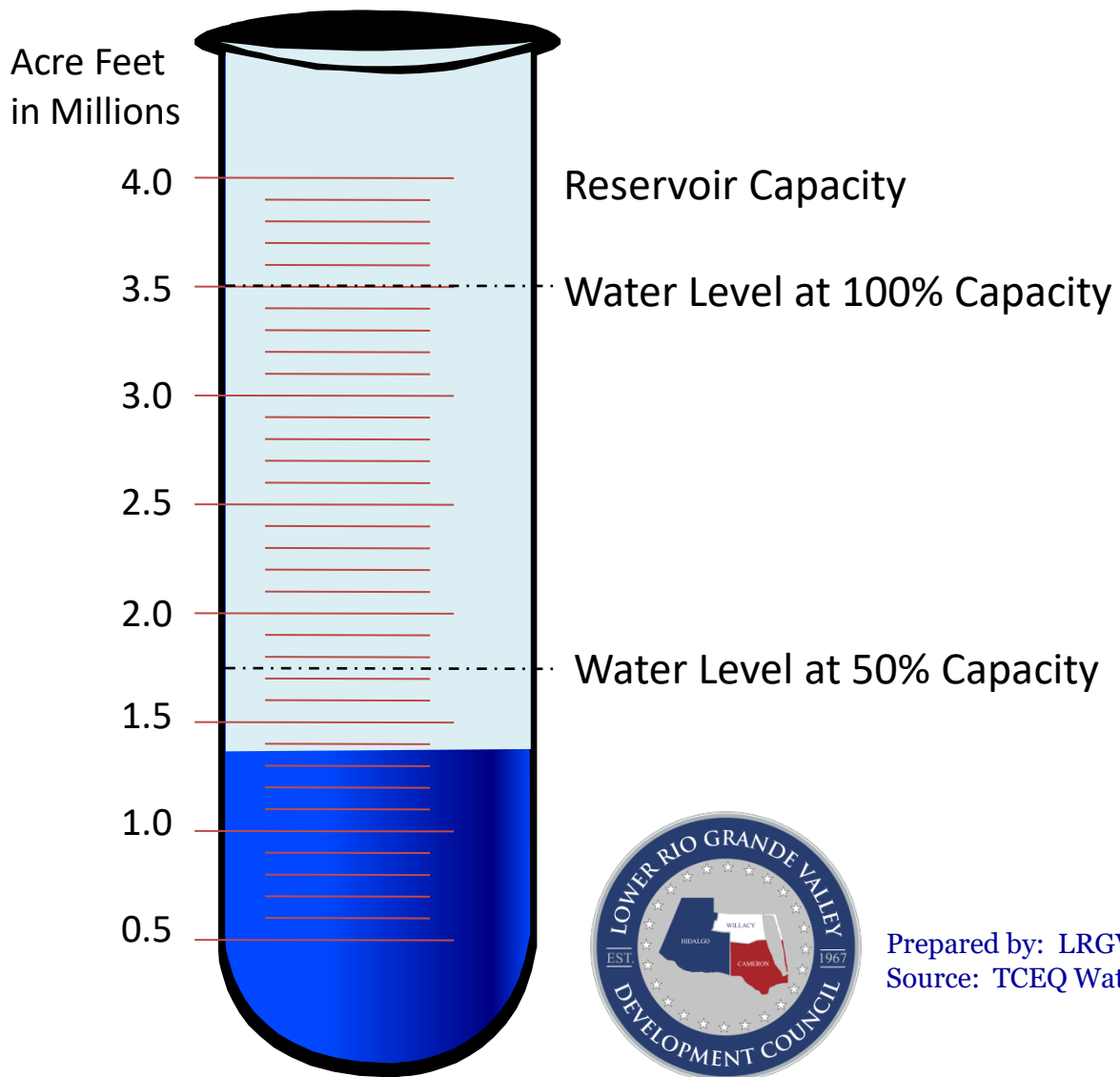
- **Reservoir Levels**

On April 17, 2021, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 40.54% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,374,991 acre-feet, down from 49.69% (1,685,466 AF) of normal, conservation a year ago. Overall the system is holding 25.51% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,510,719 acre-feet with Amistad at 34.76% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,138,574 acre-feet and Falcon at 14.06% of conservation capacity, impounding 372,145 acre-feet. Mexico has 5.36% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 135,728 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

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

4/17/2021, 40.54% of Capacity or 1,374,991 AF

Down from 1,685,466 AF of Normal Conservation a year ago



**NOTE: Mexico Ownership/Reservoir Capacity for
March 20, 2021: 5.36% (135,728) A.F.**

Rio Grande Watermaster Report

04/17/21

Amistad Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	340.462 Meters	1,117.00 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	326.205 Meters	1,070.22 Feet	-46.77
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	1,404.416 MCM	1,138,574 Acre-Feet	34.76%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	1,286.299 MCM	1,042,815 Acre-Feet	91.59%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	118.117 MCM	95,759 Acre-Feet	8.41%
Total Releases (Average)	67.50 CMS	2,384 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	64.30 CMS	2,271 CFS	95.26%
Mexico Release (Average)	3.20 CMS	113 CFS	4.74%
Total Inflows (Average)	31.70 CMS	1,119 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	25.00 CMS	883 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	6.70 CMS	237 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	7.33 CMS	259 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	6.73 CMS	238 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	0.60 CMS	21 CFS	

Falcon Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	91.805 Meters	301.20 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	78.350 Meters	257.05 Feet	-44.14
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	459.036 MCM	372,145 Acre-Feet	14.06%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	409.734 MCM	332,175 Acre-Feet	89.26%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	49.302 MCM	39,970 Acre-Feet	10.74%
Total Releases (Average)	73.60 CMS	2,599 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	65.60 CMS	2,317 CFS	89.13%
Mexico Release (Average)	8.00 CMS	283 CFS	10.87%
Total Inflows (Average)	58.50 CMS	2,066 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	57.40 CMS	2,027 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	1.10 CMS	39 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	5.00 CMS	177 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	4.45 CMS	157 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	0.55 CMS	19 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	1,286,299 TCM	1,042,815 Acre-Feet	56.65%
Mexico Share Normal Conservation	1,769,662 TCM	1,434,683 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	118,117 TCM	95,759 Acre-Feet	6.67%

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	409,734 TCM	332,175 Acre-Feet	21.42%
Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	1,351,633 TCM	1,095,782 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	49,302 TCM	39,970 Acre-Feet	3.65%
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.	1,696.033 MCM	1,374,991 Acre-Feet	40.54%
Current Combined Storage for Mexico	167.419 MCM	135,728 Acre-Feet	5.36%
Current Storage in the Amistad/Falcon System	1,863,452 TCM	1,510,719 Acre-Feet	
Percent of Storage Capacity			25.51%

ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

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

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Add Vendor (Contractor) to the Vendor Pool

In response to the open enrollment for the Direct Purchased Services contractor pool, the Area Agency on Aging received an application for Transportation Services. The Advisory Council recommends the addition of MEDEX Transportation Services from McAllen to provide Ambulatory and Wheelchair transportation services.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report Jose L. Gonzalez, Director

- Expanding Caregiver Programming

The Area Agency on Aging is pursuing an evidence-based program that provides coaching services to family caregivers. This program is offered by the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. A demonstration of the program was provided to case managers of the Caregiver Support Coordination program. Staff will be looking at cost for training and licensing.

