

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, June 29, 2022, 12:00 noon

Audio access is available by calling: 1 (872) 240-3212, Access Code: 817-593-181

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 (May 25, 2022) -----President

Item #3: Public Comment

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

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Appoint Board Designee and Alternate to Texas
Association of Regional Councils (TARC)..... President
- B. Presentation on AmeriCorp VISTA Program..... Daniel Jones & Christian Verdin
Portfolio Manager
- C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Procurement of Payroll and
Human Resources System.....Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

- D. Executive Director Report..... Manuel Cruz
Executive Director
1. Introduction of New Staff Members
 2. Staff Recognition for Years of Service
 3. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development Rick Carrera Director

Program Status Reports

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

B. Health & Human Services Margarita Lopez Director

Area Agency on Aging Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Contractor for Direct Purchase Services Pool
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Add Respite Services to Current Contractor
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Amend Contractor Rates for Stay Healthy Home Care, Inc.

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Reports

- CDC Vaccine Outreach Project
- Care Coordination
- Caregiver Support Services
- Benefit Counseling
- Information, referral, and Assistance
- Subrecipient Report
- Senior Center Operations
- Community Partnerships
- Staffing
- Harlingen Satellite Office

C. Public Safety

Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Status ReportsRene Perez
Program Supervisor

Regional Police Academy Status Reports.....Randall Snyder
Director

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Reports ... Dennis Moreno
Program Supervisor RGV911

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

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

Valley Metro Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Addition of Fuel Card Use Procedure Section to Transit Operating Policies & Procedures Manual

Valley Metro Status Reports

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

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report

Item #6: New or Unfinished Business

Item #7: Adjourn

REMINDER

No meeting Scheduled in July

Next Meetings:
Wednesday, August 31, 2022

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

The Board of Directors of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive (Closed) session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the items listed on this agenda as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapters 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.075, Texas Government Code. No final action will be taken in Executive Session.

PUBLIC INPUT POLICY:

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

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

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

PRESIDING: PRESIDENT AURELIO GUERRA

- DRAFT -

President Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:29 pm. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

President Guerra then moved to item #2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (April 27, 2022). ***Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve the April 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

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

A. Consideration and Action on Recommendations from Nominating Committee

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

President Guerra stated that the Nominating Committee recommends the following five (5) persons for election as Members-at-Large to the General Membership:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr. Noel Bernal	Brownsville	Cameron
Mr. Chris Gonzalez	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Sergio Contreras	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
Com. Maria Gonzalez	Lyford	Willacy

Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the slate of Members-at-Large to the General Membership as presented. Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Three (3) At-Large Members to be Elected to the 2022-2023 Board of Directors

President Guerra stated that the Nominating Committee recommends the following individuals to fill the three (3) at-Large seats on the Board of Directors for 2022-2023:

NAME	CITY	COUNTY
Mr. Eleazar Garcia, Jr.	Raymondville	Willacy
Mr. Sergio Contreras	Mission	Hidalgo
Mr. Jim Darling	McAllen	Hidalgo

B. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that five (5) new staff members have recently joined Valley Metro and the RGV9-1-1:

- Mr. Hector Martinez, Valley Metro Vehicle Driver I – Non CDL
- Mr. Eliud De La Rosa, Valley Metro Electronics Technician I
- Ms. Jessica Moreno, Valley Metro Payroll Specialist I
- Ms. Amanda Irachteta, Valley Metro Customer Service Representative I – Mobility
- Ms. Angela Alvarado, RGV9-1-1 Executive Assistant I

2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings and Legislation

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that a comprehensive list that includes pertinent regional news and legislative updates was included in the meeting packet for review.

Upon conclusion of the Executive Director Report, President Guerra then moved to item 5: Department Reports.

A. Community & Economic Development

Mr. Rick Carrera Director of Community & Economic Development was recognized to address the following:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Texas Community Development Block Grant Priorities 2023-2024

Mr. Carrera reported that of the original funding priorities for the Texas Department of Agriculture CDBG, this funding is for non-entitlement cities. Staff held a public meeting on May 18 to establish regional priorities for TDA CDBG funding. The priorities were established as follows:

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

Mr. Carrera noted that these priorities are identical to those of the last funding cycle of 2021-2022. ***Mayor Rick Salinas made a motion to approve the Texas CDBG grant priorities 2023-2024 as presented. Commissioner David Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Carrera announced that this year's Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection event is scheduled for this Saturday, May 28 and he thanked participating cities for promoting this event. He also highlighted recent activities of the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) and announced that the Watershed Protection Plan meeting is scheduled for June 30, which will have a workshop format. Mr. Carrera and Mr. Jim Darling provided the current reservoir levels, they noted that they are still low, but due to the recent heavy rain, the level went up 1 percentage point,

however, the region remains in drought. The detailed Community & Economic Development status report is available for review in the meeting packet.

B. Health & Human Services

Ms. Margarita Lopez, Director of Area Agency on Aging was recognized to address the following:

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Item

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Contractor for Direct Purchase Services

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to add Calidad Home Health to the Area Agency on Aging's contractor pool for Homemaker and Respite services. Case Managers utilize these contractors to purchase services for their clients. ***Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to approve adding Calidad Home Health to the Direct Purchase Service contractor pool as presented. Councilman Johnny Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Ms. Lopez provided the status on the CDC Vaccine Outreach Project, the April 2022 Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Care Coordination, Caregiver Support Services, Benefit Counseling, Management Transition, Staffing, and the Harlingen Satellite Office.

C. Public Safety

Program Action Items

Program Supervisor Rene Perez was recognized to address the following Action item:

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Purchase of Hurricane Preparedness Items

Mr. Perez stated that staff recommends approval to purchase hurricane preparedness items in the amount of \$34,000. If approved, these items will be purchased through Homeland Security Grant #2968007, the funds from which must be expended before August 31, 2022. The purchase will include hurricane and natural disaster materials which will be beneficial to Valley residents in the event of a disaster. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to approve the purchase of hurricane preparedness items as requested. Mayor Rick Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Perez gave the Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program status reports.

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that the Regional Police Academy status reports were available for review in the meeting packet.

Mr. Joe Garcia, Program Supervisor for the RGV9-1-1, was recognized and gave the status reports on the GIS Division, Public Education Activities and the Systems and Public Safety Answering Point Operations.

