

# LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## AGENDA

### MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 12:00 noon**

Audio access is available by calling 1 (224) 501-3412, Access Code: 373-069-293

Presiding: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, President

#### Item #1: Call to Order

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

**Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve Meeting Minutes (April 26, 2023) -----President**

#### Item #3: Public Comment

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

- A. Consideration and ACTION on Recommendations From Nominating Committee ..... President
  - 1. Selection of Five (5) Persons for Election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership
  - 2. Selection of Three (3) At-Large Members to be Elected to the 2023/2024 Board of Directors

- B. Board Member Recognition .....Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director
- C. Executive Director Report..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director
  - 1. Introduction of New Staff Members
  - 2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings, and Legislation

**Item #5: Department Reports**

- A. **Community & Economic Development ..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director**

Program Action Item

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Professional Service Agreement for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Administration
- 2. Update on Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan

Program Status Reports

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

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

Program Action Items

- 1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Subrecipients' Request for Proposals (RFP) Timeline for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Program Status Reports

- Direct Consumer Services
- Senior Subrecipient and Senior Center Operations
- Special Services Report
- Aging and Disabilities Resource Center
- Housing Navigator Report
- Special Initiatives Report

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

Program Status Reports

- Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Status Reports ..... Cesar Merla  
Assistant Director
- Regional Police Academy Status Reports ..... Gilbert Luna  
Assistant Director
- Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District  
Status Reports..... Dennis Moreno  
Assistant Director
  - GIS Division
  - Community Engagement Division
  - 9-1-1 | Information Technology

**D. Transportation**

Valley Metro Status Reports..... Tom Logan  
Director

- Ridership Report
- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity
- Public Outreach Events

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report.....Andrew Canon  
RGVMPO Executive Director

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

**Item #7 Adjourn**

**\*REMINDER\***

Next Meetings:  
**Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

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 during the Executive Session.

**PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:**

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

**ITEM #2.**

**MINUTES**

# MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

HELD IN-PERSON AND VIA 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: SECRETARY JIM DARLING

- DRAFT -

Chairman Jim Darling called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. and a quorum was declared. Chairman Darling then moved to item 2. Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (March 29, 2023). ***Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr. made a motion to approve the minutes from March 29, 2023, as presented. Mayor Rick Salinas seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Darling next moved to item 3. Public Comment, there being none he moved to item 4. Administration and recognized Mr. Manuel Cruz, Executive Director. Regarding Item 4. A. Consideration and Action to Set Date and Format for 2023 Nominating Committee Meeting, Mr. Cruz recommended scheduling a hybrid online/in person meeting at 12:00 noon on either Wednesday, May 10, or Thursday May 11. ***Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr. made a motion to schedule a hybrid Nominating Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 10 at 12:00 noon. Mayor Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Darling next moved to Item 4. B. Presentation and Action to Accept Quarterly Investment Report and recognized Ms. Crystal Balboa, Director of Finance. Ms. Balboa presented the quarterly investment report that was included in the meeting packet for review prior to the meeting. Chairman Darling then called for a motion; ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to accept the Quarterly Investment Report; Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion.*** Commissioner David Garza expressed concern regarding the ownership and backing of TxPool. After discussion, Chairman Darling asked staff to research TxPool and provide a report at the next meeting. ***Upon conclusion of discussion a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Darling next moved to Item 4. C. Executive Director Report. Mr. Cruz was recognized and introduced the following new staff members: Mr. Jose Flores and Ms. Monica Balderas joined Valley Metro as Non-CDL Drivers, Mr. Julian Meza and Mr. Javier Garza joined RGV9-1-1 as System Support Specialists. CJD/HLS staff member Ms. Mary Gonzalez was promoted to Planner I and Ms. Jessica Martinez was promoted to Program Specialist I.

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the legislative update was included in the meeting packet and noted that he and the TARC staff are closely monitoring the bills related to Councils of Governments (COGs) because of the fluid nature of their movement through the house.

Next Mr. Cruz turned the floor over to Mr. Elijah Casas, Outreach Coordinator for the Texas General Land Office (GLO). Mr. Casas informed the Board that they have announced that the deadline for the 2018/2019 Homeowner Assistance and Reimbursement Program (HARP) is on April 28, 2023, at 5:00 pm. HARP is designed to assist homeowners that were impacted by the 2018 and 2019 disasters that impacted Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. This program provides rehab, repair, mitigation, reconstruction and even reimbursement of up to \$40,000 for certain out of pocket expenses. Mr. Casas stressed the importance for those affected by these disasters to submit their application before the April 28, 2023, deadline.

After announcements on the GLO HARP, Mr. Cruz invited elected officials and community leaders to the Elected Officials Retreat sponsored by the American Flood Coalition (AFC) on South Padre Island on May 23 & 24. He informed the Board that the LRGVDC and the AFC in partnership with the RGV Stormwater Taskforce are pleased to host a regional RGV retreat designed with elected officials and community leaders in mind. On May 23 there will be an evening reception sponsored by the AFC with the hope of gathering as many elected officials as possible. This past year the Region has been involved in creating a flood plan for the region which will be one of the main attractions in order to bring awareness of this project and begin dialog around what flood/drainage project each city/county has completed or has planned so neighboring projects can coordinate to their maximum efficiency. Mr. Cruz thanked the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) for recommending holding this event.

Lastly, Mr. Cruz announced that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently opened up the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The program will award approximately \$250 million, the presumptive allocation for states is \$3 million. Our Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) McAllen-Edinburg-Mission should receive \$1 million to conduct a study on air pollution in the Hidalgo County area, and this grant has no match requirement. A letter of intent is due by April 28 and the application is due by May 31.

Upon conclusion of Administration items, Chairman Darling moved to Item 5. Department Reports,

A. Community and Economic Development Department

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Resolution in Support of Reappropriating CDBG-DR 2018 and 2019 Funds for Regional Drainage in South Texas

Mr. Cruz was recognized and stated that Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court, the Cameron County Commissioners' Court, the Board of Directors of Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1, the Board of Directors of the Cameron County Drainage District No. 6, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council support the reallocation of CDBG-DR 2018 and 2019 funds to regional flood-control infrastructure in Hidalgo County and Cameron County, which will permanently safeguard housing in the State of Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. This will involve investing in a range of infrastructure projects designed to improve drainage and reduce the risk of flooding. By taking these steps, we can help safeguard the health and safety of our residents, support economic growth in our communities, and provide a brighter future for all who call the State of Texas home. ***Commissioner Ellie Torres made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr. seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Mr. Cruz announced that the complete status reports were in the meeting packet for review and highlighted that this year's Road-to-Recycling event took place last Saturday, April 22. He thanked the jurisdictions who participated by providing collection sites.

Chairman Darling provided the reservoir level report noting that there was a small uptick from last month which should increase a little more with the storms that recently passed through our region.

B. Health & Human Services

Ms. Margarita Lopez, Director of Health & Human Services was recognized to address the following:

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Vendor Rate Increase Request from San Jose Health Care and D'Oro Primary Home Care Services

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to increase the San Jose Health Care service rate increase from \$9.000 to \$13.00 per hour. San Jose Health Care staff initially made an error on their contract by entering the incorrect rate. They continued to provide services at their contractual rate, but now they would like to amend this error. D'Oro Primary Home Care Services requests a rate increase from \$13.0 to \$13.75. **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the vendor rate increase request from San Jose Health Care and D'Oro Primary Home Care Services as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

2. Consideration and Action to join "Making RGV Aging Friendly"

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to join the "Making RGV Aging Friendly" initiative in collaboration with UTRGV. This initiative focuses on having/providing better services and will allow cities to apply for grants to support programs geared for the aging population. **Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve joining "Making RGV Aging Friendly". Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr. seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

#### Program Status Reports

The complete status reports were provided in the meeting packet, and Ms. Lopez highlighted the significant increase in the amount of residential repair services they were able to provide.

#### C. Public Safety

##### Program Action Items

It was the consensus of the Board to hear the following five action items and take action on them in one motion. Mr. Rene Perez, Program Supervisor I, was recognized and presented the following items:

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for the FY 2023-2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Ranking and Resolution

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 12, 2023, the CJAC convened to review the rankings and amounts for the JAG grant applications. The committee recommends approval of the resolutions, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts as presented.

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for the FY 2023-2024 State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund (SF) Program Rankings and Resolution

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 12, 2023, the CJAC convened to review the rankings and amounts for the SF grant applications. The committee recommends approval of the resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts as presented.

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for the FY 2023-2024 Truancy Prevention Grant Program (TP) Program Rankings and Resolution

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 12, 2023, the CJAC convened to review the rankings and amounts for the TP grant applications. The committee recommends approval of the resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts as presented.

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for the FY 2023-2024 Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program (VA) Program Rankings and Resolution

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 12, 2023, the CJAC convened to review the rankings and amounts for the VA grant applications. The committee recommends approval of the resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts as presented.

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Recommendation for the FY 2023-2024 Violence Against Women Formula Grant (WF) Program Rankings and Resolution

The CJAC was given two weeks to review and score grant applications. On April 12, 2023, the CJAC convened to review the rankings and amounts for the WF grant applications. The committee recommends approval of the resolution, rankings, and conditionally approved amounts as presented.

Upon conclusion of presentation of all 5 action items, **Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve items 1-5 as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

#### Program Status Reports

Mr. Rene Perez, CJD/HLS Program Supervisor informed the Board that the complete program status reports were available in the meeting packet, and he highlighted that staff received feedback on their Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholders Preparedness Review (SPR), and THSSP Implementation Plan with a total of 43.5 out of 45 possible points.

Mr. Gilbert Luna, Regional Police Academy Assistant Director was recognized and highlighted some of the items in the program status report that was available in the meeting packet. He highlighted that staff is coordinating a job fair scheduled for July 13, 2023. Booths will be provided for each participating agency where they can provide applications and information to attendees.

Mr. Dennis Moreno, RGV9-1-1 Assistant Director was recognized and provided the District's status report. He highlighted Telecommunicators Week activities and how staff showed their appreciation to these unsung heroes at 17 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in both Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. He informed the Board that bipartisan House Bill 9 relating to the development and funding of broadband and telecommunications service; providing for transfers of money for funding was introduced to the legislature which will increase 9-1-1 service fees. He added that another event staff is planning is a Public Safety Wellness seminar on September 14, 2023. The seminar will be telecommunicator driven but will be open to all public safety professionals in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties.

#### D. Transportation

##### Valley Metro Action Item

Mr. Rick Carrera, Valley Metro Director was recognized to report on the following:

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Updated LRGVDC Transit Service Department's Background Check Policy



Mr. Carrera stated that Valley Metro Transit Service Department’s Background Check Policy implements a background check policy application to all current and future employees, regardless of employment status, such as a temporary employee. These policy updates are needed to comply with state and federal regulations, the changes were noted in red font in the draft policy provided in the meeting packet. ***Mr. Ron Mills made a motion to approve the updated LRGVDC Transit Service Department’s Background Check Policy as presented. Mayor Rick Salinas seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Valley Metro Status Reports

Mr. Carrera stated that the Ridership Report is included in the meeting packet.