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Funding

The CMS has provided funding to the Administration for Community Living, they will provide funding to Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers for outreach that will identify seniors in need of assistance in getting their COVID-19 vaccination. The Biden Administration announced that \$50 million has been appropriated for Area Agencies on Aging and another \$25 million to the Aging and Disability Resource Centers. The funding has been released to the states, but it has not yet been released to Area Agencies and ADRCs.

- Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council Member Vacancies

The Area Agency on Aging needs Advisory Council members to represent Hidalgo and Cameron Counties. The Older Americans Act requires that Area Agencies on Aging shall establish an advisory council which will consist of:

- older individuals (including minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas)
- are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under the Older Americans Act
- representatives of older individuals
- local elected officials
- providers of veterans' health care (if appropriate)
- and the general public

The purpose is to advise continuously the Area Agency on Aging on all matters relating to:

- the development of the area plan
- the administration of the plan
- operations conducted under the plan

ITEM #5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Randall Snyder, Public Safety Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve (CJAC) Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's Prioritized Lists of FY2021-22 Criminal Justice Grants Division Regional Grant Applications and Conditionally Approved Amounts

- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)
- State Criminal Justice Planning Fund (SF 421)
- Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP)
- Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VOCA)
- Violence Against Women Formula Grants (VAWA)

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score the grant applications. On April 14, the CJAC convened via GoToMeeting to review the rankings and amounts. The CJAC recommends approval of the rankings and conditionally approved amounts as presented on the attached spreadsheets.

LRGVDC COG-21: JAG FY2021-22 Applications

Rank	Project Name	Score	Amt. Rqstd.	Amt. Allocated
1	Hidalgo County: Domestic Violence Unit	84.58823529	\$ 86,327.49	\$ 86,327.49
2	Rio Hondo, City of: Rio Hondo Police Car	82.64705882	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
3	Willacy County: Law Enforcement Vehicle	80.47058824	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00
4	La Feria, City of: La Feria Police Equipment Project	80.11764706	\$ 66,727.34	\$ 66,727.34
5	Raymondville, City of: Drug Enforcement Investigator	79.52941176	\$ 56,382.67	\$ 56,382.67
6	Willacy County: Equipment Project	79.47058824	\$ 98,000.00	\$ 98,000.00
7	Alton, City of: Alton Police Department Criminal Justice Grant	78.94117647	\$ 73,460.00	\$ 73,460.00
8	Hidalgo Police Department: SBLE/Force on Force Training Program	78.82352941	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
9	Harlingen, City of: Mobile Data Terminal Upgrade	78.11764706	\$ 132,671.40	\$ 129,049.70
10	Palm Valley, City of: Police Unit Replacement	78.058824 *71.47058824	\$ 45,000.00	
11	Mission, City of: In-Car Equipment Project	78.058824 *69.23529412	\$ 94,875.00	
12	Mercedes City of: Mercedes PD Radio Grant 2021	77.588235	\$ 77,380.00	
13	Willacy County: Police Vehicle	77.52941176	\$ 50,000.00	
14	Hidalgo County: Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Court	76.47058824	\$ 173,440.99	
15	Edcouch, City of: Interdiction Officer	76.23529412	\$ 31,735.00	
16	San Juan, City of: San Juan Equipment Project	75.9411765 *68.23529412	\$ 90,000.00	
17	Hidalgo County: Felony Domestic Violence Court	75.9411765 *67.8235294	\$ 175,440.99	
18	La Joya ISD: Promoting School Safety	75.529412	\$ 38,900.00	
19	Indian Lake, Town of: Equipment Grant Request	72.58823529	\$ 58,724.50	
20	Combes, City of: Equipping City of Combes Highway Interdiction Unit	72.29411765	\$ 86,198.00	
21	Hidalgo County: Criminal Justice Grant FY2022 Constable PCT1	70.17647059	\$ 96,522.00	
22	National Crime Prevention Council, Inc.: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Training & Technical Assistance (TTA) Cameron	65.23529412	\$ 38,644.64	
		Total Amt. Rqtd.	\$ 1,710,430.02	\$ 649,947.20

RBE

* Tie Breakers 10&11; 16&17

RBE=Reasonable Budget Expectations

Amounts are conditionally approved; CJD makes the final decision.

LRGVDC COG-21: State Criminal Justice Planning (421)

Rank	Grant #	Type	Project Name	Score	Amt. Rqstd.	Amt. Allocated	
1	1716918	SF421	Willacy County: Juvenile Justice Alternatives	88.7647059	\$38,743.88	\$ 38,743.88	
2	1471323	SF421	Cameron County: Juvenile Justice Alternatives	87.5882353	\$42,825.00	\$ 42,825.00	
3	4301601	SF421	Alamo, City of: Postive Action Goes Virtual Project	82.7647059	\$28,106.39	\$ 28,106.39	
4	3878803	SF421	Cameron County: Community-Based Treatment Services	82.7058824	\$48,762.50	\$ 48,762.50	
5	4003402	SF421	Weslaco, City of: First Offender Program	82.4117647	\$69,640.89	\$ 69,640.89	
6	4206101	SF421	Pharr, City of: First Offender Program	81.7058824	\$84,250.00	\$ 5,227.11	
7	4044902	SF421	Boys & Girls Club of Pharr: H2O	75.5882353	\$133,065.11		
				Total Amt. Rqstd.	\$445,393.77	\$ 233,305.77	RBE
			RBE = Reasonable Budget Expectations				

Amounts are conditionally approved; CJD makes the final decision.

LRGVDC COG-21: Truancy Prevention Grant Program FY2021-22

Rank	Grant #	Type	Project Name	Score	Amt. Rqstd.	Amt. Allocated	
1	2059713	TP	Raymondville ISD: Truancy Project	87.428571	\$ 51,500.00	\$ 51,500.00	
2	4259401	TP	La Villa ISD: CARES Character Attendance Responsibility Education Safety & Security Grant	84.190476	\$ 49,300.00	\$ 49,300.00	
3	4240101	TP	Edcouch, City of: Edcouch Juvenile Officer Project	76.904762	\$ 34,435.00	\$ 22,477.27	
					\$ 135,235.00	\$ 123,277.27	RBE
			RBE= Reasonable Budget Expectations				
			Amounts are conditionally approved; CJD makes the final decision.				

LRGVDC COG-21: VAWA FY2021-22 Applications

Rank	Grant #	Type	Project Name	Score	Amt. Rqstd.	Amt. Allocated	
1	2106513	VAWA	Willacy County Domestic Violence Unit	87.70588	\$73,364.90	\$ 73,364.90	
2	2931307	VAWA	Hidalgo County Domestic Violence Specialty Prosecutor	87.52941	\$82,793.16	\$ 82,793.16	
3	1844916	VAWA	Cameron County Domestic Violence Unit (VAWA)	85.64706	\$286,766.85	\$ 31,811.66	
4	4271701	VAWA	Weslaco, City of: Weslaco Violence Against Women	77.82353	\$30,599.80		
5	4252801	VAWA	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: South Texas Violence Against Women Training Group	77.70588	\$99,517.00		
				Total Amt. Rqstd.	\$573,041.71	\$ 187,969.72	RBE
			RBE = Reasonable Budget Expectations				
			Amounts are conditionally approved; CJD makes the final decision.				