D. Transportation

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Procurement of Bike Helmets for RGV Traffic Safety Initiative

Ms. Eva Garcia, Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's Planner III – Bike/Ped Program Coordinator out of the Brownsville office was recognized. She informed the Board that the RGVMPPO received a TxDOT Traffic Safety grant to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety through the distribution of safety materials such as helmets and lights, in addition to hosting two (2) traffic safety trainings for law enforcement, and two (2) traffic safety trainings for planners and engineers. To meet the objectives of this grant, staff is proposing the procurement of youth and adult bicycle helmets for distribution throughout the Rio Grande Valley. The cost of this procurement will be \$27,750. Staff would like to purchase the helmets and lights as outreach materials to encourage safety and help reduce the number of serious injuries and fatalities among cyclists. Staff requested two (2) quotes from two (2) different vendors under the Texas DIR Cooperative Contracts and have confirmed that this vendor will meet all the needs and requirements. The cost of this purchase will be reimbursed through the TxDOT Traffic Safety grant. The Board asked if this purchase will be made through local vendors. Ms. Garcia stated that TxDOT has many federal procurement requirements and staff had to meet certain federal codes and requirements which brings the challenge of procurement locally. Ms. Garcia clarified that this procurement is through a BuyBoard contract and not the DIR Cooperative Contract noted above. Ms. Garcia stated that the procurement had a long compliance process with TxDOT. Being able to buy locally would require some assistance with TxDOT's procurement office and suggested having a BuyBoard training for local bike shops and other businesses. Upon conclusion of discussion, ***Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion to approve the procurement of bike helmets and lights for the RGV Traffic Safety Initiative as requested. Ms. Lupita Sanchez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

RGVMPO Status Report

No status report was available at this time.

Valley Metro Program Status Reports

Valley Metro Director Maribel Contreras was recognized and provided the current status of the Valley Metro program. She reminded the Board that fare collection began on April 1 and in that month \$51,433.59 in fares have been collected. She brought the Board's attention to the Ridership Counts presented on the screen and stated that ridership in April was down slightly by 1%. This slight reduction might be related to the implementation of fares and also the normal fluctuation in ridership.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business

Mr. Cruz presented Judge Guerra with a gavel plaque in appreciation for the year he served as our Board President. Judge Guerra thanked the Board Members and staff for the experience of conducting meetings with members so professional and dedicated to their areas of expertise and communities. He stated that this experience gave him a greater understanding of how far reaching the LRGVDC's impact is, and the significant positive effect it has made in the region. He is glad to be a part of it.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Guerra called for a motion to adjourn. ***Councilman Johnny Garcia made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Troy Allen seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 pm.***

Judge Aurelio Guerra, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

ITEM #4. A.

ADMINISTRATION

**TARC
REPRESENTATIVE**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

June 29, 2022

Item #4: Administration

- A. Consideration and **ACTION** to Appoint Designee and Alternate to
Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC)..... Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

It is time to consider our Board Member appointments for TARC. Currently our designated representative is Commissioner David Garza and Mr. Jim Darling serves as the alternate.

Thank you for your consideration of this item and please let us know should you have any questions

ITEM #4. C.

ADMINISTRATION

**PROCUREMENT OF
PAYROLL & HR
SYSTEM**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

June 29, 2022

Item #4: Administration

- C. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Procurement of
Payroll and Human Resources System Manuel Cruz
Executive Director

The LRGVDC requests approval to purchase and upgrade to a current and more efficient Payroll and Human Resources management software & services system. The cost of the management software and services for the system we recommend is \$55,614.75 initially with a onetime implementation fee of \$15,901.00. Subsequently, the annual cost is estimated at \$60,843.25 annually, however, that annual estimate is forecasted based on a 175 headcount of employees, so the monthly billing will fluctuate based on the total employees on a yearly basis.

The current payroll and Human Resource system is practically nonexistent, and a new more efficient system is needed. A cost analysis was conducted with two vendors submitting quotes. The vendor selected was Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP), which is under a purchasing cooperative that the LRGVDC is eligible to use (National IPA Technology Solutions (Omnia Partners) Contract# R200701 and this vendor will meet all of our needs and procurement requirements. This was a budgeted item under LRGVDC indirect costs.

The pricing page of the quote is attached. The full quote with specifications is available on the LRGVDC website meeting page at: <https://www.lrgvdc.org/meetings.html>

Staff recommends approval.

Investment Summary

Quote Number
02-2022-273590 3



Company Information

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development
Council
301 W Railroad St
Weslaco, TX 78596-5104
United States

Executive Contact

Armando Perez Jr
Contract Number R200701
aperezjr@lrgvdc.org
(956) 682-3481



175

Total
Employees



\$15,901.00

Implementation
Costs



\$60,843.25

Total Annual
Investment



(\$4,388.50)

Total Annual Savings during
promotional period; See Terms

Expiration

7/1/2022

ADP Sales Associate

Matt Cochran
BPO DM
matt.cochran@adp.com

** This Investment Summary has been made available for illustration purposes only and shall not become incorporated into or made a part of any sales order or services agreement governing the services contemplated thereby.

ITEM #4. D.

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

June 29, 2022

This report contains a number of 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.

Broadband Resources

Broadband Development Office (BDO) Releases State Broadband Plan

The Comptroller's Office has released its [Texas Broadband Plan 2022](#). We continue to review the report but we are pleased to see regional councils of government included in the report. The report points out that public testimony during the listening tour highlighted the importance of regional collaboration to pool resources, increase efficiencies, avoid redundancies and streamline processes. In addition, the Broadband Development Office (BDO) states it is planning for outreach meetings that include the 24 councils of government. We would like to hear your thoughts and do not forget to let us know what your jurisdiction is up to with regards to broadband.

Texas Rural Funders Resource

The Texas Rural Funders published ["Get Connected Y'all: A Guide for Texas Communities on Security Broadband"](#) and councils of government are highlighted in a section about enlisting help.

EDA's New Funding Opportunity: Economic Recovery Corps and Equity Impact Investments Programs

This NOFO funds **two distinct national programs** designed to support [underserved communities and populations](#) across the country in developing successful economic development plans and projects.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY \(NOFO\)](#)

- The **Economic Recovery Corps** program will add staff resources to local organizations focused on improving economic resilience and competitiveness in distressed regions across the country. (NOFO pages 4-8)
 - The [Economic Recovery Corps](#) program seeks a Network Operator (an organization or coalition) to build, launch, and operate an economic development fellowship program in cooperation with EDA. The program would recruit and place at least 50-75 fellows in economic development organizations in underserved communities throughout the

nation to help communities that face limited resources and staff build more equitable, resilient, and future-focused economies and industry clusters. The Economic Recovery Corps program will also provide information and analysis from across the country to accelerate the adoption of equitable economic development principles.