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report

No status report was available at this time.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Darling ***adjourned the meeting at 12:56 pm.***

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Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #4. A.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**NOMINATING**

**COMMITTEE**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 31, 2023

**Item #4: Administration**

A. Consideration and **ACTION** on Recommendations from  
Nominating Committee..... Mayor David Suarez  
Committee Chair

1. Selection of Five (5) Persons for Election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership

The Nominating Committee recommends the following persons for election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Ms. Helen Ramirez	Brownsville	Cameron
Mr. Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Sergio Contreras	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
<i>VACANT</i>		

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 31, 2023

**Item #4: Administration**

A. Consideration and **ACTION** on Recommendations from  
Nominating Committee..... Mayor David Suarez  
Committee Chair

2. Selection of Three (3) Members-at-Large to be Elected to the 2023-2024  
Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals to fill the  
three (3) at-large seats on the Board of Directors for 2023-2024:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>CITY</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo
Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
Ms. Ann Cass	McAllen	Hidalgo

**ITEM #4. C.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
REPORT**



LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Office of the Executive Director  
301 W. Railroad St.  
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Executive Directors Report  
May 31, 2023

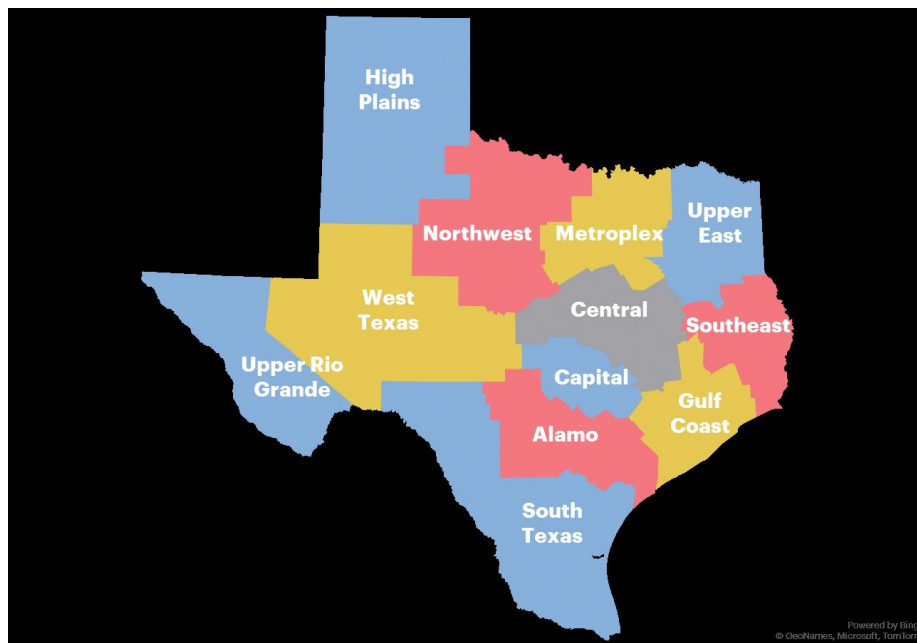
This report contains updates, regional news, funding opportunities trainings and legislative updates that your local gov't may be interested in. This information is courtesy of the Texas Association and Regional Councils, State funding agencies and LRGVDC Programs. Hyperlinks to external sources may be found throughout the report for additional and complete details.

### Texas Broadband

On Monday, May 1, 2023, the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO), invited the LRGVDC to serve as Co-Chair of the NEWLY created South Texas Regional Working Group to support and assist with the state's broadband planning efforts. The BDO's main efforts are to continue to prepare the administration of key federal programs from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The mission of this RWG's is to engage with local governments, non-profits, community anchor institutions, and residents to gain insight on how broadband access, adoption, and use impacts your region and what the priorities, challenges, and opportunities are for your community.

Attached is an invitation for members city/county stakeholders to consider joining the RWG. Also, attached is the current list of the members who have been invited and have accepted thus far.

Below is the RWG Coverage map.



# Broadband South Texas Regional Working Group

Stakeholder Type	Organization	CTT-Proposed	Email	Acceptance
South Texas Regional Working Group				
Business/Industry	South Texas Regional Working Group	Eagle Pass Maverick Co EDA	Judy Canales	
Business/Industry	South Texas Regional Working Group	South Texas Development Council	Juan Rodriguez	
Business/Industry	South Texas Regional Working Group	Rio Grande City EDC	Dalinda Guillen	
CBO	South Texas Regional Working Group	JDs Barber Shop	Vanessa Deleon	
CBO	South Texas Regional Working Group	Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Wesley Nurse	Juliet Martinez	
CBO	South Texas Regional Working Group	United Way of the Coastal Bend	Libby Averyt	
CBO	South Texas Regional Working Group	DHR Health	Roberto Haddad	Y
Business and Telecom	South Texas Regional Working Group	Bluebonnet Fiber	Wyatt Ciomperlik	Y
Education	South Texas Regional Working Group	UTRGV	Veronica Gonzales	Y
Education	South Texas Regional Working Group	ESC Region 2	Dr. Esperanza Zendejas	
Elected Official	South Texas Regional Working Group	Representative Hunter's Office	Angie Flores	
Elected Official	South Texas Regional Working Group	Representative Raymond's Office	Graciela Villarreal	
Elected Official	South Texas Regional Working Group	Representative Tracy King's Office	Celina Overbo	
Elected Official	South Texas Regional Working Group	Representative Eddie Morales' Office	Jacob Ayers	
ISP	South Texas Regional Working Group	Valley Telephone Coop	Patrick McDonnell	Y
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	Nueces County	Bridget Tyler	
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	City of Edinburg	Daniel Vera	Y
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	Cameron County	Lillie Blanchard	Y
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	City of Brownsville	Sandra Barba	Y
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	City of Brownsville	Olga Moya	Y
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	City of Brownsville	Jorge Cardenas	Y
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	City Of Harlingen	Sergio Mujica	
Local Government	South Texas Regional Working Group	Refugio County	Tina McGuill	
COG	South Texas Regional Working Group	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	Nick Gallegos	
Military	South Texas Regional Working Group	Naval Air Station Kingsville	Kevin Clarke	



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Mayor Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez, Pharr ..... President  
 Mayor Trey Mendez, Brownsville ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
 Mayor David Suarez, Weslaco ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large ..... Secretary  
 Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen ..... Treasurer  
 Judge Aurelio "Keter" Guerra, Willacy County ..... Immediate Past President

## BOARD MEMBERS

David A. Garza  
 Commissioner, Cameron County

Ellie Torres  
 Commissioner, Hidalgo County

J.R. Garza  
 Commissioner, Alamo

Johnny Garcia  
 Councilman, Edinburg

Rick Salinas  
 Mayor, Lyford

Javier Villalobos  
 Mayor, McAllen

Oscar D. Montoya  
 Mayor, Mercedes

Norie Garza  
 Mayor, Mission

Gus Olivarez  
 Mayor Rio Hondo

Edward Gonzales  
 Commissioner, Raymondville

Ricardo "Rick" Guerra  
 Mayor, San Benito

Marco "Markie" Villegas  
 Commissioner, San Juan

Alma D. Salinas  
 Mayor, Sullivan City

Veronica Gonzales  
 UT Rio Grande Valley

Paul Hernandez  
 South Texas College

Cledia Hernandez  
 Texas State Technical College

Troy Allen  
 Delta Lake Irrigation District

Ronald Mills  
 Willacy County Navigation District

Eleazar Garcia, Jr.  
 Member-at-Large

Sergio Contreras  
 Member-at-Large

Lupita Sanchez Martinez  
 Grassroots Organizations

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
 Manuel "Manny" Cruz

## MEMORANDUM

TO: LRGVDC Board of Directors

FROM: Manuel Cruz, Executive Director

**SUBJ: Call to Action – Texas BDO Regional Working Group Invitation**

DATE: May 25, 2023

Having access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet enables connection to health, education, public safety, and economic opportunity for communities across the state.

**On behalf of the Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO), we request your support in our efforts to connect Texas by serving as a member of the South Texas Regional Working Group to support the state’s broadband planning efforts.**

A critical component to program success is robust public engagement to help inform program planning and design. The BDO has developed a public engagement model which mobilizes three sets of working groups to coordinate, canvass, and consolidate public input:

- A *Statewide Working Group*
- Six outcome-focused *Task Forces*
- Twelve geo-based *Regional Working Groups*

As key community leaders, we believe you are the right group to be able to select additional members to join the regional working group. The mission of this group is to engage with local governments, non-profits, community anchor institutions, and residents to gain insight on how broadband access, adoption, and use impacts your region and what the priorities, challenges, and opportunities are for your community.

The time commitment for the role of RWG member will be approximately four hours per month between April and August, which includes time for:

- Attending 1-2 regional meetings to discuss broadband opportunities in the region;
- Supporting planning and hosting of 2 public meetings in the region;
- Distributing survey links and data collection tools with your networks; and
- Sharing any local broadband plans, data, materials with the BDO.



Broadband impacts life for Texans across sectors, geographies, and demographics – hearing from everyone is vital to ensuring a comprehensive plan. This role will position you to do meaningful work advancing broadband development and digital opportunity for your fellow Texans/RGV. We hope you will join us in this mission to Connect Texas.

Thank you for considering this invitation, and we look forward to your response with names of stakeholders from your jurisdiction. For more information or questions please contact me at (956) 682-3481 or (956) 279-4130. By email: [mcruz@lrgvdc.org](mailto:mcruz@lrgvdc.org)

Contact Information Required:

- Name
- Organization
- Email Address
- Phone Number

## **88<sup>th</sup> Legislation**

Below is a quick view of bills TARC has been covering for COGs this session.

### **Community & Economic Development/Emergency Communications**

[HB 9](#) by Rep. Trent Ashby (DETCOG) was heard in Senate Finance on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, and passed out of committee 13-1 and reported favorably to the full Senate. As a reminder, this bill creates the Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund outside the state treasury which would be administered jointly by the Comptroller and Public Utilities Commission to determine use of funding. The allowable uses of the fund include broadband, NG-911 under Chapter 771 of the Health & Safety Code, pole replacement, matching for the federal BEAD program, school programs and public safety telecom for school safety. The Comptroller is tasked with adopting rules.

As mentioned before, HB 9 amends the Health and Safety Code to postpone the expiration of statutory provisions governing the next generation 9-1-1 service fund from September 1, 2025, to September 1, 2035. The bill authorizes the comptroller, in addition to the money transferred to the credit of the next generation 9-1-1 service fund, to transfer to the credit of that fund an available amount from the broadband infrastructure fund.

The bill requires the comptroller, not later than September 15 of each year, to transfer from the fund to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund an amount equal to the difference between the fees collected under Section 771.0711(b) (relating to requiring a wireless service provider to collect the emergency service fee in a certain amount and to pay the money collected to the comptroller by a certain date), Health and Safety Code, during the preceding state fiscal year and the amount that would have been collected during that preceding state fiscal year if the amount of the monthly fee under Section 771.0711(b), Health and Safety Code, were 85 cents, as determined by the comptroller in consultation with the Commission on State Emergency Communications.

[HJR 125](#) by Rep. Trent Ashby (DETCOG) passed out of Senate Finance 13-1 and was reported favorably to the full Senate. This proposes the constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund and will be submitted to the voters at the November 2023 election and would be needed for HB 9 implementation.

In addition, [HB 3290](#) by Rep. Ryan Guillen (AACOG, CBCOG, MRGDC, STDC) relating to the next generation 9-1-1 service fund passed the Senate and has been sent to the Governor. The bill extends the date by which the SB 8 federal funds for NG9-1-1 must be spent and provides methodology for allocating state funds to 9-1-1 Districts if any should be appropriated.

### **Public Safety**

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Sunset Bill, [SB 1445](#) by Sen. Angela Paxton (ETCOG, NCTCOG) passed in the House on May 19<sup>th</sup> and is headed to the Governor. The bill does the following:

- Amends the Government and Occupations Codes as they relate to the continuation and functions of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)
- Requires TCOLE to set and enforce minimum standards for law enforcement agencies with input from an advisory committee.
- Removes the separation categories of honorable, general, and dishonorable from the F-5 form.
- The bill would require TCOLE to:

- establish a database for law enforcement agencies to conduct reviews as part of pre-employment background checks and request out-of-state license applicants files from the out-of-state licensing authority before issuing a license;
- temporarily suspend a license if it finds imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;
- create a public-facing, searchable database that identifies information about a peace officer's license status and training;
- maintain confidentiality of complainants and clearly define the limited authority of TCOLE to issue administrative subpoenas;
- develop and maintain a system for Law Enforcement Agencies to report failed fit-for-duty exams or refusals to be examined.;
- develop a model policy for misconduct investigations and pre hiring activities;
- establish advisory committees.
- This bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would continue with the agency for eight years.

### **Environmental Quality**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Sunset Bill, [SB 1397](#) by Sen. Charles Schwertner (BVCOG, CAPCOG, CTCOG, DETCOG, HOTCOG, H-GAC) passed the House on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday. The bill was amended in the House so now awaits the Senate's decision on whether to concur with those amendments or request a conference committee be appointed to negotiate which changes to keep in the final version of the bill. The bill currently extends the agency for 12 years and sets the next Sunset review date for 2035.

### **Other Bills of Interest**

[HB 4553](#) by Rep. Oscar Longoria (LRGVDC) relating to the eligibility of certain entities for services and commodity items provided by the Department of Information Resources and statewide technology centers passed both chambers and is headed to the Governor. The bill establishes a comprehensive list of entities that are eligible customers for services the Department of Information Resources (DIR) provides, contingent on the executive director of DIR determining that a particular entity's participation in the service is in the state's best interest. One such entity is defined a local governments and the definition applied to the chapter includes political subdivisions of the state. As you know, regional planning commissions are defined as political subdivisions of the state under Chapter 391 of the Local Government Code.