LRGVDC COG-21: VOCA FY2021-22 Applications

Rank	Grant #	Type	Applicant	Project Title	Score	Amount	Amount
1	1674117	VOCA	Cameron County	Victims Assistance Program	93.909091	\$ 385,043.06	\$ 385,043.06
2	2924304	VOCA	Hidalgo County	Hidalgo County DA's Office Victim Assistance Program	92	\$ 364,533.16	\$ 364,533.16
3	3596403	VOCA	Hidalgo County	Victims Unit Court Advocate Project	91.454545	\$ 517,173.07	\$ 517,173.07
4	1913513	VOCA	Cameron County	Victims Assistance for Families of Sexual Abuse/Assault	91.363636	\$ 63,127.50	\$ 63,127.50
5	3372605	VOCA	Raymondville, City of	Victims of Crime Program	91.272727	\$ 53,203.29	\$ 53,203.29
6	2106412	VOCA	Willacy County	Victims Assistance Unit	90.454545	\$ 141,734.04	\$ 141,734.04
7	4218501	VOCA	Hidalgo County	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Victim Assistance Program	89.363636	\$ 56,998.22	\$ 56,998.22
8	2555207	VOCA	Harlingen, City of	Crime Victim Liason	89.090909	\$ 43,857.00	\$ 43,857.00
9	3814603	VOCA	Weslaco, City of	Crime Victim Coordinator	88.636364	\$ 61,824.95	\$ 61,824.95
10	3056904	VOCA	Penitas, City of	Penitas Crime Victims Liaison	88	\$ 34,600.00	\$ 34,600.00
11	1363021	VOCA	Family Crisis Center	Victim Assistance Program	86.5	\$ 152,182.00	\$ 152,182.00
12	1365121	VOCA	Friendship of Women	Victims Advocacy & Intervention	86.272727	\$ 578,981.81	\$ 578,981.81
13	3801603	VOCA	Donna, City of	Donna Crime Victims Liaison	86.181818	\$ 38,820.00	\$ 38,820.00
14	4314001	VOCA	La Joya, City of	Crime Victim Liaison	86.090909	\$ 33,888.00	\$ 33,888.00
15	3057404	VOCA	Sullivan City, City of	Sullivan City Crime Victims Liaison	(85.90909) *72.09091	\$ 36,192.00	\$ 36,192.00
16	2299410	VOCA	Pharr, City of	Domestic Violence Coordinator Project	(85.90909) *71.81818	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 42,000.00
17	4196601	VOCA	Alton Police Dept.	Alton PD Crime Victim Liaison Program	85.818182	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
18	1377821	VOCA	Women Together Foundation	Crime Victims Advocacy Project	85.181818	\$ 394,674.00	\$ 394,674.00
19	2987305	VOCA	Pharr, City of	Crime Victim Liaison Project	83.909091	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
20	3388004	VOCA	The Childrens's Bereavement Center of South Texas	Children's Bereavement Center Rio Grande Valley	83.818182	\$ 88,844.00	\$ 88,844.00
21	4321101	VOCA	Nueva Luz Foundation	HOPE Program: Holistic Options for Positive Empowerment	82.545455	\$ 306,678.00	\$ 306,678.00
22	2873505	VOCA	RGV-Families of Murdered Children	Living in the face of Trauma (LIFT) Survivors of Homicide Project	81.454545	\$ 124,016.80	\$ 124,016.80
23	4286701	VOCA	Angels of Love	Legal Services for Victims of Family Violence	80.727273	\$ 277,718.00	\$ 277,718.00
24	4258101	VOCA	Boys & Girls Club of Pharr	Support Services for Child Victims of Crime	77.272727	\$ 288,130.23	\$ 116,852.44
25	2759105	VOCA	Rio Grande Valley Empowerment Zone Corp	Project EVICT (Empowering Victims to Initiate Change)	76.909091	\$ 225,000.00	
26	4231501	VOCA	The University of Texas Rio Grande	South Texas Advocacy Center	73.454545	\$ 400,000.00	
				Total Requested		\$ 4,799,219.13	\$ 4,002,941.34
				*Tie Breaker for 15&16			
				RBE= Reasonable Budget Expectations			
				Amounts are conditionally approved; CJD makes the final decision.			

RBE

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Randall Snyder, Public Safety Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution to Apply for Coronavirus
Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program, FY2021

As part of the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office's Criminal Justice Division grant guidelines, applications must include a resolution that contains information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of a project application, Coronavirus Equipment & Supplies for the LRGVDC. The intent of this application is to purchase an updated phone system; thermal image temperature detection system; masks and sanitizing items. This equipment will help enhance the capacity of the LRGVDC to function at full capacity to conduct meetings with regional stakeholders and update annual threat and hazards assessments, one of them being the pandemic.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resolution: Coronavirus Equipment & Supplies for LRGVDC COG-21

WHEREAS, the LRGVDC Board of Directors finds it in the best interest of the local governments of the LRGVDC COG-21 region that the Coronavirus Equipment & Supplies for LRGVDC COG-21 project to be operated for 06/01/2021 –10/31/2021; and,

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approves submission of the grant application for the Coronavirus Equipment & Supplies for LRGVDC COG-21 project.

Passed and approved this 28th day of April 2021.

Signed by:

The Honorable Aurelio Guerra, LRGVDC 1st Vice President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item Randall Snyder, Public Safety Director

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution to Apply for Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy FY2021 – FY 2023

As part of the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office's Criminal Justice Division grant guidelines, applications must include a resolution that contains information such as authorization by its governing body for the submission of a project application Regional Law Enforcements Training Academy.



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Resolution: Regional Law Enforcement Academy Project

WHEREAS, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) finds it in the best interest of the citizens of Lower Rio Grande Valley, namely Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo Counties, that the Regional Law Enforcement Training and Education be operated for the 2021 - 2023 fiscal years; and,

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council approves submission of the grant application for the Regional Law Enforcement Training and Education to the Office of the Governor.

Passed and Approved this 28th day April 2021.

Signed by:

The Honorable Aurelio Guerra, LRGVDC 1st Vice President

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

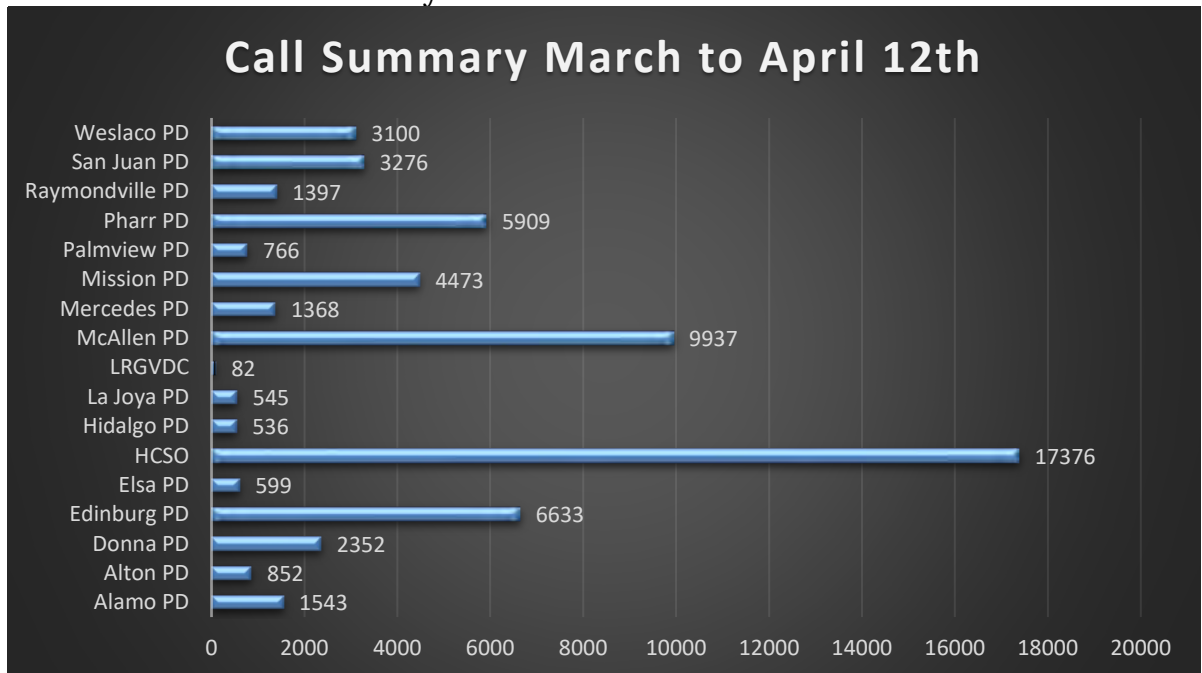
Wednesday, April 28, 2021

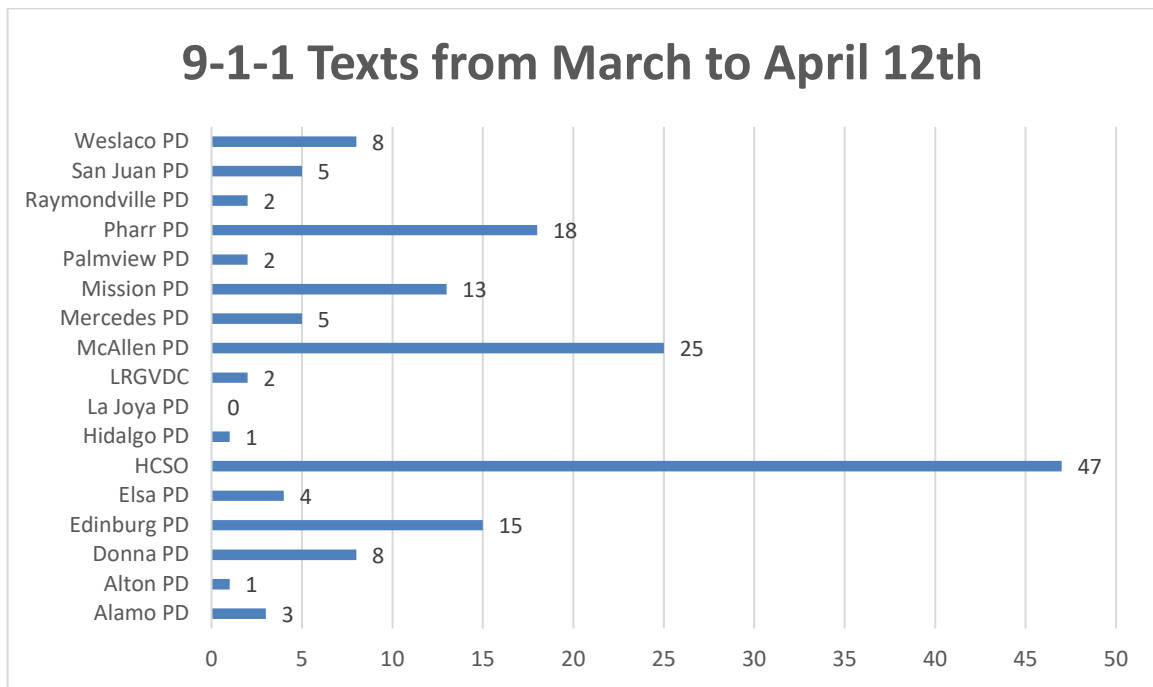
Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Emergency Communications/9-1-1 Status Report

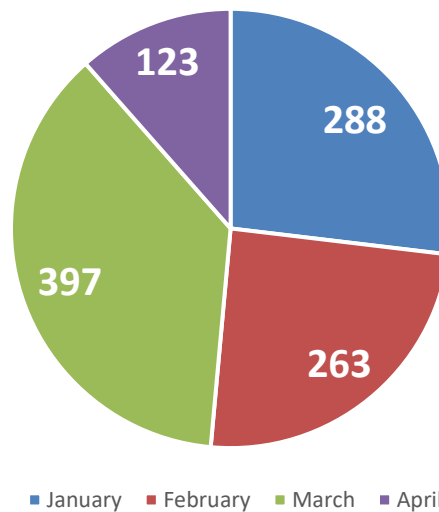
- 2021 9-1-1 Call/Text Summary





- Location Validation Program**
 Location Validation staff focus on issuing 9-1-1 physical addresses and addressing new subdivisions for Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Staff continues collaborating with the City of Mission planning department to ensure all addresses inside city limits match the 9-1-1 GIS database. Any subdivision information not found in the database is corrected.
- Database Program**
 Database staff continues validating and updating the 9-1-1 database via the new Geodatabase application in collaboration with other internal programs. In March over 400 calls were received resulting in 397 new 9-1-1 physical addresses. The increase of new subdivisions creates new streets, which are updated in the MSAG (Master Street Address Guide). Validating addresses for VOIP (voice over internet protocol) telephone numbers in the region also continues, and missing address points are researched in 9-1-1 maps to continue providing better serve our residents.

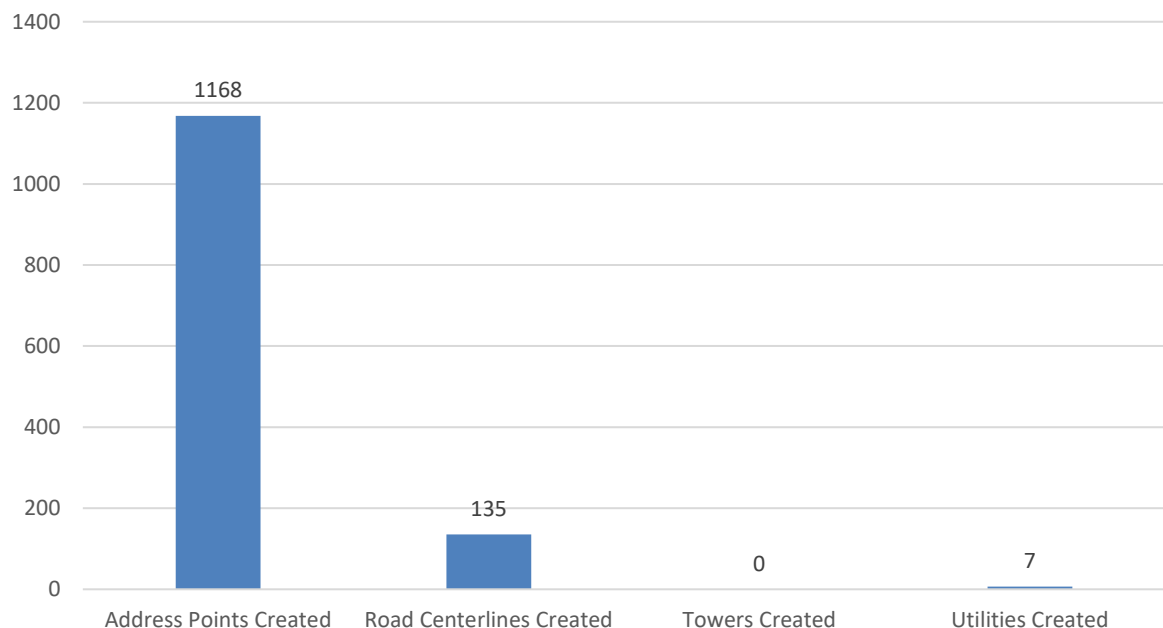
Tickets Created from January to April 13