- EDA seeks to award one grant to a Network Operator between \$20 million and \$25 million, with a five-year period of performance. For more information about evaluation criteria, desired outcomes, and other program information, [click here](#).
 - **Deadline to apply:** August 5, 2022
 - A webinar about this funding opportunity will be held on Thursday, June 23 at 1:30 p.m. EDT. [RSVP HERE for the webinar](#).
 - Questions? Email networks@eda.gov.
- The **Equity Impact Investments** program will provide technical assistance to enable organizations serving underserved populations and communities to participate in economic development planning and projects. (*NOFO pages 8-11*)
 - The [Equity Impact Investments](#) program seeks an applicant to build capacity and knowledge within organizations serving [underserved populations and communities](#) to help them effectively participate in local economic development efforts and strengthen their engagement in economic development initiatives. Representation of all underserved communities is critical for economic development, and this program intends to create the understanding, resources, and intersections for long-lasting relationships.
 - This program also aims to enhance the ability of current EDA grantees to support underserved populations and communities. EDA is seeking applicants with a proven track
 - record of effectively working with, conducting outreach to, and delivering outcomes for these communities.
 - Funding for the program is between \$3 million and \$10 million and will be dependent on reach, impact and number of grants awarded. Ideal budget requests per grant is between \$3 million to \$6 million. For more information about evaluation criteria, desired outcomes, and other program information, [click here](#).
 - **Deadline to apply:** August 5, 2022
 - A webinar about this funding opportunity will be held on Wednesday, June 22 at 2 p.m. EDT. [RSVP HERE for the webinar](#).
 - Questions? Email EquityImpact@eda.gov

TDA Extending 2022 Grant Application Deadlines

Downtown Revitalization Program – Program Year 2022

Description: The DRP program objective is to provide infrastructure improvements to address the conditions that contribute to the deterioration in an area designated as slum or blighted in the applicant community's downtown or main street area.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible non-entitlement municipalities

Award Amounts: \$250,000 to \$500,000, with matching funds anticipated based on community size

Application Method: [TDA-GO](#) grant management system

Application Deadline: ~~July 8, 2022~~ **July 15, 2022**

Request for Application Guide and other information: [TxCDBG webpage](#).

Colonia Fund: Construction – Program Year 2022

Description: The Colonia Fund - Construction provides eligible applicants with grants to fund water and wastewater improvements, housing rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income households, the payment of assessments levied against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income to recover the capital cost for a public improvement and other improvements including street paving and drainage.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible non-entitlement county applicants for projects in severely distressed unincorporated areas which meet the TxCDBG definition as a “colonia”.

Award Amounts: \$150,000 to \$1,000,000, with matching funds anticipated based on community size

Application Method: [TDA-GO](#) grant management system

Application Deadline: ~~July 8, 2022~~ **July 15, 2022**

Request for Application Guide and other information: [TxCDBG webpage](#).

Fire Ambulance and Service Truck (FAST) Fund – Program Year 2022

Description: The Fire, Ambulance, & Service Truck (FAST) Fund provides funds for eligible vehicles to provide emergency response and special services to rural communities.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible non-entitlement county applicants for projects in severely distressed unincorporated areas which meet the TxCDBG definition as a “colonia”.

Award Amounts: \$50,000 to \$750,000, with \$7,500 required matching funds

Application Method: [TDA-GO](#) grant management system

Application Deadline: July 29, 2022

Request for Application Guide and other information: [TxCDBG webpage](#).

OMB issues information on Single Audit Compliance Requirements for ARPA Recovery Funds and ERA Program

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently published the [2022 Compliance Supplement](#), which outlines information on how to conduct Single Audits for federal programs, including [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Fiscal Recovery Fund](#) (Recovery Fund) investments and the [Emergency Rental Assistance \(ERA\) Program](#). Federal law requires counties that invested \$750,000 or more in federal funds within its fiscal year to have an auditor conduct Single Audits of these expenditures.

- Key takeaways for auditors from the Compliance Supplement related to county Recovery Fund investments include:
 - Auditors must use Part 3 of the [OMB Compliance Supplement](#) (pages 27–126) and the [Recovery Fund program supplement](#) to perform the audit
 - Counties must comply with the [Final Rule](#) effective as of April 1, 2022
 - Auditors must audit recipients on funds they expended for their fiscal year 2022 based on requirements set forth in the American Rescue Plan as well as Treasury’s Interim Final Rule, Final Rule and Frequently Asked Questions that were in effect at the time of those expenditures.
 - Treasury will not take action to enforce against uses of the Interim Final Rule if a use of funds is consistent with the terms of the Final Rule, regardless of when the funds were used

- Notably, OMB also released [guidance](#) earlier this year allowing counties that received less than \$10 million in Recovery Funds and spent less than \$750,000 of non-ARPA federal in a single fiscal year to opt for attestation instead of audit under the Single Audit Act. This process would evaluate counties based on two compliance factors: (1) whether the county uses Recovery Funds for eligible uses and (2) whether the county properly reports costs incurred by the pandemic.
- For audits associated with the ERA program, auditors must also use Part 3 of the [OMB Compliance Supplement](#) (pages 27–126) and the [ERA program supplement](#) in their evaluations.
- The OMB Compliance Supplement for the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Fund program can be found [here](#) and the supplement for the Emergency Rental Assistance program can be found [here](#).

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Staff continue to meet with regional EDOs concerning the planning of projects that will provide economic impact. Meetings have included site tours of potential projects in the area, getting first-hand views of project potential while meeting with all involved with potential project development. Technical assistance continues to be provided as well as beneficial workshops and outreach. Staff continue to monitor opportunities that will potentially be made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and will continue to disseminate that information as it becomes available. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to disseminate information accordingly.

Staff hosted the U.S. House Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, and their Field Hearing Titled “Infrastructure Investment: Building Economic Resilience in South Texas”. The hearing consisted of a bipartisan congressional delegation that heard directly from local leaders, community members, and experts about the challenges Deep South Texas faces in building and accessing the modern infrastructure necessary to grow the local economy and benefit the full community.

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

- Pandemic Response

Staff and the contracted consulting firm, Thomas P. Miller & Associates (TPMA) continue with outreach strategies with stakeholders and residents of the Rio Grande Valley. The proactive outreach will ensure that people have heard about the study, and the process initiates interest in the project and ensures the highest levels of participation and ultimately gets consent for the plan. Another step in the process that has been ongoing is engagement strategies that include both on-site and virtual methods. TPMA will identify participants to include a broad representation of regional interests and diverse perspectives. An online survey was emailed, and one-on-one interviews were conducted as well. TPMA will continue soliciting and receiving input and feedback as we move forward.

Save the Date! The Resources for Community Economic Recovery workshop is scheduled for July 14, 2022, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. State and Federal agencies will be on hand to provide information, engage with attendees in “speed rounds” and in break-out sessions. Representatives will be present in-person and virtually providing attendees the opportunity to connect with the State and Federal agencies.

The LRGVDC continues to be proactive as a liaison between various governmental levels and stakeholders. Staff have had discussions with area EDOs on further potential initiatives to help with resiliency efforts including the recruitment and marketing efforts needed for new investment in the area. Staff have also brought together and coordinated efforts between governmental, workforce, higher education, and other entities to encourage collaboration on funding opportunities and other initiatives to address workforce needs and other facets of local economic development. Participation in local area economic development groups continue as well to further provide regional efforts. Resiliency efforts for the regional tourism industry continues to be a focus also, utilizing Explore RGV as a springboard for marketing efforts. See the Explore RGV updates further in this report for details.

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

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

- Regional Small Cities Coalition

A Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Hybrid meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2022, at 10:00 am in the Ken Jones Executive Board Room (Building B) at 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco TX. A virtual option via GoToMeeting will also be available. You may find the link on www.lrgvdc.org under calendar of events. Meeting agenda will be provided when finalized.