[SB 271](#) by Sen. Nathan Johnson (NCTCOG) relating to state agency and local government security incident procedures has been sent to the Governor. The bill seeks to ensure that cybersecurity incidents at all levels of government in Texas are reported to DIR so that the state has the ability to track patterns, collect accurate data, and help mitigate damage to governmental entities experiencing such a security incident. The bill:

- expands the incidents that require notification to include all security incidents, defined by the bill as a breach or suspected breach of system security and the introduction of ransomware into a computer, computer network, or computer system;
- makes the provisions applicable also to local governments that own, license, or maintain computerized data that includes sensitive personal information, confidential information, or information the disclosure of which is regulated by law;

- requires a state agency or local government subject to the notification procedures to comply with all Department of Information Resources rules relating to reporting security incidents in the event of such an incident.

[SB 943](#) by Sen. Kolkhorst ( BVCOG, CAPCOG, CBCOG, GCRPC, HGAC) has passed both chambers and sent to the Governor. The bill amends the Government Code to require a newspaper that publishes a notice on behalf of a governmental entity or representative to do the following at no additional cost to the entity or representative:

- publish the notice on one or more webpages on the newspaper's website, if applicable, that are clearly designated for notices and accessible to the public at no cost; and
- deliver the notice to the Texas Press Association for the association to publish in a statewide repository of notices, if the association maintains a website that serves as such a repository.

**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

May 31, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Professional Service Agreement for Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant Administration

Staff requests approval of the attached agreement by and between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Economic Development District and Harlingen EDC. LRGVDC will provide grant administration services specified in Part II Scope of Services of the Professional Service Agreement to the Harlingen EDC for their award from EDA on their Industrial Park at Roosevelt in Harlingen for Commercial and Community Benefits Project.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT  
PART I – AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, by and between the Lower Rio Grande Valley Economic Development District, hereinafter called the "**District**," acting herein by Manuel Cruz, Executive Director of the District, hereunto duly authorized, and the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation, hereinafter called the "**grantee**" acting herein by (add name and title).

WHEREAS, the Harlingen Economic Development District desires to implement **EDA Project Number 00-00-0000** under the general direction of the District; and whereas the grantee desires to engage the District to render certain services in connection with the oversight of the EDA project (add #).

NOW THEREFORE, the parties do mutually agree as follows:

1. Scope of Services

Part II, Scope of Services, is hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

2. Time of Performance - The services of the District shall commence on June 1, 2023, contingent upon approval of this Contract by the LRGVEDD Board of Directors at their meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2023. All the services required and performed hereunder shall be completed within the grant period agreed by both parties.

3. Access to Information - It is agreed that all information, data, reports, and records and/or other information as are existing, available and necessary for the carrying out of the work outlined above shall be furnished to the District by the grantee and its agencies. No charge will be made to the District for such information and the grantee and its agencies will cooperate with the District in every way possible to facilitate the performance of the work described in the Agreement.

4. Compensation and Method of Payment - The maximum amount of compensation and reimbursement to be paid hereunder shall not exceed **\$52,500.00**. Payment to the District shall be based on satisfactory completion of identified milestones in Part III - Payment Schedule of this Agreement, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this Agreement.

5. Indemnification – The District shall comply with the requirements of all applicable laws, rules and regulations, and shall exonerate, indemnify, and hold harmless the grantee and its agency members from and against them, and shall assume full responsibility for administering the project identified in this Agreement.

6. Miscellaneous Provisions

a. This Agreement shall be construed under and accord with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Cameron County, Texas.

b. This Agreement shall be binding upon and insure to the benefit of the parties hereto and heir respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.

c. If one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability, shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein. All other terms hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

d. If any action at law or in equity is necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and necessary disbursements in addition to any other relief to which such party may be entitled.

e. This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties hereto and a writing to be attached to and incorporated into this Agreement.

7. Terms and Conditions - This Agreement is subject to the provisions titled, "Part IV Terms and Conditions" and attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

IN WITNESSETH HEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals.

Grantee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

BY: (ADD Name), (Title)  
Harlingen Economic Development Corporation

BY: Manuel Cruz, Executive Director  
Lower Rio Grande Valley  
Economic Development District

**NOTE: This document has important legal consequences. Please consult with your legal counsel with respect to its completion or modification.**



**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT  
PART II - SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The District shall provide the following scope of services:

**Project Management**

**A. Application/Environmental/PER**

1. Hold introductory meetings with *grantee* to provide technical assistance on preliminary project scope of work and project cost, provide checklist of required application forms, and next step process.
2. If needed, aid *grantee* on preparing application, gathering documents, and any other project information required by EDA prior to project award.
3. Provide general advice and technical assistance to *grantee* on preliminary and final budget, environmental narrative, and preliminary engineering report (PER).

**B. Record Keeping and Filing System**

1. Develop and establish a record keeping and filing system consistent with program guidelines.
2. Maintenance of filing system.
3. Provide files to the *grantee* throughout the duration of the project.

**C. Special Award Conditions**

1. Provide general advice and technical assistance to *grantee* personnel on implementation of the EDA project and regulatory matters pertaining thereto.
2. Assist *grantee* in meeting all Special Award Condition requirements that may be stipulated in the contract between *grantee* and U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Southwest Regional Office.
3. Serve as liaison for the city during any monitoring visit by Department/Agency staff.

**D. Bid/Contract Award Process/Construction Management**

1. Provide *grantee* with technical assistance and support during the construction phase, on an as needed basis throughout the duration of the project agreement, until project closeout.
2. Assist in preparing and submit to Department/Agency documentation necessary for amending the Contract.
3. Prepare all required EDA project checklists along with gathering the appropriate documents that should be included for review and approval.
4. Furnish *grantee* with necessary forms and procedures required for implementation of the EDA project.

5. Attend pre-bid conference, bid-opening, attend pre-construction meeting, attend weekly/monthly project progress meetings, provide updates to EDA as needed.
6. Review plans and specs, and construction contract and submit to Department/Agency.
7. Verify construction contractor eligibility with Department/Agency.
8. Prepare and submit change orders to Department/Agency.

**E. Financial and Progress Project Reporting Requirements**

1. Prepare and submit all project reporting required by EDA for *grantee*, throughout the duration of the project agreement, until project closeout.
  - Including but not limited to semi-financial reporting, quarterly progress reporting, and other reporting included in the EDA Project Agreement between *grantee* and Department/Agency.

**F. Invoicing/Labor Standards Compliance/Construction Completion**

1. Establish internal system to document expenditures and change orders associated with the awarded project.
2. Assist *grantee* in submitting the required Accounting System Certification letter, Direct Deposit Authorization Form (if applicable), and/or Depository/Authorized Signatory form to Department/Agency.
3. Prepare the required EDA Disbursement Checklists along with gathering the appropriate documents that should be included for review and approval.
4. Review invoices for payment and file back-up documentation for *grantee* reimbursement from EDA. (Invoices, weekly Certified Payrolls)
5. Review contractors and subcontractors certified payrolls for compliance with Davis-Bacon wage rate requirements.
  - Shall there be corrections needed, GA will work with contractor/subcontractor to ensure that payrolls are corrected, and wages are paid correctly.
  - Shall there be a wage determination needed, GA will assist with preparing and submitting to EDA the Department of Labor Request for Determination & Response to Request Form.
6. Prepare all fund drawdowns on behalf of the *grantee* to ensure orderly, timely payments to all contracting parties within the allotted time period.
7. Provide general advice and technical assistance to the *grantee* personnel on implementation of project and regulatory matters pertaining to project funds.

**G. Project Closeout**

1. Serve as liaison for *grantee* during the implementation and completion of the EDA project with any monitoring visit by staff representatives from EDA or its Southwest Regional Office.
2. Prepare the Final Acceptance Report for appropriate signatures to submit to the Department/Agency.

3. Prepare and submit required close-out documents to EDA for project completion.
4. Conduct closeout meeting with *grantee* to review and provide information on future reporting requirements during the useful life of the project and provide project files for *grantee's* records.

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT  
PART III - PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

*Grantee* shall reimburse the District for grant administration services provided for completion of the following project milestones per the following percentages of the maximum contract amount:

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>% of Contract Fee</u>
• Application/Environmental/PER	10%
• Recording Keeping and Filing System	10%
• Special Award Conditions	10%
• Bid/Contract Award Process/Construction Management	20%
• Financial and Progress Reporting Requirements	10%
• Invoicing/Labor Standards Compliance/Construction Completion	30%
• Project Closeout	10%
Total	100%

Payment for grant administration services is an eligible expense and was initially included in *Grantee's* grant application when submitted to EDA for funding.

**NOTE: Percentages of payment listed here are guidelines based on management services typically provided. The payment schedule should be tied directly to the actual Scope of Work identified in Part II – Administrative Scope of Services.**

**Conditions for Payment.**

Payment is subject to the satisfaction of the following conditions precedent:

- (a) **Representations and Warranties.** The representations and warranties made by the District and any representations and warranties made by the District which are contained in any certificate, document or other statement furnished at any time under or in connection herewith or therewith, shall be true and correct in all material respects as of the date of any payment.
  
- (b) **Compliance with Covenants.** District shall be in full compliance with all covenants and agreements imposed upon District under this contract.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT  
PART IV - TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. **Termination of Contract.** If, through any cause, the District shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner its obligation under this Contract, or if the District shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract, the *grantee* shall thereupon have the right to terminate this Contract by giving written notice to the District of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least five (5) days before the effective date of such termination. If the Contract is terminated by the *grantee* as provided herein, the District will be paid for the time provided and expenses incurred up to the termination date.

If the contract is terminated by the *grantee* as provided herein, all finished or unfinished documents, information or reports prepared by the District under this Contract shall, at the option of the *grantee*, become its property and the District shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any work satisfactorily completed hereunder.

Notwithstanding the above, the District shall not be relieved of liability to the *grantee* for damages sustained by the *grantee* by virtue of any breach of the Contract by the District, and the *grantee* may withhold any payments to the District for the purpose of set-off until such time as the exact amount of damages due by the *grantee* from the District is determined.

2. **Termination for Convenience.** The *grantee* may terminate this Contract at any time by giving at least ten (10) day notice in writing to the District. If the Contract is terminated by the *grantee* as provided herein, the District will be paid for the time provided and expenses incurred up to the termination date. If this Contract is terminated due to the fault of the District, Paragraph 1 hereof relative to termination shall apply.
3. **Changes.** The *grantee* may request changes in the scope of the services of the District to be performed hereunder. Such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of the District's compensation which are mutually agreed upon by and between the *grantee* and the District shall be incorporated in written amendments to this Contract.
4. **Personnel.**
  - a) The District represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this Contract. Such personnel shall not be employees of or have any contractual relationship with the *grantee*.
  - b) All services required hereunder will be performed by the District or under its supervision, and all personnel engaged in the work shall be fully qualified and shall be authorized or permitted under State and Local law to perform such services.
  - c) None of the work or services covered by this Contract shall be subcontracted without the prior written approval of the *grantee*. Any work or services subcontracted hereunder shall be specified by written contract or agreement and shall be subject to each provision of this Contract.
5. **Assignment of Contract.** The District shall not assign any interest in this Contract and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation), without the prior written consent of the *grantee* thereto: Provided, however, that claims for money by the District from the *grantee* under this Contract may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution without such approval. Written notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the *grantee*.

6. **Reports and Information.** The District, at such times and in such forms as the *grantee* may require, shall furnish the *grantee* such periodic reports as it may request pertaining to the work or services undertaken pursuant to this Contract, the costs and obligations incurred or to be incurred in connection therewith, and any other matters covered by this Contract.
7. **Findings Confidential.** All of the reports, information, data, etc., prepared or assembled by the District under this contract are confidential, and the District agrees that they shall not be made available to any individual or organization without the prior written approval of the *grantee*.
8. **Compliance with Local Laws.** The District shall comply with applicable laws, ordinances and codes of the State of Texas and its local governments.
1. **Equal Employment Opportunity.** During the performance of this Contract, the District agrees as follows:
  - a) The District will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, sex, color, handicap, or national origin. The District will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, creed, sex, color, handicap or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The District agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the *grantee* setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause.
  - b) The District will, in all solicitation or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the District, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, sex, handicap or national origin.
  - c) The District will cause the foregoing provisions to be inserted in all subcontracts for any work covered by this Contract so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor, provided that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to contracts or subcontracts for standard commercial supplies or raw materials.
  - d) The District will include the provisions 9.a, 9.b, and 9.c in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted.
9. **Civil Rights Act of 1964.** Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.
10. **Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.** No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this title.
11. **Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended:** The work to be performed under this contract is on a project assisted under a program providing direct Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. For Public Works and Development Facilities under the Public

Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, the award to the *grantee*, Award Number **00-00-0000**, supports the project and effort described herein, which is incorporated into this agreement by reference. Where terms of this agreement differ, the terms of the award shall prevail.