- **Mapping Program**

The GIS team welcomed its newest member, Ms. Olga Martinez. The team continues mapping daily address ticket requests while maintaining data quality. The GIS team continues to maintain the GeoMSAG and 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 is transitioning away from the traditional ArcMap software to the new ArcGIS Pro platform. This transition will allow for added processing power.

March to April 13th Mapping Update



- **System and Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Operations**
The Systems and PSAP Operations Team completed a Power Test with the City of McAllen Police Department. This Power Test was conducted to assess the power distribution in the building, especially the Emergency Communications and IT Server Room. LRGVDC 9-1-1 ensured key personnel were on-site to evaluate the generators, breakers, transfer switches, ups, phone room, radio room, and workstations in the dispatch room. The test was successful and there was no interruption to emergency services. Our Systems and PSAP Operations Team continue to audit and support all PSAPs.
- **Public Education/Training Program**
Public Education is an ongoing priority for the Emergency Communications/9-1-1 Division. We continue our outreach effort to the community through our LRGVDC Facebook page. This outreach is to educate residents on ECOMMS/9-1-1. Staff has completed the second round of the 9-1-1 System Training during the week of April 5-9 and 14 trainees to part and followed proper CDC guidelines. Public Education staff attended a parking lot Loteria event organized by the Area Agency on Aging and distributed 100 promotional items. Item quotes for TC Week 2021 have been approved and the order should be delivered soon. The LRGVDC ECOMMS/9-1-1 informational video has been finalized and is in the process of being posted at all Cinemark theatres in Hidalgo County for the public to view.

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice Program

- The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee reviewed a total of 63 applications for the Criminal Justice Grants Division FY2021-22 funding cycle; and met (online) on April 14 to discuss and approve the rankings. Per the Criminal Justice Grants Division, the LRGVDC COG-21's Regional Budget Expectations (RBE) for FY2021-22 are as follows:

Criminal Justice Programs	\$649,947.20
Juvenile Justice Programs	\$233,305.77
Truancy Prevention Program	\$123,277.27
General Victim Assistance Direct Services Program	\$4,002,941.34
Violence Against Women Justice and Training Program	\$187,969.72

**RBEs are only projections, not a guarantee.*

Homeland Security Program

- Program staff attended the Public Safety Joint Virtual TARC training on March 30 where staff received training/updates on various programs.
- Program staff attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meeting on April 15 in Mission.
- Program staff attended a meeting of the RGV-Emergency Training Alliance Board on April 15 in Weslaco; staff manages the grant which funds the fire academy coordinator.
- Program staff provided community preparedness materials at the City of Mission Police Department Crime Victim Open House event on April 22. The event was held in honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week.
- Program staff is coordinating the formation of a core planning team for a Mass Casualty Attack Response Workshop to be held later this year.

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Regional Police Academy Status Report

- The 204th Mission Full time, 205th Hidalgo Full Time, 206th Raymondville Full Time, 207th Hidalgo Part Time, 208th Edinburg Full Time, and the 209th Harlingen academies are underway.
- Entrance exam testing will resume in late April or early May to allow for interested parties who wish to attend the fall academies to test.
- In service training has resumed in person and is being conducted at various locations throughout the region in order to provide as many officers as possible with opportunities to attend without having to travel long distances.
- The Regional Police Academy continues to identify training opportunities in support of agencies to educate their officers in dealing with COVID-19.

ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

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

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report Tom Logan, Director

- **Ridership Report**

Both the rural and urban transit systems are in operation and all systems are monitored daily. For the month of March 2021, ridership for the urban system, which operates Monday through Saturday in the urban areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr Counties has been averaging **3,301** passengers a week. Ridership for the rural system which operates in the rural areas of Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties has an average of **1,625** passengers per week for the month of March.

- **COVID-19 Precautionary Measures**

- 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
- 50% capacity on board to ensure social distancing
- Face mask is required to board

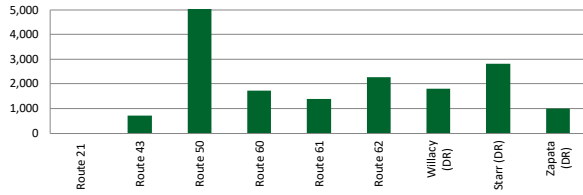
- **Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity**

The RTAP met in August to discuss regional planning and service coordination. The RTAP is tentatively scheduled to meet again on May 25, 2021, at 9:30 am via TEAMS.

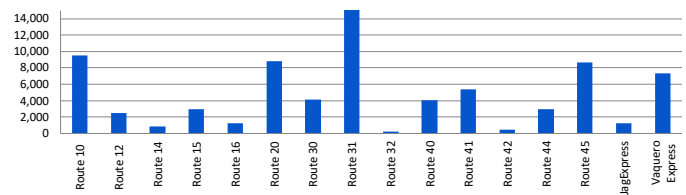


LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL Valley Metro Service Summary FY 2021 March

RURAL Ridership by Route

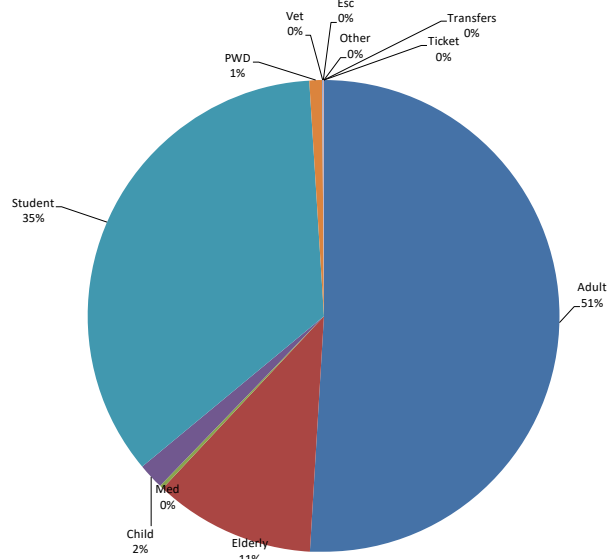


URBAN Ridership by Route



	Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
RURAL	Route 21	0	0%	Sullivan City, West Hidalgo County
	Route 43	697	1%	South Cameron County
	Route 50	16,339	14%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
	Route 60	1,717	1%	Roma, Rio Grande City
	Route 61	1,392	1%	Rio Grande City
	Route 62	2,269	2%	Rio Grande City
	Willacy (DR)	1,788	1%	Willacy County
	Starr (DR)	2,798	2%	Starr County
	Zapata (DR)	1,002	1%	Zapata County
URBAN	Metro Express	11,390	9%	Rio Grande Valley
	Route 10	9,508	8%	Edinburg
	Route 12	2,486	2%	Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg
	Route 14	831	1%	Edinburg
	Route 15	2,928	2%	Edinburg
	Route 16	1,236	1%	Edinburg
	Route 20	8,798	7%	Mission
	Route 30	4,124	3%	Pharr, San Juan
	Route 31	18,984	16%	Hidalgo County
	Route 32	264	0%	Donna
	Route 40	4,034	3%	Harlingen
	Route 41	5,368	4%	Harlingen
	Route 42	443	0%	San Benito
	Route 44	2,965	2%	Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa
	Route 45	8,675	7%	Cameron County
	JagExpress	1,254	2%	Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen
	Vaquero Express	7,281	6%	Edinburg
	Hidalgo	202	0%	City of Hidalgo
TOTAL		118,773	100%	