- Explore RGV

Explore RGV is reaching its final phases of development. The app is currently in its redesign stage which explains the temporary inability to download. However, branding initiatives are underway to capture audiences and prepare them for the relaunch upon completion of the app's creative design. Currently Explore RGV is being integrated to form part of the National Travel Campaign by Texas Tourism. This integration also includes area attractions partners and the local hospitality industry. Explore RGV extended invitations to these groups specifically, which will increase their exposure as well in the campaign. The campaign will provide

exposure through extensive geographical expansion, which will in turn captivate diverse audiences regionally and nationally. Our creative assets have been developed to promote Explore RGV as well as the many attractions throughout Cameron County and other areas of the region.

The other aspects of the campaign continue to make excellent progress. The website revisions are continuing, along with development and improvements to the application. Enhancements to both platforms are occurring concurrently. As progress continues with the creative design, other aspects of the project are also coming along nicely. Staff continue to meet with tourism leaders across the region as well as hospitality executives to further strengthen relationships and verify where Explore RGV can assist in resiliency and recovery efforts utilizing the revisions of the app and website. Efforts to utilize Explore RGV to promote the CCRMA, the Museum of South Texas History, Estero Llano State Park and the South Texas EcoTourism Center continue, and other attractions are in the process of being included to promote regional tourism. Discussions with McAllen CVB, Brownsville CVB, Weslaco Chamber, South Padre Island CVB and Chamber continue with positive results and initiatives to create further economic activity in the region. Additionally, collaborations with other area tourism advocates such as Welcome Home RGV will progress towards beneficial programs and promotions for the area Winter Texan market segment. The activities and efforts will be beneficial in the encouragement of regional leisure travel and visitation of the many venues available in the area which contribute to the overall economic growth of the region.

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

Visit our Community & Economic Development department webpage at <http://www.lrgvdc.org/community.html>. There you can find information and resources on the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) funding opportunities. Eligible applicants are non-entitlement general purpose units of local government including cities and counties that are not participating or designated as eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG). Non-entitlement cities that are not participating in urban county programs through existing participation agreements are eligible applicants (unless the city's population is counted towards the urban county CDBG allocation). Staff have disseminated information on CDBG funding available to area communities and stakeholders and have been available for any questions related to the funding opportunities.

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

- Solid Waste Management Program

The 2022 Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection Event was held on Saturday, May 28, 2022. There was a total of 36 participants and 44 collection sites. The Executive Director and staff visited several collection sites and collected some tires they saw on the side of the road and properly dispose of them at the collection sites. Some

cities have reported their tire count and so far, an estimated 13,000 tires have been collected. Staff is currently compiling data for the number of tires collected for this event.

The scrap tire study being conducted is progressing very well. Data from a variety of sources including local data, TCEQ, United States Tire Manufacturer's Association (USTMA), and others has been obtained, while taking into account the various factors impacting tire disposal in this area. The study will progress to the next steps which includes the use of local tires for tire-derived fuel sources and other markets. The more immediate next steps will consist of further data obtainment and analyzation in order to fully grasp quantities of improperly disposed tires, and other issues not yet discussed that are important to the study.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Waste Permits Division conducted a program monitoring visit on June 7, 2022, at the City of Alamo and on June 8, 2022, at the LRGVDC to review the solid waste program records and performance under solid waste contract #582-20-10215 (FY 2020/2021). The objective of the review was to conduct record reviews and a project site visit. TCEQ was very pleased with both the visit at the City of Alamo and the LRGVDC desk review of the records for the FY 2020/2021 contract.

The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting is scheduled for August 23, 2022, at 10:00 am.

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.

- Water Quality Program

Staff continue to educate the public on water quality issues for the month of June with the theme "Storm Prep". You can find educational social media postings on the LRGVDC Facebook page. Outreach efforts for this program include staff attending in-person events.

Staff continue to support the Fresh Water Flows Project for four (4) water quality monitoring stations where Real Time Hydrologic Stations are installed within the LRGV main outflow drains. Updates on this project occur on a regular basis, and progress on data collection and other aspects of this project are good. Staff also continue to regularly communicate with representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 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.

JOIN US! The Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Watershed Protection Plan hybrid meeting is scheduled for June 30, 2022, at 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, in the Ken Jones Executive Board Room (Building B) at 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco TX. A virtual option via GoToMeeting will also be available by clicking on the following link: <https://meet.goto.com/CommEconDev>

You can also dial in using your phone by calling [\(224\) 501-3412](tel:(224)501-3412) using access code: 350-842-829

- Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee

A Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2022, at 10:00 am, at 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco TX. A virtual option via GoToMeeting will also be available. You may find the meeting link on www.lrgvdc.org under calendar of events. Meeting agenda will be provided when finalized.

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The Region M water planning group met on April 6, 2022. The consultant engineering firm Black & Veatch provided draft projections from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for livestock, manufacturing, and steam electric, draft municipal Water User Groups, and historical data from TWDB, and discussion of potential subcommittees for the current planning cycle. Additional topics of discussion included a potential amendment to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan, status of joint groundwater area planning in Groundwater Management Areas (GMA) 13 and 16, reports from other regional water planning groups, a status update on the Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC), updates from TWDB, IBWC, and status of area reservoirs.

The next meeting of the Region M Group is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 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>