12. **Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA) Reporting Requirements – Performance Measures.** The District agrees to assist the *grantee* on program performance measures and program outcomes in such form and at such intervals as may be prescribed by the EDA, Award Number **00-00-0000**, in compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. Performance measures and reporting requirements that apply to program activities funded by the Award to the *grantee* will be provided in a separate GPRA information collection document. EDA will advise the *grantee* in writing within a reasonable period prior to the time of submission of the reports and in the event that there are any modifications in the performance measures.
14. **Interest of Members of the District.** No member of the governing body of the District and no other officer, employee, or agent of the District who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and carrying out of the program, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Contract and the *grantee* shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance.
15. **Interest of Other Local Public Officials.** No member of the governing body of the District and no other public official of the District, who exercises any functions or responsibilities in connection with the planning and carrying out of the program, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Contract; and the *grantee* shall take appropriate steps to assure compliance.
16. **Interest of Firm and Employees.** The District covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire interest, direct or indirect, in the project area, study area, site, or any parcels therein or any other interest which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. The District further covenants that in the performance of this Contract, no person having any such interest shall be employed.
17. **Ability to carry out contractual responsibilities:** The District affirms that it is familiar with the terms of EDA award number **00-00-0000**, and that it has the technical, financial and logistical capability of carrying out its responsibilities under this Contract.
18. **Right of Inspection.** District will permit the *grantee* to examine, audit and make and take away copies or reproductions of its books and records at reasonable times and limited in scope to records relevant to or bearing on the Project.
19. **Conditions Precedent.** This contract and all obligations hereunder are subject to the conditions that the EDA fully fund the expenditures associated with the Project sufficiently to allow the *grantee* to meet its obligations to the District hereunder.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT  
PART V – DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES**

The following are hereby designated as representatives for the Administrator and Project Parties for purposes of this Contract, and any notice required by its terms or made necessary pursuant to the performance of the Contract should be made to the attention of these designated representatives:

**Harlingen Economic Development Corporation**

Name

Title

2424 Boxwood St., Ste. 125

Harlingen, TX 78550

(956) 216-5081

[Email](#)

**Harlingen Economic Development Corporation**

Name

Title

2424 Boxwood St., Ste. 125

Harlingen, TX 78550

(956) 216-5081

[Email](#)

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Economic Development District**

Manuel Cruz

Executive Director

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

301 W. Railroad Street

Weslaco, Texas 78596

(956) 682-3481

[mcruz@lrgvdc.org](mailto:mcruz@lrgvdc.org)

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Economic Development District**

Valerie Ramos

Program Manager I

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

301 W. Railroad Street

Weslaco, Texas 78596

(956) 682-3481

[vramos@lrgvdc.org](mailto:vramos@lrgvdc.org)



## **Notices**

Except in the case of notices and other communications expressly permitted to be given by telephone, all notices and other communications provided for herein shall be in writing and shall be delivered by hand or overnight courier service, mailed by certified or registered mail, or sent by fax or electronic communication as follows:

Notices sent by hand or overnight courier service, or mailed by certified or registered mail, shall be deemed to have been given when received; notices sent by fax shall be deemed to have been given when sent (except that, if not given during normal business hours for the recipient, shall be deemed to have been given at the opening of business on the next business day for the recipient). Notices delivered through electronic communications shall be effective when received.

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# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

May 31, 2023

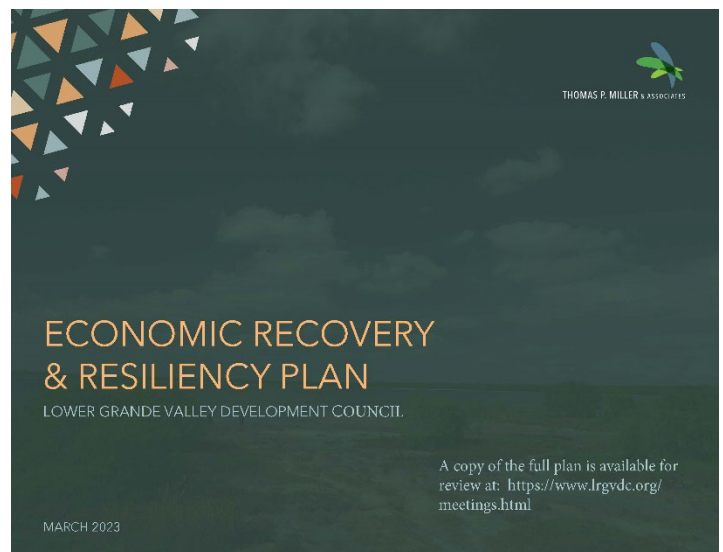
## Item #5: Department Reports

### B. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Action Item

#### 2. Update on Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan

In December 2021, the LRGVDC issued a Request for Proposals to identify a professional consultant firm to complete an Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan. Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TMPA) were hired to complete this plan. With funding support from the Federal Economic Development Administration via a CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to help the region respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The scope of work outlined in the plan was to enable the LRGVDC to develop a recovery and resiliency plan that will help the region anticipate, mitigate, and respond to future economic disruptions. The plan addresses short-term and long-term economic development impacts and serves as a path for regional economic recovery and guide to prepare for and sustain future pandemics, disasters, and recoveries. The economic resiliency plan will stand as documented information which will help actionable plans and aid as a starting point moving forward to alleviate some of the issues identified.



A key component of the Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan was the local stakeholder's participation. Engagement and involvement from the local community was critical to solicit local feedback and insights on regional priorities, challenges, and opportunities. There were several engagement strategies that took place during the development of this plan.

Staff and TMPA were invited to participate at the TX-Stars Roundtable Discussion-Technology for Disaster Resilience, hosted by UTRGV. The workshop allowed for staff to present the LRGVDC Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan results to a variety of area stakeholders. The information was overall well received. The LRGVDC will make this plan available on our Economic Development website or it can be requested by staff.

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

May 31, 2023

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Technical assistance continues to be provided to entities who are interested in applying for EDA grants, as well as the Economic Development District is currently providing grant administrative services to two projects. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to disseminate information accordingly. Staff also continues to coordinate efforts with other governmental entities on their economic development related activities to maximize benefits of all projects and objectives for the region and avoid any duplication of efforts and resources.

EDA has published a new Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). The Public Works program provides resources to meet the construction and/or infrastructure design needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive. Supported activities under EDA's EAA program include construction and non-construction such as construction or upgrading of public infrastructure, sectoral partnerships for workforce training, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF). There are no application submission deadlines and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Visit the following links for more information on this funding opportunity, [Public Works](#), [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#).

EDA has published a FY23 EDA Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is providing support to those communities impacted by natural disasters in 2021 and 2022. The awards made under this NOFO are designed to address economic challenges in those areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster has been issued. Funding will help communities devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of construction and non-construction projects. [EDA Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for Regions Impacted by Natural Disasters | U.S. Economic Development Administration](#)

For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>. Staff are available to provide technical assistance, project development, and grant administration on EDA proposals and projects. For

any assistance or information on EDA in general, contact the Community & Economic Development Department.

- Pandemic Response

In December 2021, the LRGVDC issued a Request for Proposals to identify a professional consultant firm to complete an Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan. Thomas P. Miller and Associates (TMPA) were hired to complete this plan. With funding support from the Federal Economic Development Administration via a CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to help the region respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The scope of work outlined in the plan was to enable the LRGVDC to develop a recovery and resiliency plan that will help the region anticipate, mitigate, and respond to future economic disruptions. The plan addresses short-term and long-term economic development impacts and serves as a path for regional economic recovery and guide to prepare for and sustain future pandemics, disasters, and recoveries. The economic resiliency plan will stand as documented information which will help actionable plans and aid as a starting point moving forward to alleviate some of the issues identified.

A key component of the Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan was the local stakeholder's participation. Engagement and involvement from the local community was critical to solicit local feedback and insights on regional priorities, challenges, and opportunities. There were several engagement strategies that took place during the development of this plan.

Staff and TMPA were invited to participate at the TX-Stars Roundtable Discussion-Technology for Disaster Resilience, hosted by UTRGV. The workshop allowed for staff to present the LRGVDC Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan results to a variety of area stakeholders. The information was overall well received. The LRGVDC will make this plan available on our Economic Development website or it can be requested by staff.

- Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

A RSCC meeting will be held in person on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the City of Laguna Vista. Staff continue to disseminate vital information to small cities via email. If you have questions, you may contact Brenda Salinas [bsalinas@lrgvdc.org](mailto:bsalinas@lrgvdc.org)

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

The Community Development Fund is the largest fund category in the Texas Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). This fund is available through a competition in each of the 24 state planning regions. Although most funds are used for Public Facilities (water/wastewater infrastructure, street and drainage improvements and housing activities), there are numerous other activities for which these funds may be used. Visit our Community Development webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html> to view the Lower Rio Grande Valley regional project priorities.

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 CDBG program. 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). Staff have disseminated information on CDBG funding available to area communities and stakeholders and are available to respond to questions related to the funding opportunities.

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

- Solid Waste Management Program

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

Staff attended the City of McAllen Public Works Week Block Party 2023 event. The event included food, music, recycling center tour, equipment exhibits, fun, and more. Many people attended this free public event and stopped to visit the Community & Economic Development booth. Game prizes for recycling and water quality were distributed, along with educational reading material.

- Water Quality Program

Staff continues to educate the public on water quality issues with the theme of "Beach and Wetlands" for the month of May. You can find educational social media postings on the LRGVDC Facebook page. Give a thumbs up or leave a comment! Outreach efforts for this program also include staff attending in-person events. This allows for great C&ED program promotion opportunities for the community. Informational reading material and promotional items on water quality are distributed at these events.

Staff continue to support projects that provide water quality monitoring through four (4) stations placed in targeted locations. The monitoring stations provide real time data on nutrients including dissolved oxygen, conductivity/temperature, nitrate, and ammonium in the main drainage outlets to the coastal waters. Updates on this project occur on a regular basis, and progress on data collection and other aspects of this project is good.

Staff also continues to regularly communicate with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as well as other entities involved in water quality initiatives to strengthen partnerships and generate further activities related to water quality and to highlight the importance of it to the region.

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

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC)

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and the American Flood Coalition, in partnership with the RGV Stormwater Planning & Management Conference were pleased to host a Regional RGV Seminar/retreat designed with elected officials and community leadership in mind.

The retreat included an Elected Official Reception and Workshop. The focus of this workshop was on flooding in the Rio Grande Valley to bring evidence-based solutions, resources, funding opportunities, and subject matter experts together. During this informational session, local elected officials, regional stakeholders, and state appointed officials had an opportunity to network and discuss the successes, shortfalls, and best practices facing the region. This opportunity also provided assistance in navigating state and federal opportunities, strategic approaches for building and implementing flood risk models, identifying projects and programs as well as financial solutions. This invitation was open to one elected official per city and county precinct to attend a fellowship/dinner on Tuesday night, May 23 and attend the opening plenary conference session on the morning of Wednesday, May 24. There were about 70 attendees at this workshop. Appointed Officials from the following state agencies were in attendance: Army Corps of Engineers, TCEQ, TWDB, PUB, Texas Transportation Commission, GLO, and EDA. Overall, the workshop was successful and was a great opportunity to network and hear what everyone is working on related to flooding prevention activities on a regional basis.