Ridership Breakdown by Category



FY 2020 Sept-March
544,891

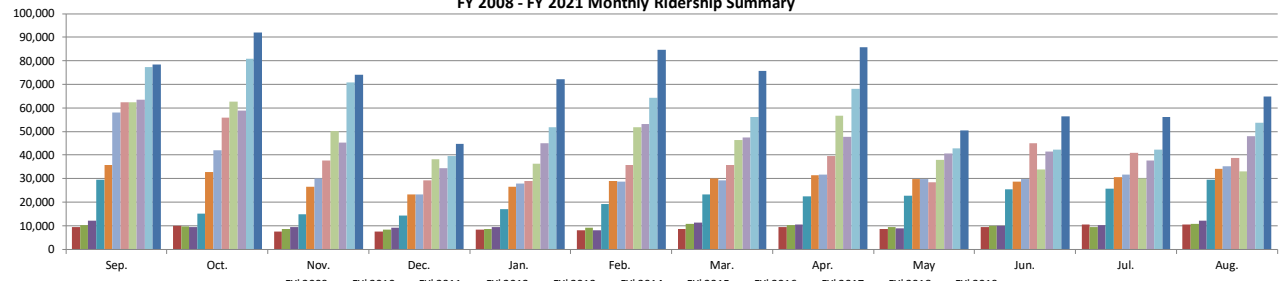
YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT
FY 2021 Sept-March
118,773

DIFFERENCE
-426,118

% DIFFERENCE
-78%

* Rural service - service in rural low -population areas outside of urbanized areas
* Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas

FY 2008 - FY 2021 Monthly Ridership Summary



Fiscal Year	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Total	Difference	%Change
FY* 2008	9,978	4,927	4,378	4,077	9,057	9,065	8,832	9,195	9,624	9,031	8,706	9,568	96,438	45,095	88%
FY* 2009	9,538	9,913	7,540	7,562	8,323	8,113	8,567	9,344	8,720	9,363	10,483	10,428	107,894	11,456	12%
FY* 2010	10,274	9,702	8,580	8,471	8,670	9,204	10,836	10,274	9,566	10,107	9,537	10,931	116,152	8,258	8%
FY* 2011	12,184	9,480	9,336	9,254	9,445	8,016	11,255	10,460	8,801	10,046	10,176	12,111	120,564	4,412	4%
FY* 2012	29,644	15,256	14,982	14,267	17,057	19,196	23,184	22,450	22,827	25,436	25,807	29,518	259,624	139,060	115%
FY* 2013	35,707	32,758	26,634	23,293	26,542	28,858	30,087	31,465	29,911	28,744	30,596	34,255	358,850	99,226	38%
FY* 2014	58,118	41,893	30,069	23,338	28,011	28,593	29,386	31,638	29,761	29,806	31,733	35,241	397,587	38,737	11%
FY* 2015	62,315	55,976	37,648	29,214	29,063	35,854	35,785	39,503	28,431	45,056	40,891	38,683	478,419	80,832	20%
FY* 2016	62,317	62,627	50,274	38,130	36,305	51,887	46,286	56,675	37,990	33,822	30,148	32,939	539,400	60,981	13%
FY* 2017	63,305	58,773	45,397	34,433	45,012	53,051	47,542	47,628	40,601	41,409	37,719	47,917	562,787	23,388	4%
FY* 2018	77,255	80,744	70,823	39,507	51,877	64,209	56,076	68,058	42,956	42,169	42,264	53,725	689,663	126,876	23%
FY* 2019	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY* 2020	91,929	98,308	83,799	56,545	78,630	89,404	46,276	11,431	15,009	17,932	14,182	16,121	619,566	-215,340	-26%
FY* 2021	17,146	16,894	15,751	16,072	16,620	14,593	19,261	0	0	0	0	0	116,337	-718,569	-86%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	-61,294	-75,036	-58,386	-28,637	-55,579	-69,969	-56,343	-85,670	-50,318	-56,330	-56,234	-64,773	-718,569	18,367	2%
% Change	-78%	-82%	-79%	-64%	-77%	-83%	-75%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-100%	-135%	-128%	79%	51%

FY 2018 URBANIZED PERFORMANCE MEASURES*

COST EFFECTIVENESS
Cost per revenue mile =
Cost per revenue hour =
Cost per passenger =

\$2.40 State Avg. = \$4.85
\$46.22 State Avg. = \$73.39
\$4.16 State Avg. = \$5.21

SERVICE EFFICIENCY

Passengers per revenue mile = 0.58 State Avg. = .93
Passengers per revenue hour = 11.12 State Avg. = 14.10

FY 2018 NONURBANIZED PERFORMANCE MEASURES*

COST EFFECTIVENESS
Cost per revenue mile =
Cost per revenue hour =
Cost per passenger =

\$3.03 State Avg. = \$2.99
\$71.08 State Avg. = \$59.91
\$14.83 State Avg. = \$20.21

SERVICE EFFICIENCY

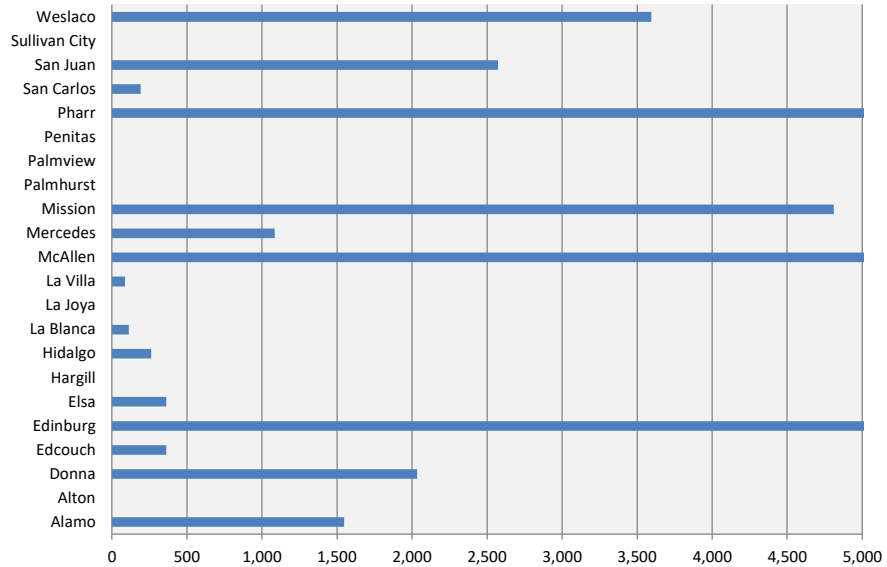
Passengers per revenue mile = 0.20 State Avg. = .15
Passengers per revenue hour = 5.44 State Avg. = 2.96