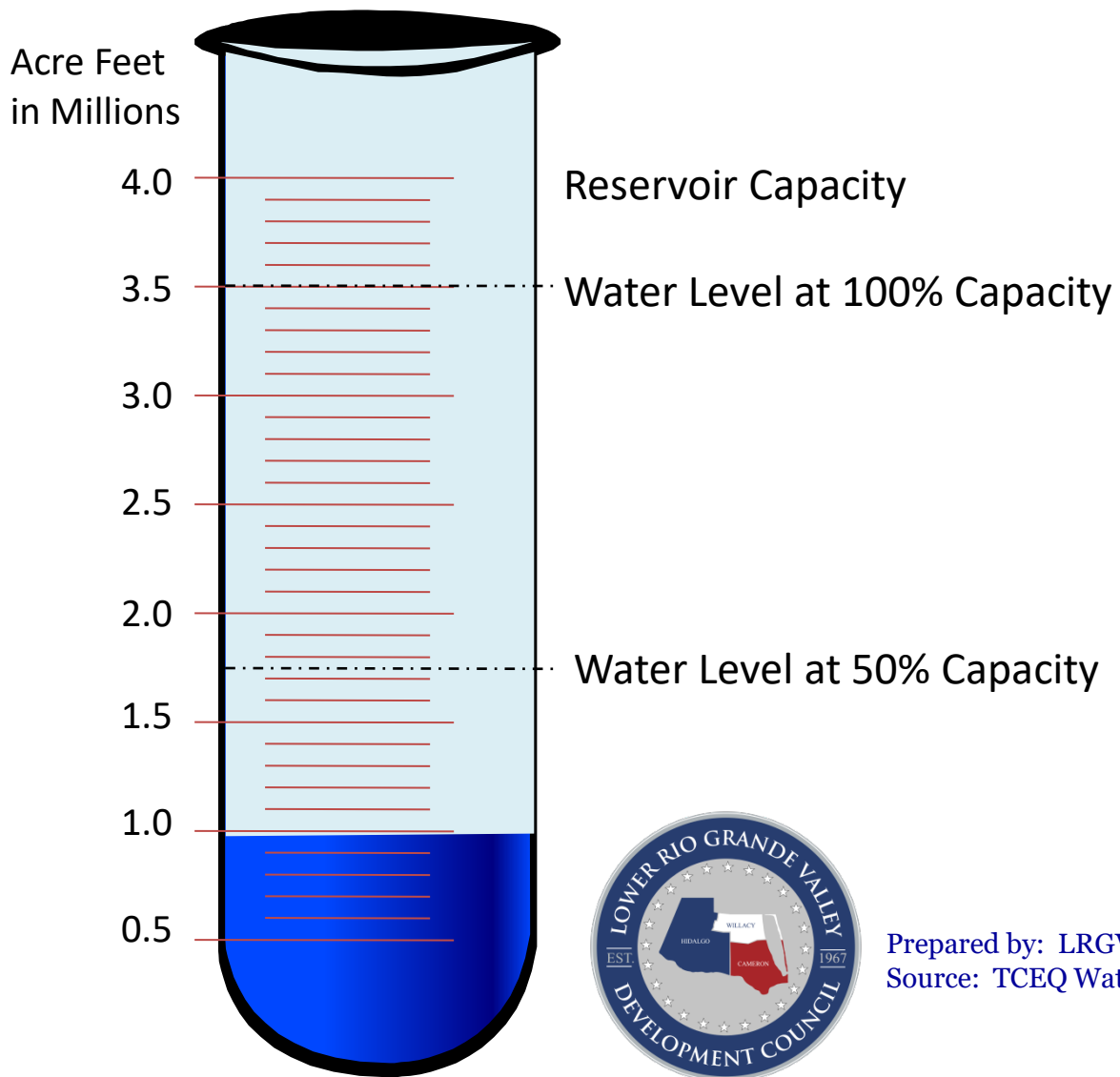
- Reservoir Levels

On June 18, 2022, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 27.91% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 946,790 acre-feet, down from 40.18% (1,362,893 AF) of normal conservation a year ago. Overall the system is holding 21.38% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,266,484 acre-feet with Amistad at 25.97% of conservation capacity, impounding 850,817 acre-feet and Falcon at 15.70% of conservation capacity, impounding 415,667 acre-feet. Mexico has 12.63% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 319,694 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

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

6/18/2022, 27.91% of Capacity or 946,790 AF

Down from 1,362,893 AF of Normal Conservation a year ago



**NOTE: Mexico Ownership/Reservoir Capacity for
June 18, 2022: 12.63% (319,694) A.F.**

Rio Grande Watermaster Report

06/18/22

Amistad Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	340.462 Meters	1,117.00 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	322.725 Meters	1,058.81 Feet	-58.19
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	1,049.471 MCM	850,817 Acre-Feet	25.97%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	845.942 MCM	685,814 Acre-Feet	80.61%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	203.529 MCM	165,003 Acre-Feet	19.39%
Total Releases (Average)	22.70 CMS	802 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	19.70 CMS	696 CFS	86.78%
Mexico Release (Average)	3.00 CMS	106 CFS	13.22%
Total Inflows (Average)	25.10 CMS	886 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	18.60 CMS	657 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	6.50 CMS	230 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	15.60 CMS	551 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	12.60 CMS	445 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	3.00 CMS	106 CFS	

Falcon Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	91.805 Meters	301.20 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	78.880 Meters	258.79 Feet	-42.40
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	512.720 MCM	415,667 Acre-Feet	15.70%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	321.911 MCM	260,976 Acre-Feet	62.78%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	190.809 MCM	154,691 Acre-Feet	37.22%
Total Releases (Average)	77.20 CMS	2,726 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	76.20 CMS	2,691 CFS	98.70%
Mexico Release (Average)	1.00 CMS	35 CFS	1.30%
Total Inflows (Average)	5.89 CMS	208 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	7.51 CMS	265 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	-1.62 CMS	-57 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	11.20 CMS	396 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	7.20 CMS	254 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	4.00 CMS	141 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	845,942 TCM	685,814 Acre-Feet	37.26%
Mexico Share Normal Conservation	1,769,662 TCM	1,434,683 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	203,529 TCM	165,003 Acre-Feet	11.50%

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	321,911 TCM	260,976 Acre-Feet	16.83%
Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	1,351,633 TCM	1,095,782 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	190,809 TCM	154,691 Acre-Feet	14.12%
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.	1,167.853 MCM	946,790 Acre-Feet	27.91%
Current Combined Storage for Mexico	394.338 MCM	319,694 Acre-Feet	12.63%
Current Storage in the Amistad/Falcon System	1,562,191 TCM	1,266,484 Acre-Feet	
Percent of Storage Capacity			21.38%

ROAD TO RECYCLING

Regional Tire Collection Project



The LRGVDC would first like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the cities and counties for their willingness to participate in the 6th Annual Road to Recycling Tire Collection Event!

The 2022 Road-to-Recycling Tire Collection Event was held on Saturday, May 28. There was a total of 36 participants and 44 collection sites. Our Executive Director, Manuel Cruz and staff visited several collection sites and collected a few tires on the side of the road to properly dispose at these sites. Some cities have reported their tire count and so far, an estimated 13,000 tires have been collected. Staff is currently compiling data for the number of tires collected for this event.

City of McAllen residents dropping off tires
Drop of Site: McAllen Recycling Center



City of Mission staff unloading tires for residents.
Drop of Site: 1400 South Conway, Mission, TX.



City of Palmview, pictured left to right, Commissioner Benito Hernandez, Mayor Ricardo Villarreal, Mayor Pro-Tem Alexandra Flores, and City Manager Michael Leo were at the drop off site receiving tires from their residents. By 10:30 a.m. the city already had 3 containers full!
Drop off site: 505 Palmview Commercial Dr., Palmview TX.



City of Brownsville Landfill
Drop off site: 9000 Ruben M. Torres Blvd., Brownsville, TX.



This picture is of the Brownsville Landfill, a vendor who participated in the event. They received drop-offs from a few cities that chose to transport and dispose of the tires collected. They also were a drop-site for Brownsville residents.

LRGVDC Executive Director picking up illegally dumped tires in the City of Weslaco to properly dispose at the Weslaco Public Facility Recycling.



ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action ItemMargarita Lopez, Director

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

The Advisory Council recommends approval to add San Jose Health Care LLC to the Area Agency on Aging's Contractor Pool using the rates in the table below. Case Managers utilize these contractors to purchase services for their clients.