The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

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

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

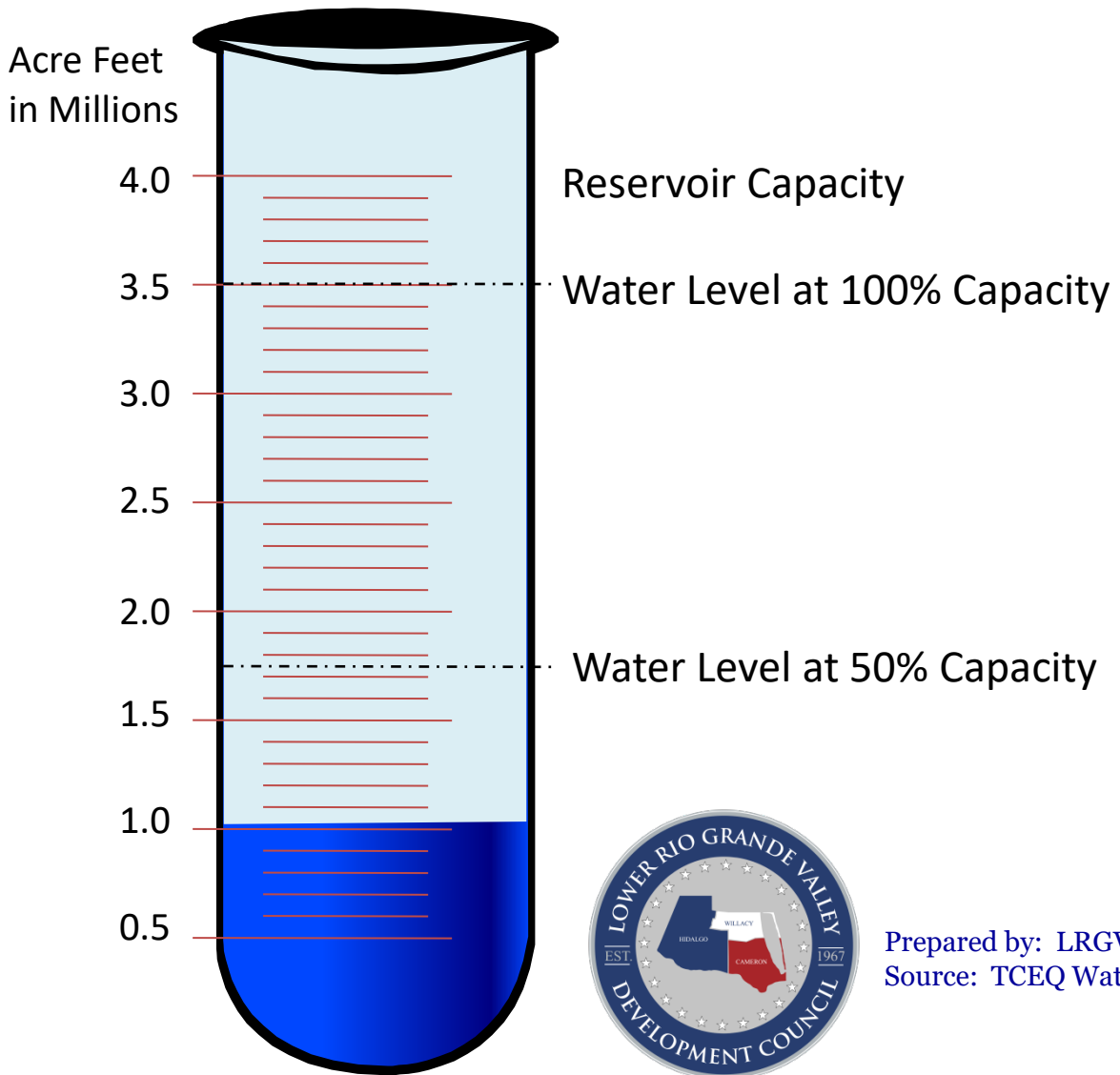
The next Region M meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 9:30 am. These meetings are currently being conducted in person and online. For more information on Region M, please visit website: <http://riograndewaterplan.org>

- Reservoir Levels

On May 20 2023, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 29.81% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,011,139 acre-feet, up from 29.29% (993,383 AF) of normal conservation a year ago. Overall the system is holding 28.11% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,664,559 acre-feet with Amistad at 31.61% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,035,375 acre-feet and Falcon at 23.77% of conservation capacity, impounding 629,184 acre-feet. Mexico has 25.82% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 653,419 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

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

**5/20/2023, 29.81% of Capacity or 1,035,375 AF**  
UP from 993,383 AF of Normal Conservation a year ago



Prepared by: LRGVDC  
Source: TCEQ Watermaster

**NOTE: Mexico Ownership/Reservoir Capacity for  
May 20, 2023: 25.82% (653,419) A.F.**

# Rio Grande Watermaster Report

05/20/23

## Amistad Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	340.462 Meters	1,117.00 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	325.055 Meters	1,066.45 Feet	-50.55
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	1,277.121 MCM	1,035,375 Acre-Feet	31.61%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	826.838 MCM	670,326 Acre-Feet	64.74%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	450.283 MCM	365,049 Acre-Feet	35.26%
Total Releases (Average)	15.10 CMS	533 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	11.40 CMS	403 CFS	75.50%
Mexico Release (Average)	3.70 CMS	131 CFS	24.50%
Total Inflows (Average)	57.60 CMS	2,034 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	40.20 CMS	1,420 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	17.40 CMS	614 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	5.80 CMS	205 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	3.75 CMS	132 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	2.05 CMS	72 CFS	

## Falcon Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	91.805 Meters	301.20 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	81.030 Meters	265.85 Feet	-35.35
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	776.090 MCM	629,184 Acre-Feet	23.77%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	420.389 MCM	340,814 Acre-Feet	54.17%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	355.701 MCM	288,370 Acre-Feet	45.83%
Total Releases (Average)	4.50 CMS	159 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	2.25 CMS	79 CFS	50.00%
Mexico Release (Average)	2.25 CMS	79 CFS	50.00%
Total Inflows (Average)	54.70 CMS	1,932 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	27.20 CMS	961 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	27.50 CMS	971 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	6.77 CMS	239 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	3.67 CMS	130 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	3.10 CMS	109 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	826,838 TCM	670,326 Acre-Feet	36.41%
Mexico Share Normal Conservation	1,769,662 TCM	1,434,683 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	450,283 TCM	365,049 Acre-Feet	25.44%

#### 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	420,389 TCM	340,814 Acre-Feet	21.97%
Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	1,351,633 TCM	1,095,782 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	355,701 TCM	288,370 Acre-Feet	26.32%
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.	1,247.227 MCM	1,011,139 Acre-Feet	29.81%
Current Combined Storage for Mexico	805.984 MCM	653,419 Acre-Feet	25.82%
Current Storage in the Amistad/Falcon System	2,053,211 TCM	1,664,559 Acre-Feet	
Percent of Storage Capacity			28.11%



**ITEM #5. B.**

**HEALTH  
&  
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item .....Margarita Lopez, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Subrecipients’ Request for Proposals (RFP) Timeline for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

These contracts are funded under Title III of the Older Americans Act as amended and State General Revenue (SGR) Funds Timeline. The start of the Area Agency on Aging’s fiscal year is October 1, 2023. Staff requests Board approval of this timeline.

<b>Sub-recipients’ Request for Proposal (RFP) Timeline for FY 2023-2024</b>	
March 6, 2023	<u>Solicitation Timeline</u> will be uploaded to Area Agency on Aging Website
May 26, 2023	Packets ready for distribution
June 4, 2023 June 11, 2023	Media notification via newspaper: Brownsville Herald The Monitor Valley Morning Star
June 21, 2023	3 Mandatory Application Conferences for All Interested Parties at 1:00-1:30, 2:00-2:30 and 3:00-3:30
June 27, 2023	3 additional Mandatory Application Conferences at for All Interested Parties at 1:00-1:30, 2:00-2:30, 3:00-3:30
July 14, 2023	Application must be submitted to Procurement Department by 5:00 pm
July 18, 2023	Agency will review submitted applications.
August 30, 2023	Applications submitted to LRGVDC Board of Directors for Approval
September 4-25, 2023	Send approved contracts to applicants for signatures.
September 4-25, 2023	Submit signed applications for Director(s) signature.
September 4-25, 2023	Email finalized contract to approved applicants.
September 25, 2023	Signed application due date.
October 1, 2023	Start of fiscal year 2023

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

- Direct Consumer Services Report - April 2023

<b>Service</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Care Coordination Services</b>	80	349
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	21	49
<b>Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	16	56
<b>Transportation Services</b> Assistance with transportation services to medical appointments, rehabilitation appointments, and Dialysis appointments.	4	8
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	22	22
<b>Caregiver Support Services</b>	32	163
<b>Respite In-Home Services</b> Assistance includes light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, bathing, grooming, and dressing.	29	98
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	7	10
<b>Community Development Block Grant</b>	16	22
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	16	22

<b>Care Coordination Services Interest List</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
Health Maintenance Services	279
Homemaker Services	352
Residential Repair Services	176
Transportation Services	2
<b>Caregiver Support Services Interest List</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
Respite In-Home Services	172
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>981</b>

- Senior Subrecipient and Senior Center Operations - April 2023

<b>Meals Program</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Home Delivered Meals	196	39,571
Congregate Meals	59	7,390
<b>Senior Center Operations</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
All Centers	131	18,658

- Special Services Report – April 2023

Benefit Counselors, Care Transition and Ombudsman

<b>Special Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Served</b>
Benefits Counselor	96	118
Care Transition Coaches	142	391

<b>Special Service</b>	<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Total Activity Hours</b>	<b>Total Activities</b>	<b>Total Investigated Complaints</b>	<b>Total Cases</b>
Ombudsman	43.25	116	116	76	32

- Aging and Disabilities Resource Center – April 2023

Information Referral & Assistance Report

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total Interactions (397)</b>
1-800 AAA	35
1-855 ADRC	1
(956) 682-3481	82
(956) 412-0958	77
Walk-ins	5
E-mails	142
Fax	21
Follow ups	34

<b>Consumer Age Group</b>	<b>Total Consumers (363)</b>
Consumers 60+	353
Consumer 59 and below	10

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	<b>Total Break Down by Demographic (291)</b>
Consumers with a Disability	265
Veterans	26

<b>Unmet Needs</b>	<b>Total Unmet</b>
Total Consumers	2

<b>Top Call Topics</b>	<b>Total Top Call Topics</b>
Homemaker Services	101
Respite Services	74
Residential Repairs	55
Benefit Counseling	54
Health Maintenance	42

- Housing Navigator Report

<b>Category</b>	<b>Total (240)</b>
Outreach Material Distribution AAA Flyers	120
Outreach Material Distribution AAA Flyers	120

<b>Consumer Age Group</b>	<b>Total (120)</b>
Consumers 60+	105
Consumer 59 and below	15

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	<b>Total (39)</b>
Consumers with a Disability	26
Veterans	10
Individuals with a Caregiver	3

- Special Initiatives Report

<b>Category</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Outreach Material Distribution of Vaccine Flyers	272
Vaccines Distributed	75

<b>Consumer Age Group</b>	<b>Total (272)</b>
Consumers 60+	166
Consumer 59 and below	106

<b>Consumer Demographics</b>	<b>Total (86)</b>
Consumers with a Disability	31
Veterans	50
Individuals with a Caregiver	5

**ITEM #5. C.**

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

## Item #5: Department Reports

### C. Public Safety

#### Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) on May 10, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.

#### Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Cybersecurity Incident Workshop on April 20, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.
- Staff attended the Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Ready Expo 2023 on April 21, 2023, at the South Texas College Mid-Valley Campus, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted the LRGVDC Interoperability Data Communications Tabletop Exercise on April 27, 2023, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board Room.
- Staff hosted Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) on May 4, 2023, at the Ken Jones Executive Board Room.
- Staff attended a virtual webinar for e-learning Grant Writing Part 3, from Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) on May 10, 2023.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Regional Police Academy

- On Friday, May 5, 2023, the Regional Police Academy successfully conducted the orientation for the 222nd Mid Valley Night Basic Peace Officer Course with a total of 17 cadets all of which are currently entering Chapter 3 of 42 as of May 19, 2023.
- As of Friday, May 19, 2023, the 219<sup>th</sup> Mid-Valley Night Basic Peace Officer Course is in progress with a total of 18 cadets; they are currently entering Chapter 35 of 42.
- As of Friday, May 19, 2023, the 220<sup>th</sup> Mission Day Academy is in progress with a total of 24 cadets; they are currently entering Chapter 29 of 42.
- As of Friday, May 19, 2023, the 221<sup>st</sup> Edinburg Day Academy is in progress with a total of 28 cadets; they are currently entering Chapter 22 of 42.
- The Regional Police Academy will resume weekly testing for upcoming academies starting Tuesday June 6, 2023.
- On Wednesday, June 21, 2023, the Regional Police Academy will host their annual Advisory Board meeting.
- On Thursday, July 13, 2023, the Regional Police Academy will host the 1st Annual Law Enforcement Recruiting Fair.
- The Regional Police Academy staff is currently working with interlocal agreements to establish a schedule for in-service training in person. Some courses that have already been scheduled are as follows:
  1. Interacting with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Drivers at Edinburg PD on May 24 & 25, 2023
  2. Use of Force at Mission PD on May 30 & 31, 2023
  3. TCIC Associate Trainer at Weslaco Public Works from June 5 – 8, 2023
  4. Interacting with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Drivers at Edinburg PD on June 28 & 29, 2023
  5. Texas Law Enforcement Peer Network at LRGVDC in Weslaco, TX from July 6 – 7, 2023
  6. Intermediate Crime Scene Investigation at Willacy County Sheriff's Office July 17 – 21, 2023
  7. Background Investigations for Police Applicants at Weslaco Public Works July 20 – 21, 2023
  8. Tactical Handcuffing Instructor Certification at Weslaco Public Works August 3 - 4, 2023

Pictured below are the 17 cadets from the 222<sup>nd</sup> Mid Valley Night Academy Orientation.