Distribution of Ridership

Hidalgo County

Alamo	1,547
Alton	0
Donna	2,034
Edcouch	361
Edinburg	18,941
Elsa	362
Hargill	0
Hidalgo	261
La Blanca	113
La Joya	0
La Villa	87
McAllen	18,445
Mercedes	1,084
Mission	4,810
Palmhurst	0
Palmview	0
Penitas	0
Pharr	5,015
San Carlos	191
San Juan	2,573
Sullivan City	0
Weslaco	3,595
Total	59,419

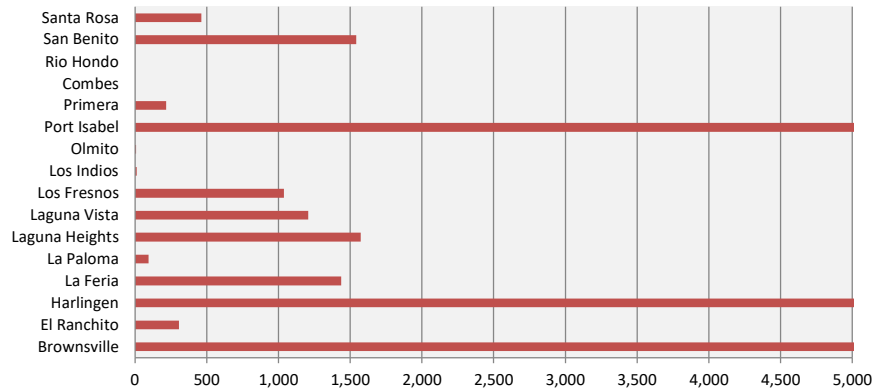
Hidalgo County by Cities



Cameron County

Brownsville	17,740
El Ranchito	306
Harlingen	13,549
La Feria	1,437
La Paloma	94
Laguna Heights	1,572
Laguna Vista	1,208
Los Fresnos	1,038
Los Indios	12
Olmito	7
Port Isabel	6,827
Primera	217
Combes	0
Rio Hondo	0
San Benito	1,542
Santa Rosa	462
Total	46,011

Cameron County by Cities



Willacy County

Total	1,788
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Starr County

Total	8,176
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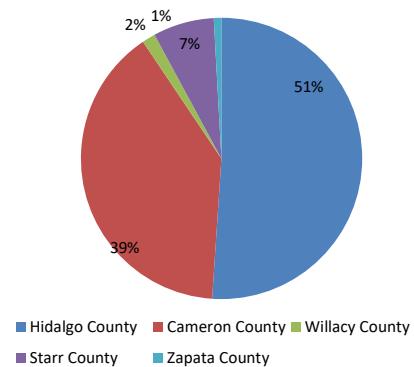
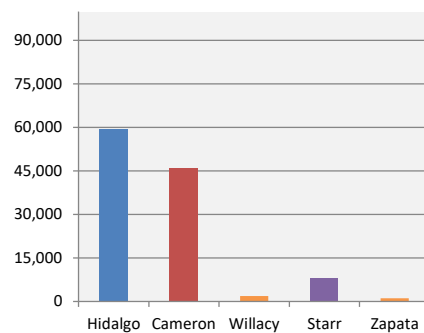
Zapata County

Total	1,002
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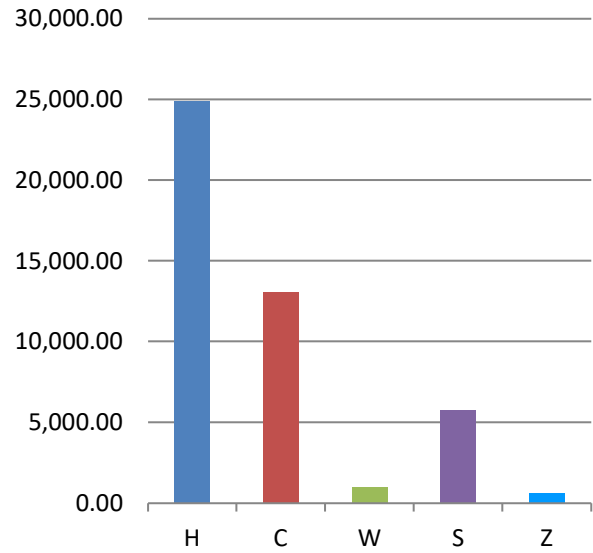
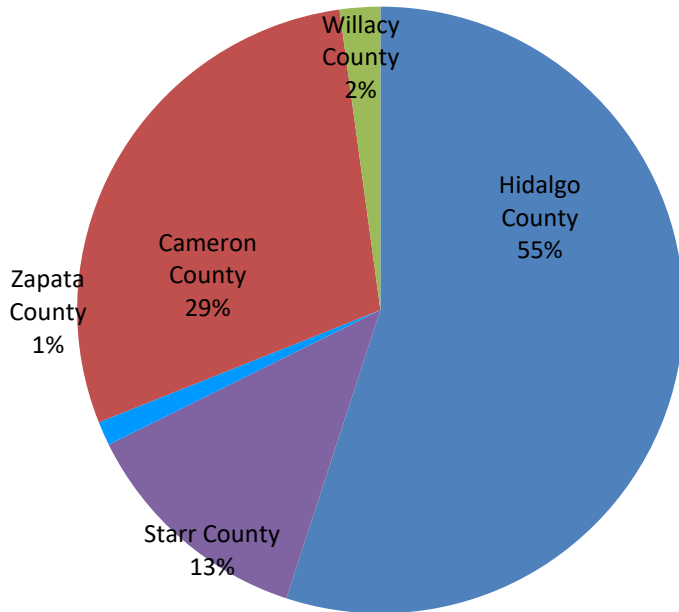
SYSTEM TOTAL