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>	<i>RATE</i>
San Jose Health Care LLC	Homemaker	AAA: \$13.25 Standard: \$15.00
	Respite	AAA: \$13.00 Standard: \$15.00

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action ItemMargarita Lopez, Director

2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Add Respite Services to Current Contract

The Advisory Council recommends approval to add Respite services to Americare Home Services Inc. Case Managers utilize these contractors to purchase Respite services for caregiver support.

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>	<i>RATE</i>
Americare Home Services Inc.	Respite	AAA: \$15.00 Standard: \$15:00

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Action ItemMargarita Lopez, Director

3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Amend Contractor Rates for Stay Healthy Home Care, Inc.

The Advisory Council recommends approval to amend the Rates for Stay Healthy HomeCare, Inc. as noted in the table below.

<i>APPLICANT</i>	<i>SERVICES</i>	<i>RATE</i>
Stay Healthy HomeCare, Inc.,	Respite	AAA: \$11.35 Standard: \$11.35 Current rate AAA: \$11.00
	Home Maker	AAA: \$11.35 Standard: \$11.35 Current rate AAA: \$10.00

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

- CDC Vaccine Outreach Project Status Report:
May 2022, Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

Outreach Material Distribution			
English Flyers	Spanish Flyers	English Brochures	Spanish Brochures
100	125	100	125

Consumer Numbers Impacted					
Consumers 60+	Consumers 21-59	Consumers 20 and below	Individuals with disability	Individuals who are Veterans	Individuals with a Caregiver
143	58	7	52	17	31
Total: 465					

1 st and 2 nd Shot	Booster Shot
	18
Total: 18	

Past Events:

5/3/22 Hidalgo Co. Housing Authority Health & Wellness Fair (San Juan)
5/6/22 Bee First Primary Home Care - Community Resource & Job Fair
5/12/22 ADRC Meeting with Selah Hospice Care
5/12/22 Hidalgo Co. Housing Authority Health & Wellness Fair (Edinburg)
5/13/22 RGV Veterans Coalition Meeting
5/17/22 Cano Health Meeting
5/19/22 Ochoa's Pharmacy Health Fair
5/21/22 Veteran Appreciation Breakfast and Health Fair
5/23/22 Trinidad Primary Home Care Meeting
5/25/22 2nd Annual Community Senior Health & Fitness Day

Upcoming Events:

6/15/22 World Elder Abuse Awareness Walk
5/06/22 Bee First Primary Home Care - Community Resource & Job Fair
6/22/22 Cano Health and Area Agency on Aging Health Fair and Vaccine Clinic (Edinburg)
6/29/22 Cano Health and Area Agency on Aging Health Fair and Vaccine Clinic (Brownsville)
7/01/22 Atlas Towers Health & Vaccine Fair

- Care Coordination Report:

Cases Opened: 147
Total Clients Served: 151
Transportation: 5
Residential Repair: 38
Health Maintenance: 58
Homemaker Services: 50

- Caregiver Support Services Report:

Cases Opened: 76
Total Clients Served: 131
Respite In-Home Services: 116
Health Maintenance: 15

- Benefit Counseling Report:

HICAP Assistance: 57 clients (Assisted with Medicare applications, insurance changes, or enrollments)

MIPPA: 110 clients (Assisted and informed on Medicare Savings Program and preventive screenings)

Legal Assistance: 54 clients (Assistance with any type of public assistance such as housing, SNAP, Medicaid Estate Recovery System, and Community Attendant Services)

- Information, Referral, and Assistance:

Respite highest request service line (91 calls)
Benefits Counseling second requested service line (79)
Health Maintenance (most requested item durable medical equipment 60)

- Subrecipient Report:

Amigos Del Valle
Congregate Meals 22 new clients
4,826 meals served
Home Delivered Meals 255 new clients
57,900 meals served
Transportation 8 new clients
1,205 units

- Senior Center Operations:

128 new clients
28,413 total units

- Community Partnerships:

Placement for Care Transitioning Coach at:

Knapp Medical Center (Weslaco)
Mission Regional Medical Center (Mission)
Valley Baptist (Harlingen)
Harlingen Medical Center (Harlingen)
Cano Health Clinic

- Staffing:

Hired two program supervisors

Scheduling interviews to fill three case manager positions

- Harlingen Satellite

Providing in person services
Program Supervisor in place
Satellite is available for collaborative meetings and trainings
* Conference Room

ITEM #5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety Rene Perez, Program Supervisor I

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) video conference meeting on May 24, 2022.

Homeland Security Program

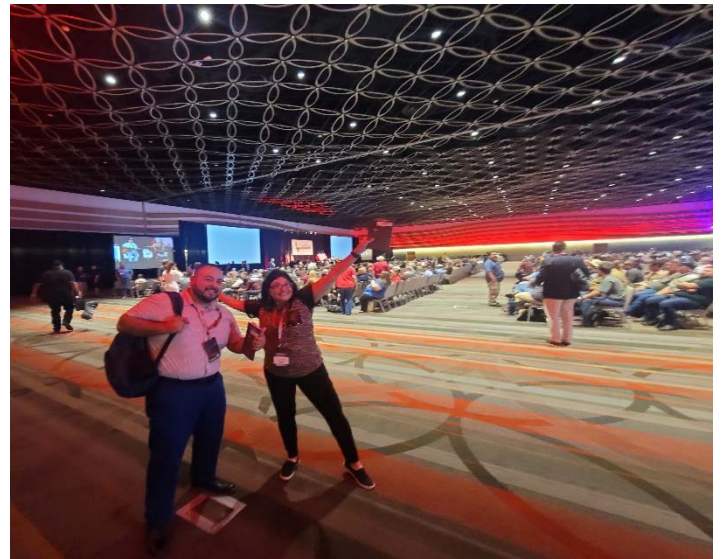
- Staff attended the FEMA “Trauma Informed Care” webinar on May 18, 2022.
- Staff attended video conference call “They Did What”? Using Grant Programs to Enhance Regional Preparedness on May 18, 2022.
- Staff attended the workshop for “Stop the Bleed” and assisted in providing 100 training tourniquets for this event in Pharr, TX on May 19, 2022.
- Staff attended the TX Hurricane Preparedness/Prevention Fair, in Brownsville, TX on May 24, 2022.
- Staff attended the video conference for the Texas Demographic Data Conference on May 24-26, 2022.
- Staff attended the 12th Annual Rio Grande Valley Emergency Management Partners Hurricane Workshop, in Mercedes, TX on May 25, 2022.
- Staff attended video conference call for FEMA’s FY 2022 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP): “Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience” National Priority Area Webinar on May 25, 2022.
- Staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) video conference meeting on May 26, 2022.
- Staff attended the FEMA webinar “Get Ready for Hurricane Season” on May 26, 2022
- Staff attended the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) Conference on May 30-June 3, 2022, in San Antonio, TX.

- Staff attended the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) class “Recovery from Disasters: Local Community Roles” at the LRGVDC, in Weslaco, TX on June 7-8, 2022.
- Staff attended video conference for Homeland Security Grant Division Monthly Regional Conference call June 9, 2022.