Pictured below are the 18 cadets from the 219<sup>th</sup> Mid-Valley Basic Peace Officer Course after participating in a local 5k run out of Weslaco.



Pictured below are cadets from the 220th Mission Day Basic Peace Officer Course conducting Standard Field Sobriety Test (SFST).



Pictured below are cadets from the 219th Mid Valley Basic Peace Officer Course conducting Emergency Vehicle Operations Center (EVOC).



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

## Item #5: Department Reports

### C. Public Safety

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

- GIS Division

Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at [www.rgv911.org](http://www.rgv911.org). The GIS team has uploaded several informational maps that can be readily downloaded by other public entities and the public. This data has streamlined our public information request process. We have also created an address lookup map. In April, GIS team members Selenne Vallejo, Ruby Garza, and Monica Estrada attended the South-Central ArcGIS User Group's annual conference in Frisco, Texas. Staff were introduced to different ways to leverage ArcGIS technology to improve productivity.

- Community Engagement Division

This report provides an overview of the community engagement activities conducted during April 2023. It highlights the initiatives, events, and outcomes to foster positive relationships and involvement with our communities.

- 2023 Autism Awareness Walk April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. McAllen ISD organizes this event annually in honor of our youth. The excitement was in the air, and we enjoyed every minute. We provided educational material to inform them about texting 9-1-1 and registering their physical address.
- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 9<sup>th</sup> – 15, 2023. This week is a time to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel nationwide who serve our communities, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We honored our public safety telecommunicators from the counties of Hidalgo and Willacy for their commitment, service, and sacrifice. This year we chose a camping theme for our telecommunicators, visited 17 PSAPs, and delivered gifts for them.
- 2023 Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Ready Expo. April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. South Texas College hosted and invited RGV9-1-1 to talk and educate RGV residents on registering their address with the 9-1-1 department; this is crucial as it ensures that emergency services can locate you quickly and accurately in an emergency. By registering your address, you can help ensure that help will arrive as quickly as possible during a crisis. We also talked about Texting 9-1-1. This is useful when making a phone call could put the individual in danger, such as during a home invasion or domestic violence.

## 2023 Autism Awareness Walk



Pictured (above-left) staff Angela Alvardo and participants of the event.



Pictured (above-left) event organizers and students and pictured (above-right) staff Maribel Alonzo participating in the autism walk.

## Camping Theme Gifts for Our Telecommunicators



Every year we brainstorm and choose a theme that would be enjoyable for our Telecommunicators. This year we chose a camping theme that consisted of eight (8) items. We sure hope they enjoy the gifts that we give them as a token of appreciation for all they do. All the telecommunicators received a duffel/backpack, cooler bag, cutting board, sleeping blanket, a lantern with tools, Bluetooth speaker, bento box, and coffee mug.

### Weslaco and Mercedes PSAP's



Pictured (above-left) 9-1-1 T.C.'s with Chief Joel Rivera pictured (above-right) Executive Director Manuel Cruz, 9-1-1 T.C.'s and Chief of Police Joel Rivera.

### McAllen PSAP



Pictured (above-left) Staff Darrick Fuentes, Jacob Salinas, and Maribel Alonzo pictured (above-right) Chief of Police Victor Rodriguez, RGV9-1-1 staff, McAllen T.C.'s.

### Mission PSAP



### San Juan PSAP



Pictured (above-left) Mission T.C. Supervisor A. Hernandez, pictured (above-right) San Juan T.C. and staff Maribel Alonzo.  
Edinburg PSAP



Pictured (above-left) Executive Director Manuel Cruz, Assistant Chief Michael Cerda, Police Chief Jaime Ayala, Edinburg T.C.'s, and Commissioner David White. Pictured (above-right) Executive Director Manuel Cruz thanking Edinburg T.C.

### HCSO PSAP



Pictured (above-left) Sergeant Rafael Madrigal, Sheriff J.E. "Eddie" Guerra, PSAP Supervisor Lee Alvarado, PSAP Supervisor Letty Garcia, HCSO T.C., RGV9-1-1 Assistant Director Dennis Moreno, Captain Omar Jasso, Lieutenant Roel Guajardo, and staff Maribel Alonzo. Picture (above-right) staff Maribel Alonzo, Sarah Dierlam, HCSO TC, RGV9-11 Assistant Director Dennis Moreno, and PSAP Supervisor Letty Garcia.



Raymondville PSAP



Pictured (above-left) staff Maribel Alonzo, Angela Alvarado, Raymondville TC Robby Estrada, Mayor Gilbert Gonzalez, and PSAP Supervisor Noemi Garza

2023 Rio Grande Valley Hurricane Ready Expo



Pictured (above-left) staff Maribel Alonzo with event attendees. Pictured (above right) staff Ron Hall and Maribel Alonzo.

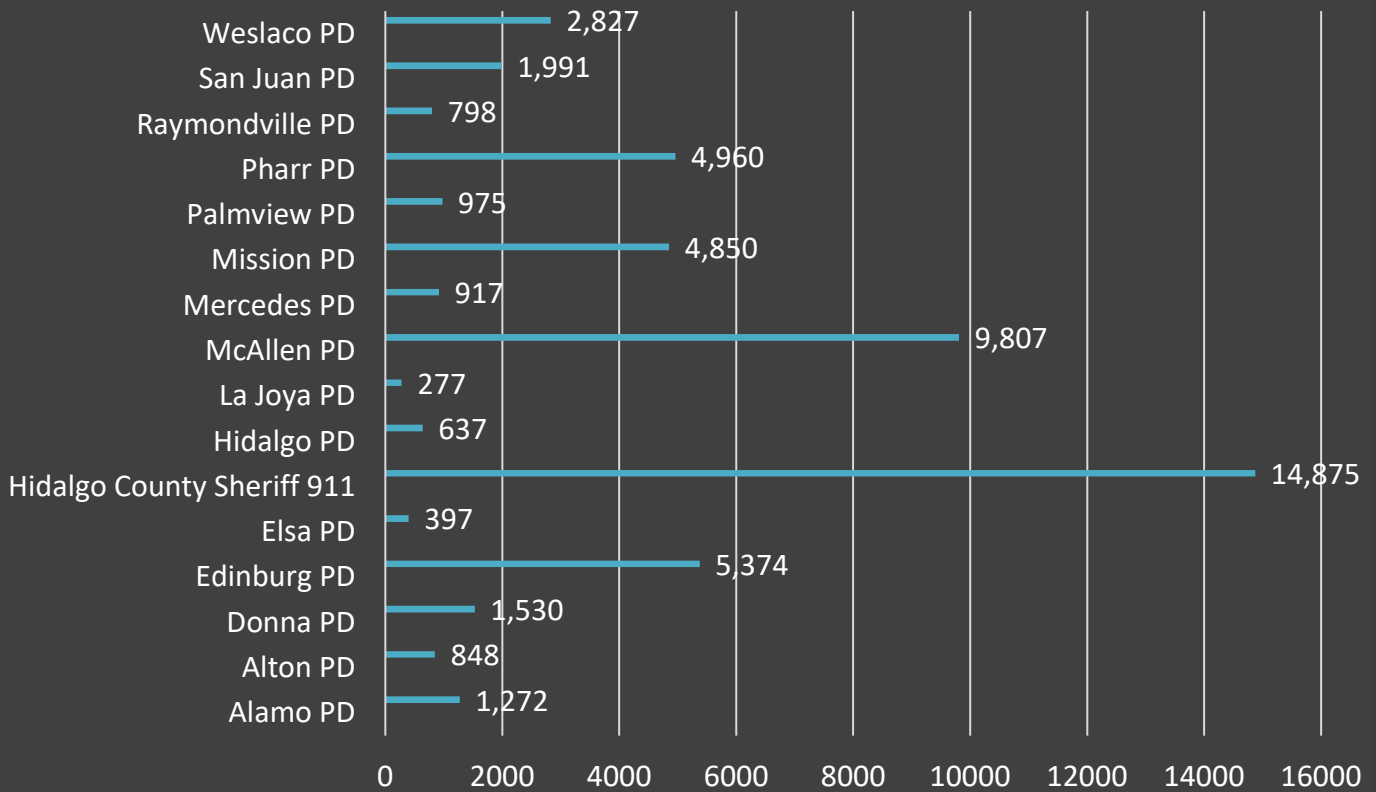
- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The 9-1-1 | Information Technology team recently participated in the LRGVDC Communications Interoperability Tabletop Exercise (TTX) in collaboration with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and various regional/local agencies. The effort was to understand our role during a catastrophic event and how that plan would be implemented if the Rio Grande Valley and surrounding areas were affected.

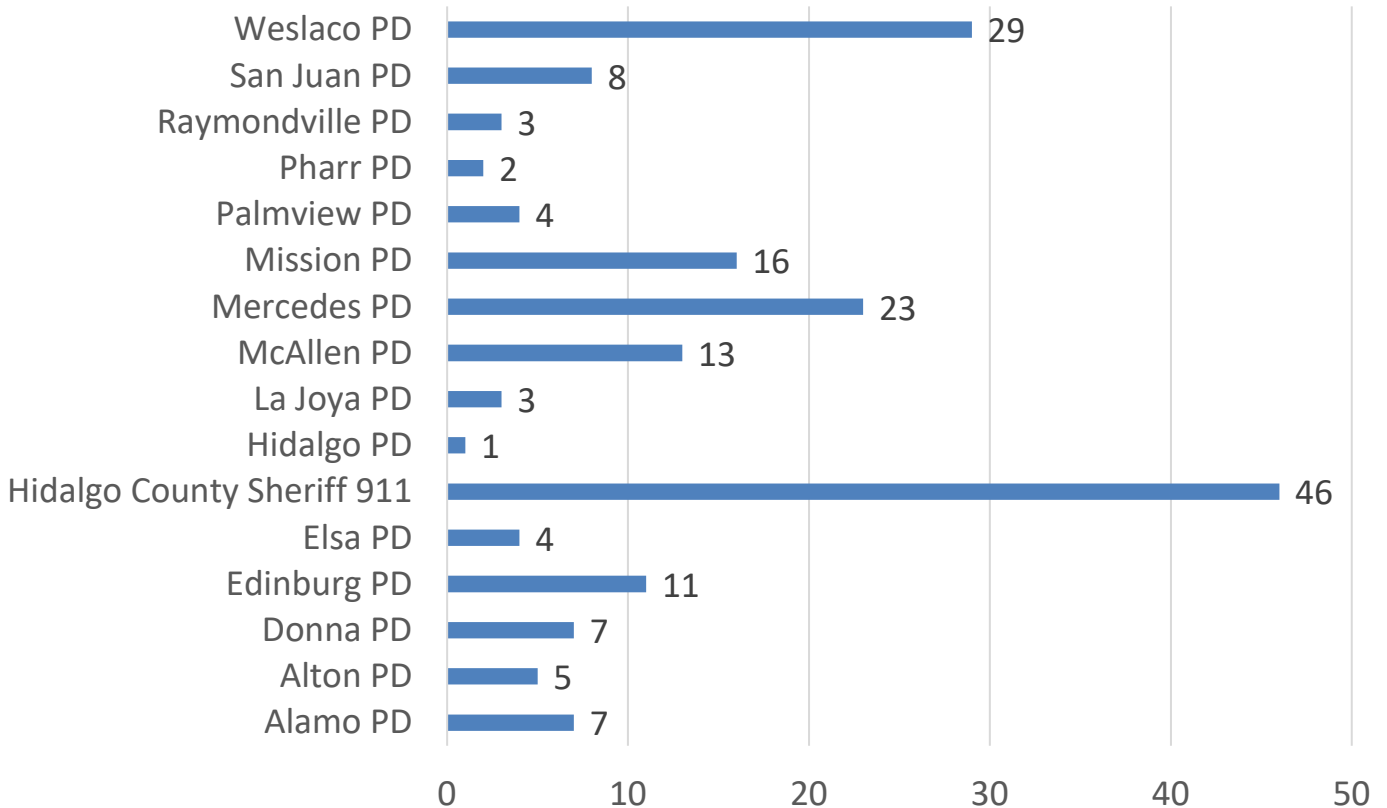
Our team participated in discussions regarding the resiliency of our operations and our teams' ability to prepare, deploy and implement recovery procedures. We learned how our regional agencies communicated during an event and the technology utilized. The exercise gave our 9-1-1 team insight into what areas to research technology-wise to enhance our operations.