116,396

Ridership by County

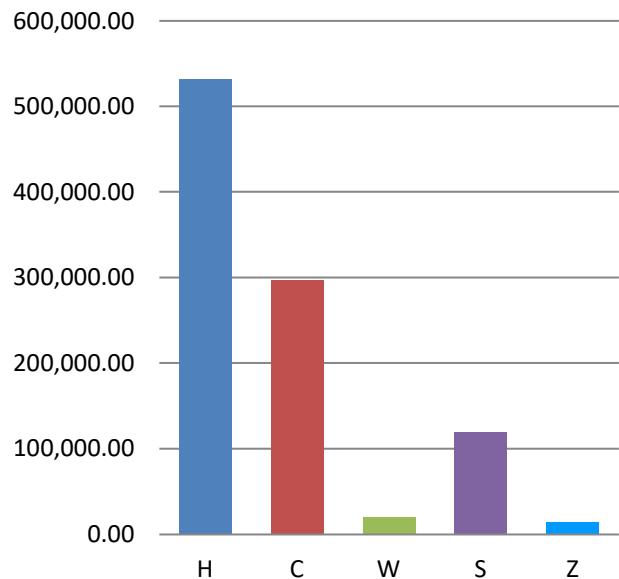
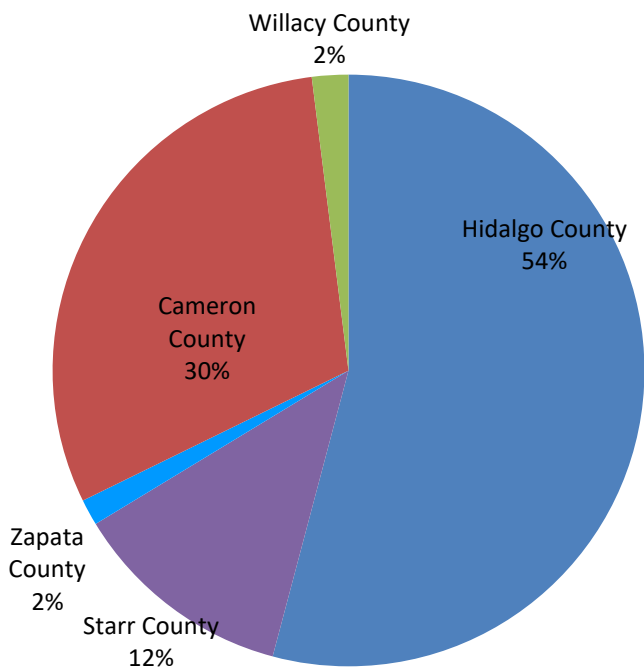


Distribution of Revenue Hours



Revenue Hours Provided	
Hidalgo County	24,849.00
Starr County	5,717.00
Zapata County	579.54
Cameron County	13,041.00
Willacy County	976.00
Total Revenue Hours	45,162.54

Distribution of Revenue Miles



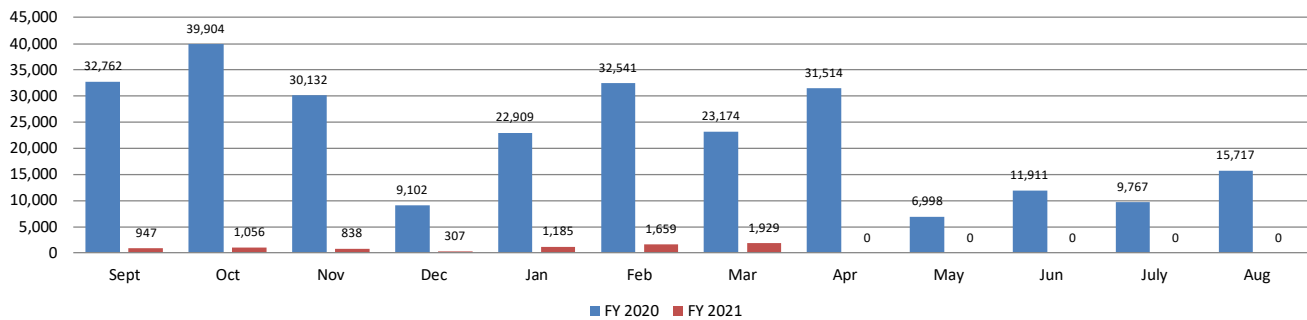
Revenue Miles Provided	
Hidalgo County	531,182
Starr County	119,549
Zapata County	14,026
Cameron County	296,806
Willacy County	19,597
Total Revenue Miles	981,160



**FY 2021 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Valley Metro Routes
Monthly Cumulative Passenger Counts**

Routes	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Total
10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0						1
12	27	51	52	34	53	33	31						281
14	66	62	47	17	39	26	83						340
15	0	0	0	1	1	1	4						7
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
20	0	0	1	0	4	0	0						5
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
45	1	3	2	0	0	0	0						6
50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Vaquero Express	853	940	735	255	1,088	1,599	1,811						7,281
Total	947	1,056	838	307	1,185	1,659	1,929	0	0	0	0	0	7,921
FY 2018	32,762	39,904	30,132	9,102	22,909	32,541	23,174	31,514	6,998	11,911	9,767	15,717	266,431
Change Over Previous FY	-31,815	-38,848	-29,294	-8,795	-21,724	-30,882	-21,245	-31,514	-6,998	-11,911	-9,767	-15,717	

2020 - 2021 Valley Metro Routes UTRGV Student Passenger Count





**South Texas College - FY 2021
Valley Metro Routes
Monthly Cumulative Passenger Counts**

Routes	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Total
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
12	8	1	0	1	2	0	0						12
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
30	0	0	4	0	0	0	1						5
31	43	52	58	43	56	51	46						349
32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
44	3	3	6	3	0	0	0						15
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
60	17	21	13	10	0	0	4						65
61	9	0	6	0	0	6	6						27
62	6	0	0	0	0	4	2						12
DR-RGC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Purpleline	22	16	0	0	0	0	0						38
Greenline	166	231	124	44	42	80	47						734
Total	274	324	211	101	100	141	106	0	0	0	0	0	1,257
Non Valley Metro Routes													
Yellowline	97	100	60	21	28	55	42						403
Park & Ride	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Total	97	100	60	21	28	55	42	0	0	0	0	0	403
Grand Total	371	424	271	122	128	196	148	0	0	0	0	0	1,660
Change Over Previous Month			-153	-149	6	68	-48	-148	0	0	0	0	



**South Texas College - Mid Valley JagExpress
STC Student Passenger Counts Comparison
FY 2021**

Direct Service

Routes	STC	UTRGV	General Public	Total
Route 12 Ecouch/Elsa-Edinburg	12	281	2,193	2,486
Route 31 Business 83	349	0	18,635	18,984
Purple Line	38		17	55
Yellow Line	403		0	403
Green Line	734		1,779	2,513
Park & Ride	0		0	0
Route 60 Greenline Roma	65		1,652	1,717
Route 61 RGC West	27		1,365	1,392
Route 62 RGC East	12		2,257	2,269
DR-RGC	0		2,798	2,798
Vaquero Express		7,281	0	7,281
Total	1,640	7,562	30,696	39,898

Connecting Service

Routes	Connection	STC	UTRGV	General Public	Total
Route 10 Edinburg - McAllen	12, 31	0	1	9,507	9,508
Route 14 UTRGV VABL	12	0	340	491	831
Route 15 Edinburg	12	0	7	2,921	2,928
Route 20 Mission - McAllen	31	0	5	8,793	8,798
Route 30 Pharr San Juan - Edinburg	31	5	0	4,119	4,124
Route 32 Donna International Bridge	31	0	0	264	264
Route 40 Harlingen Medical	31	0	0	4,034	4,034
Route 41 Harlingen Retail	31	0	0	5,368	5,368
Route 42 San Benito Harlingen	31	0	0	443	443
Route 44 La Feria/Santa Rosa/Primera	31	15	0	2,950	2,965
Route 45 Cameron Career Connection	31	0	6	8,669	8,675
Total		20	359	47,559	47,938

Total Service

	STC	UTRGV	General Public	Total
Grand Total	1,660	7,921	78,255	87,836



**FY 2021 TSTC
Valley Metro Routes
Monthly Cumulative Passenger Counts**

Routes	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Total
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
31	0	0	0	0	2	0	0						2
40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
44	6	4	7	3	1	0	1						22
45	9	16	10	6	11	2	1						55
50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Willacy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Total	15	20	17	9	14	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	79
Change Over Previous Month		5	-3	-8	5	-12	0	-2	0	0	0	0	-15

TSTC Student Ridership