Brownsville Hurricane Preparedness / Prevention Fair



South Texas Emergency Management Conference 2022



TDEM: Recovery from Disasters: Local Community Roles



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Regional Police Academy

- On Saturday May 21, 2022, the TSTC Night Cadets participated in the Edinburg Back the Blue 5K run and were recognized as the LRGVDC Cadets by the events announcer.
- The mandatory implementation of the updated Basic Peace Officer curriculum begins July 1, 2022. All Basic Peace Officer Courses are now utilizing the new curriculum. This update required minor changes through multiple chapters and should not have a major impact.
- Regional Police Academy staff completed the annual VA Compliance Survey. During the survey the Regional Police Academy was found to have one deficiency.
- On Monday, June 27, 2022, the Edinburg Regional Police Academy location began. The TSTC Regional Police Academy site will begin on Tuesday July 5, 2022.
- The Regional Police Academy continues to offer weekly testing for upcoming Academy offerings.
- In-service training continues in person and is being conducted at various locations throughout the region. This provides officers with opportunities to attend training without having to travel long distances.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

The GIS team continues to maintain the GeoMSAG and has achieved 100% geocode matching on the GeoMSAG. This enables calls in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties to be routed to the relevant Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) with this match. The GIS team is currently working with ESRI and our Systems team to upgrade our ArcGIS Enterprise to the new 10.9 platform. This will enable us to create a data sharing HUB, a new Portal, and a improved address ticketing system.

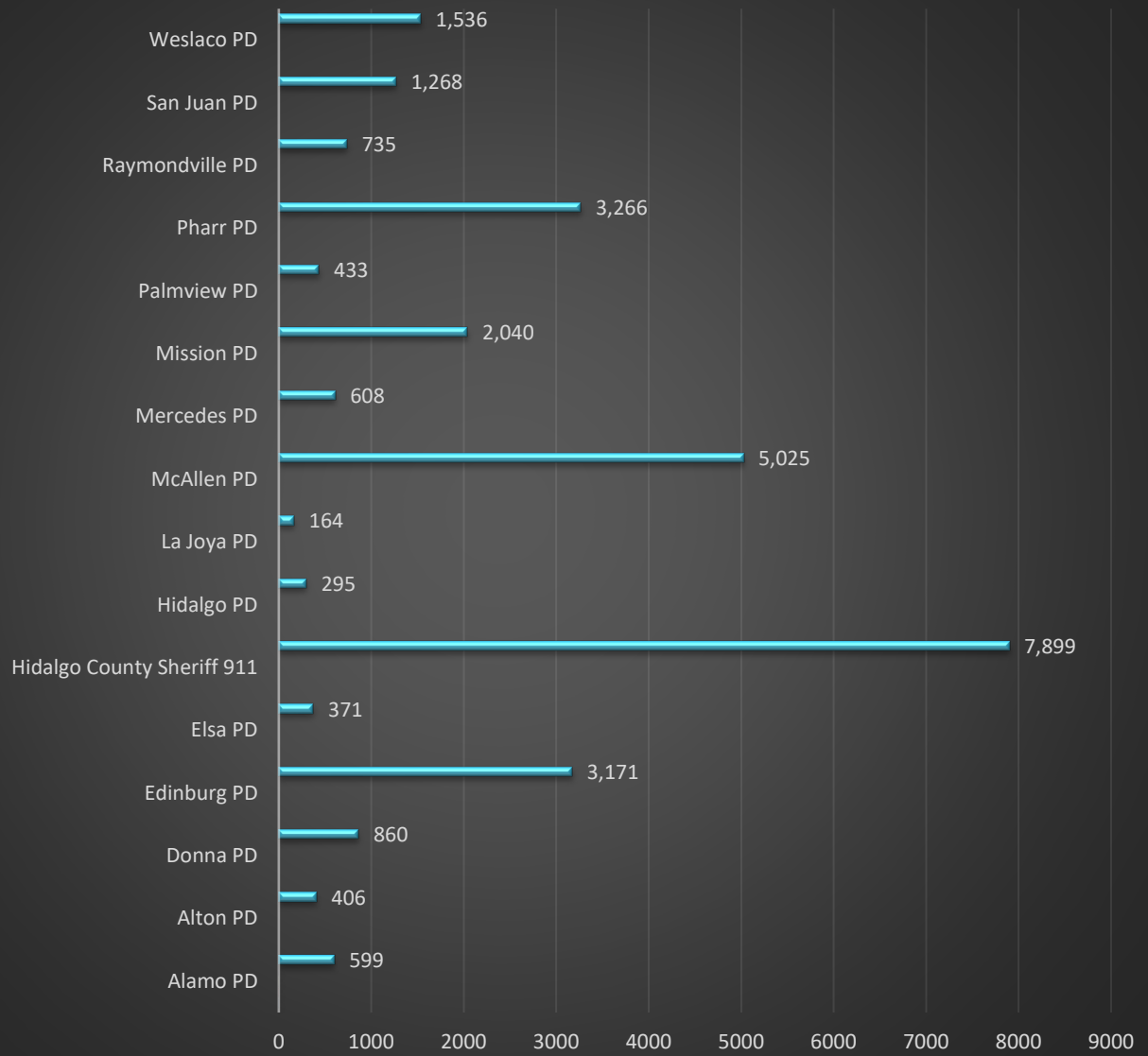
- Public Education Division

Our team collaborated with Raymondville PD to distribute pub-ed supplies at the Willacy County Young Farmers Fishing Tournament on May 27. On June 1, RGV9-1-1 staff attended the Professional Response to Domestic Violence Training in Raymondville TX. During the week of June 13-17 our team attended Intrado Power 9-1-1 train the trainer so staff is able to train our Telecommunicators on the new Viper 7 Power 9-1-1 System that is being upgraded by our Systems Team.