Our I. T. team also completed quarterly audits at each of the 17 PSAPs. We are happy to announce that all facilities comply with and operate within our established guidelines. The I.T. team also completed our 2nd Quarter Maintenance program for inventory management, equipment upkeep, and systems checks. We aim to ensure our 9-1-1 call delivery systems are in optimal working order to maintain 99.9% operational efficiency in serving our public safety partners and the community.

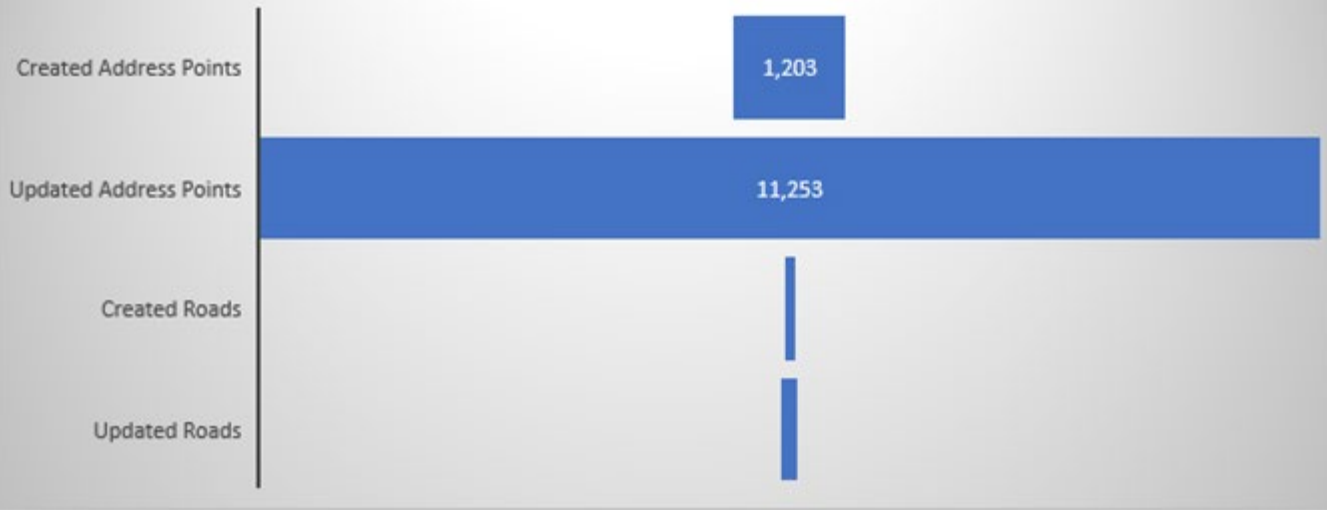
### Call Summary April 2023



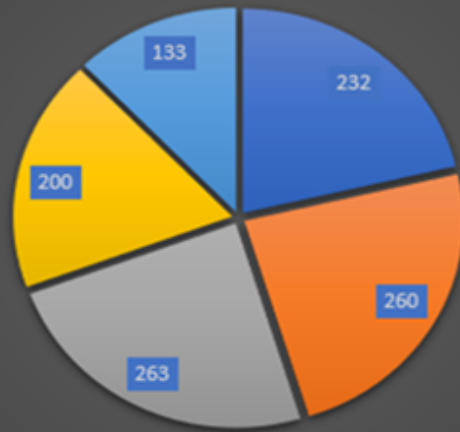
### Text to 9-1-1 Apr 2023



### April - May 2023 Mapping Features



### Address Tickets from January to May 2023



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

### 2023 Total Production : GIS



■ Created Address Points ■ Updated Address Points ■ Created Roads ■ Updated Roads

**ITEM #5. D.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, May 31, 2023

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report ..... Tom Logan  
Director of Regional Transit

- Ridership Report

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

**Breakdown of Ridership** per system:

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM								
Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
VALLEY METRO	24,680	24,278	19,760	18,450	23,027	22,927	26,720	25,018
UTRGV	44,388	46,384	38,037	15,184	24,617	43,506	35,837	38,321
STC	334	292	243	66	243	254	180	191
TSTC	297	315	114	100	88	98	91	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,699</b>	<b>71,269</b>	<b>58,154</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>47,975</b>	<b>66,785</b>	<b>62,828</b>	<b>63,632</b>

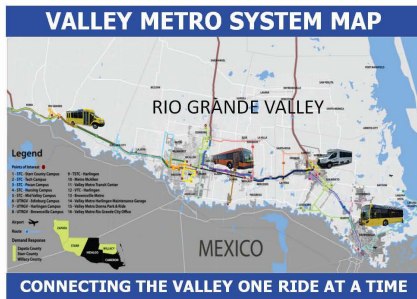
Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity:

- Meetings of the RTAP and RTAP Subcommittee are scheduled bi-monthly to update members on the individual transportation agency’s efforts to better inform the public of the available transportation resources. New members were added to the RTAP committee. The subcommittee continued to address the needs and gaps of the 5-year Transit Plan.
- Valley Metro’s Planning Department staff held outreach events in Donna, Harlingen, and McAllen. The events highlighted the modes of transportation available to the public within their perspective city and region. Staff addressed any concerns, recommendations, or comments the public might have had.



# VALLEY METRO - REGIONAL TRANSIT SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Valley Metro's mission is to provide safe and reliable transportation options that connect our community to opportunity, support economic vitality, and enhance quality of life throughout the Rio Grande Valley.



## Serving the RGV's Five-County Region:

- Cameron
- Hidalgo
- Starr
- Willacy
- Zapata

## Proudly serving:

- General public
- Elderly, over 60
- Persons with Disabilities
- Veterans
- People with Medicare/Medicaid
- Students, Faculty, and Staff from schools and institutions of higher learning

## Types of Systems Provided

- **21 Fixed Routes**  
Providing service in the counties of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Rio Grande City. (with advanced notice, most routes may deviate up to 1/2 mile of the main route)
- **3 RGV Metro Express (limited stops)**  
Connecting Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Port Isabel
- **5 Demand Response**  
Serving Willacy, Starr, and Zapata Counties
- **5 Microtransit-Fast Ride**  
Serving Cameron and Hidalgo County, City of Edinburg, Mission to Sullivan City, and San Benito to Brownsville on Military Road.
- **B-Cycle**  
Available in McAllen, Harlingen, and Brownsville.



## VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

## Valley Metro Fares:

- Regular Fare - \$2.00
- Discounted fares - \$1.00 for the following:
  - Students and faculty,
  - Persons with disability
  - Elderly over 60
  - Veterans
  - Medicare recipients
- 20-Ride Pass - \$20.00
- (\$10.00 with discount)
- Transfers \$1.00
- Other fares vary by service

Passes may be purchased on the bus routes or at LRGVDC 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, TX

## VM Transit Website



Route Maps with locations



ValleyMetro Weslaco

## Ride Systems



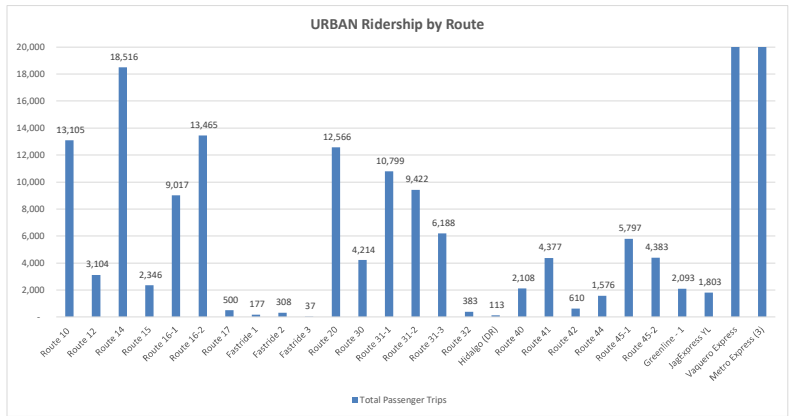
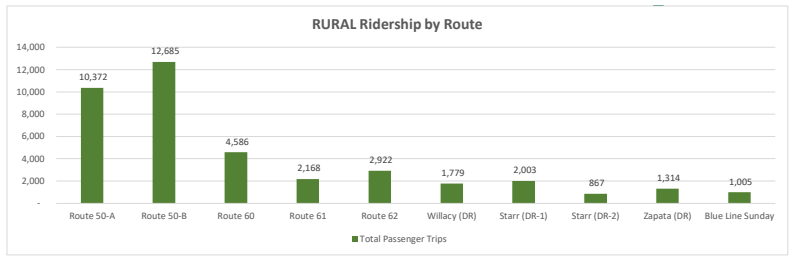
Track our buses in real time



# VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

**RIDERSHIP COUNT  
YEAR TO DATE FY 2023 (April)**

Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
<b>Route 50-A</b>	10,372	2% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
<b>Route 50-B</b>	12,685	3% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
<b>Route 60</b>	4,586	1% Roma, Rio Grande City	
<b>Route 61</b>	2,168	0% Rio Grande City	
<b>Route 62</b>	2,922	1% Rio Grande City	
<b>Willacy (DR)</b>	1,779	0% Willacy County	
<b>Starr (DR-1)</b>	2,003	0% Starr County	
<b>Starr (DR-2)</b>	867	0% Starr County	
<b>Zapata (DR)</b>	1,314	0% Zapata County	
<b>Blue Line Sunday</b>	1,005	0% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
<b>Route 10</b>	13,105	3% Edinburg	
<b>Route 12</b>	3,104	1% Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg	
<b>Route 14</b>	18,516	4% Edinburg	
<b>Route 15</b>	2,346	0% Edinburg	
<b>Route 16-1</b>	9,017	2% Courthouse Circulator	
<b>Route 16-2</b>	13,465	3% Courthouse Circulator	
<b>Route 17</b>	500	0% Edinburg T-line	
<b>Fastride 1</b>	177	0% Edinburg	
<b>Fastride 2</b>	308	0% Hidalgo County	
<b>Fastride 3</b>	37	0% Cameron County	
<b>Route 20</b>	12,566	3% Mission	
<b>Route 30</b>	4,214	1% Pharr, San Juan	
<b>Route 31-1</b>	10,799	2% Cameron-Hidalgo County	
<b>Route 31-2</b>	9,422	2% Hidalgo-Cameron County	
<b>Route 31-3</b>	6,188	1% Cameron-Hidalgo County	
<b>Route 32</b>	383	0% Donna	
<b>Hidalgo (DR)</b>	113	0% City of Hidalgo	
<b>Route 40</b>	2,108	0% Harlingen	
<b>Route 41</b>	4,377	1% Harlingen	
<b>Route 42</b>	610	0% San Benito	
<b>Route 44</b>	1,576	0% Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa	
<b>Route 45-1</b>	5,797	1% Cameron County	
<b>Route 45-2</b>	4,383	1% Cameron County	
<b>Greenline - 1</b>	2,093	0% Rio Grande City	
<b>JagExpress YL</b>	1,803	0% Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen	
<b>Vaquero Express</b>	286,274	60% Edinburg	
<b>Metro Express (3)</b>	21,160	4% Rio Grande Valley	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>474,142</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized</b>

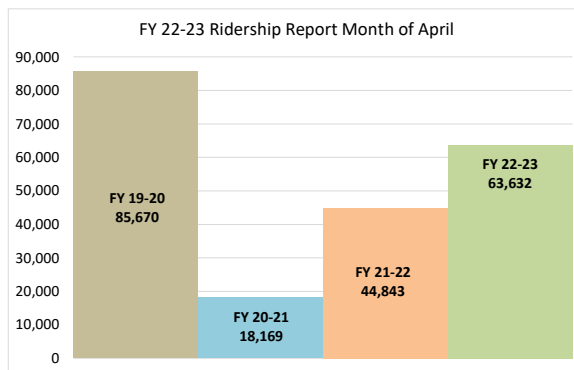


Active Routes	Rural	Urban	Total
<b>Flex Routes</b>	6	18	24
<b>Demand Response</b>	6	4	10
<b>Fixed-Metro Express</b>	0	3	3
	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>

**YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT**

Year to Date -April 2023	Prior Year April 2022	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
<b>474,142</b>	312,584	161,558	52%

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



Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	Difference	%Change
FY 2019-2020	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY 2020-2021	17,149	19,332	16,190	16,072	16,620	14,611	19,300	18,169	18,080	19,842	19,774	31,381	226,520	-608,386	-73%
FY 2021-2022	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	35,091	24,384	430,484	203,964	90%
FY 2022-2023	69,699	71,269	58,154	33,800	47,975	66,785	62,828	63,632	0	0	0	0	474,142	43,658	10%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	27,457	30,711	20,892	6,882	25,742	13,657	17,428	18,789	-28,314	-30,112	-35,091	-24,384	43,658		
Percent Change	65%	76%	56%	26%	116%	26%	38%	42%							



# FY 2022 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

## RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo	28	21	17	20	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	113
Edinburg	7,420	7,093	5,812	3,726	5,936	7,208	8,026	7,865	0	0	0	0	53,086
UTRGV Edinburg	44,388	46,384	38,037	15,184	24,617	43,506	35,837	38,321	0	0	0	0	286,274
Pharr	902	948	676	640	931	929	1,183	1,026	0	0	0	0	7,235
Mission	730	677	523	706	752	620	815	703	0	0	0	0	5,526
McAllen	3,934	3,860	3,173	3,370	4,219	3,403	4,149	3,905	0	0	0	0	30,013
San Carlos	27	44	47	32	28	30	32	35	0	0	0	0	275
Elsa	50	42	43	52	54	59	70	71	0	0	0	0	441
Edcouch	29	19	21	42	25	22	28	38	0	0	0	0	224
La Villa	26	28	23	34	44	21	26	24	0	0	0	0	226
San Juan	297	320	282	304	367	340	426	493	0	0	0	0	2,829
Alamo	275	289	260	301	337	268	350	278	0	0	0	0	2,358
Donna	269	240	191	279	467	370	393	425	0	0	0	0	2,634
Weslaco	807	746	603	485	800	695	762	712	0	0	0	0	5,610
Mercedes	178	178	207	279	209	173	227	300	0	0	0	0	1,751
La Feria	122	104	88	132	169	171	189	209	0	0	0	0	1,184
Harlingen	1,560	1,467	1,356	1,474	1,549	1,678	2,014	1,859	0	0	0	0	12,957
San Benito	172	134	151	272	216	310	319	259	0	0	0	0	1,833
Brownsville	3,836	3,899	2,921	3,037	3,219	2,949	3,553	3,292	0	0	0	0	26,706
Santa Rosa	45	17	51	54	64	87	79	54	0	0	0	0	451
Los Fresnos	338	333	255	251	282	270	230	238	0	0	0	0	2,197
Laguna Vista	184	216	138	173	235	218	187	195	0	0	0	0	1,546
Laguna Heights	207	199	127	216	205	163	226	198	0	0	0	0	1,541
Port Isabel	1,220	1,294	860	990	1,291	1,126	1,360	1,171	0	0	0	0	9,312
Rio Grande City	1,937	1,921	1,559	1,075	1,187	1,410	1,422	1,258	0	0	0	0	11,769
Willacy County	243	250	230	198	178	229	261	190	0	0	0	0	1,779
Starr County	315	384	362	297	364	347	425	376	0	0	0	0	2,870
Zapata County	155	159	141	164	175	173	220	127	0	0	0	0	1,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,699</b>	<b>71,269</b>	<b>58,154</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>47,975</b>	<b>66,785</b>	<b>62,828</b>	<b>63,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>474,142</b>

### RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	24,680	24,278	19,760	18,450	23,027	22,927	26,720	25,018	0	0	0	0	184,860
UTRGV	44,388	46,384	38,037	15,184	24,617	43,506	35,837	38,321	0	0	0	0	286,274
STC	334	292	243	66	243	254	180	191	0	0	0	0	1,803
TSTC	297	315	114	100	88	98	91	102	0	0	0	0	1,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,699</b>	<b>71,269</b>	<b>58,154</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>47,975</b>	<b>66,785</b>	<b>62,828</b>	<b>63,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>474,142</b>

### RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Rural	5,900	6,104	4,587	4,473	5,029	4,998	5,713	4,990	0	0	0	0	41,794
Urban	63,799	65,165	53,567	29,327	42,946	61,787	57,115	58,642	0	0	0	0	432,348
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,699</b>	<b>71,269</b>	<b>58,154</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>47,975</b>	<b>66,785</b>	<b>62,828</b>	<b>63,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>474,142</b>

### RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

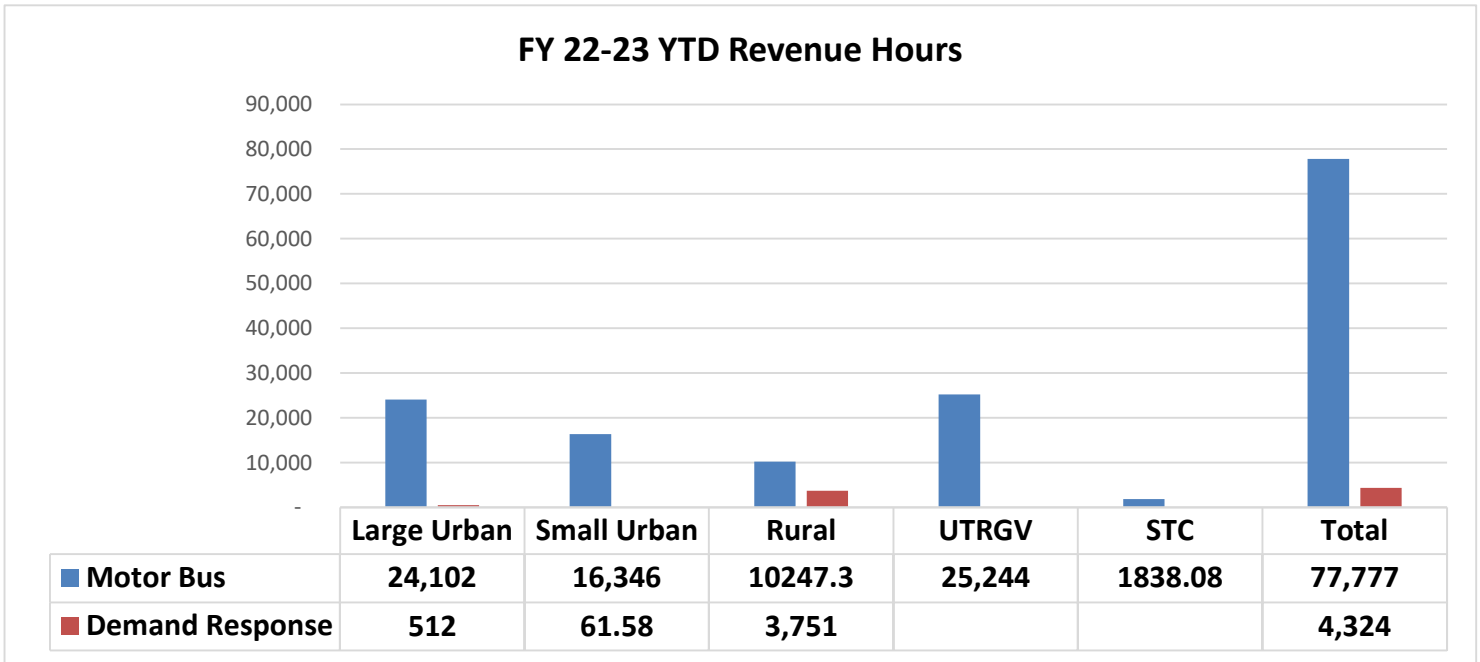
COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	59,365	60,892	49,915	25,460	38,819	57,644	52,328	54,199	0	0	0	0	398,622
Cameron County	7,684	7,663	5,947	6,606	7,252	6,982	8,172	7,482	0	0	0	0	57,788
Willacy County	243	250	230	198	178	229	261	190	0	0	0	0	1,779
Starr County	2,252	2,305	1,921	1,372	1,551	1,757	1,847	1,634	0	0	0	0	14,639
Zapata County	155	159	141	164	175	173	220	127	0	0	0	0	1,314
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,699</b>	<b>71,269</b>	<b>58,154</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>47,975</b>	<b>66,785</b>	<b>62,828</b>	<b>63,632</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>474,142</b>

**Year to Date 2022-2023**

**Distribution of Revenue Hours**

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	24,102	16,346	10247.3	25,244	1838.08	77,777
Demand Response	512	61.58	3,751			4,324

**FY 22-23 YTD Revenue Hours**

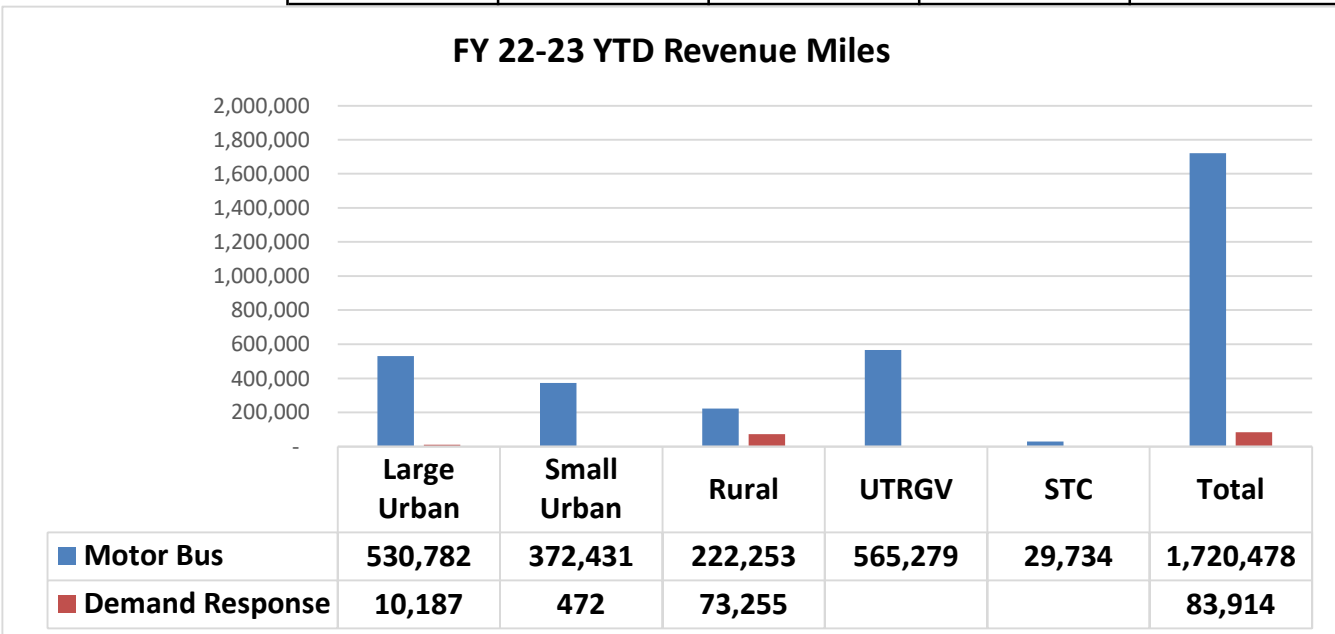


**Year to Date 2022-2023**

**Distribution of Revenue Miles**

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	530,782	372,431	222,253	565,279	29,734	1,720,478
Demand Response	10,187	472	73,255			83,914

**FY 22-23 YTD Revenue Miles**





# FY 2022-2023 Valley Metro

## TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	31-3	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	0	0	0	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	37	1	179	64	297
October	0	0	0	4	19	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	255	35	315
November	0	0	0	12	19	0	0	1	0	0	0	11	66	5	114
December	0	0	0	5	9	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	62	18	100
January	0	0	0	1	28	3	0	0	0	2	0	3	46	5	88
February	0	0	0	0	23	13	0	5	0	14	0	0	41	2	98
March	0	0	4	6	41	11	0	4	0	5	0	5	13	2	91
April	2	1	7	6	21	15	0	3	1	5	0	0	36	5	102
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1,205</b>
<b>FY 2021-2022</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>162</b>
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	9	35	174	44	0	-13	0	26	37	23	680	45	1,043

	Sept.	Oct.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	243	290	350	71	80	51	43	15	41	0	0	0	0	1,184
Indirect Routes	54	25	25	43	20	37	55	76	61	0	0	0	0	396
Monthly Total	297	315	375	114	100	88	98	91	102	0	0	0	0	1,580

### 2022 - 2023 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count