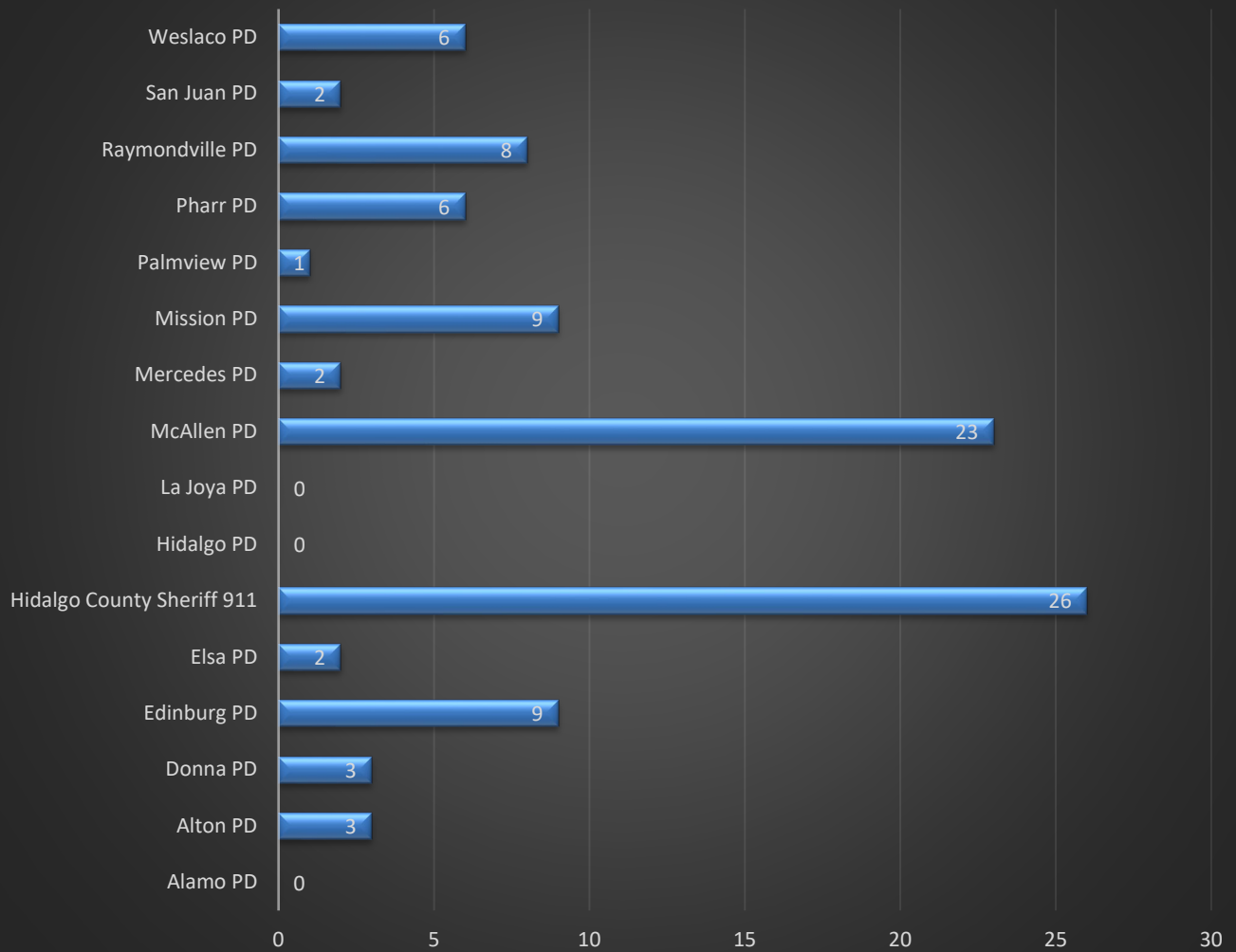
- The Systems and PSAP Operations Team

The RGV Emergency Communication District Team has begun the steps of migrating our entire 9-1-1 Infrastructure to ESInet. This upgrade is set to increase our resiliency during disaster situations and/or periods of high call volume. The upgrade will be an important undertaking that will increase our defense against cyber threats and provide our community with the latest technology with enhanced capability of identifying individuals along with their addresses while improving response times to our first responders. ESInet is a standards-based “network of networks” that is designed with a high level of redundancy and resiliency to ensure our emergency network can continue to operate (deliver 911 calls) even if some of the circuits or endpoints are no longer functioning. In addition to our upgrade, our team made a big push to have all PSAP generators inspected before the start of hurricane season to ensure optimal readiness. With the ever-changing weather in the Gulf of Mexico, these steps are taken to ensure interoperability during unforeseen weather events or area power outages. We are proud to continue our mission to better serve our community.

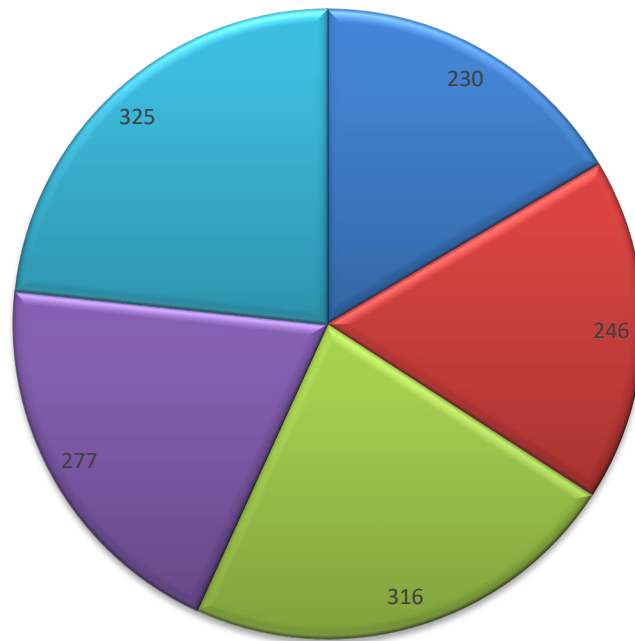
Call Summary from May 2022



Texts to 9-1-1 from May 2022



Address Requests from January to May 13th



Jan Feb Mar Apr May

May 2022 Mapping Features

Series1

Created Address Points

456

Updated Address Points

535

Created Roads

46

Updated Roads

76

ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Action ItemMaribel Contreras, Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Addition of Fuel Card Use Procedure Section to Transit Operating Policies & Procedures Manual

Staff requests Board approval for addition of: **Section 4.20 Fuel Card Use Procedures** which outlines the fuel card authorization, assignment, use, fuel log, fueling approved locations, and documentation procedures.

A copy of the new section along with the Employee Acknowledgment form are attached, and the full Transportation Operating Policy & Procedures Manual with the new section is posted on the lrgvdc.org Board & Membership meetings page for review.

4.20 Fuel Card Use Procedure

An employee authorized to use a fuel card will be assigned a pin number to be used when fueling a service vehicle. Pin numbers are unique and identify the user of the card. Therefore, the unique pin must be kept confidential and not shared with anyone else.

Each unit will have a fuel card binder assigned with a fuel card, a log form (that will need to be filled out every time the fuel card is used), and a receipt pouch. Information that needs to be documented on the log form is the date, vehicle mileage, gallons of fuel, price per gallon, total price, purchase location, and name of the employee. A fuel receipt must always be placed in the binder pouch as backup information.

Fuel cards are assigned to each specific vehicle and should not be used in a different vehicle unless approved by the Maintenance Supervisor or Fleet Manager. In such rare occasions, the Maintenance Supervisor and or the Fleet Manager must add in the log his/her approval by placing the word "Approved by" and include the date and his/her signature.

Prior to fueling a vehicle, all transit employees of LRGVDC-Valley Metro given a route assignment must call the Dispatcher and inform him/her that they are stopping to fuel and provide the mileage of the vehicle and the location where they are about to fuel. Dispatcher must enter the call information provided from the person fueling on the Daily Log. All fueling must be done at the end of the work shift and at the designated fuel location for that assigned route. DRIVER MUST STILL FILL OUT ALL THE REQUIRED INFORMATION ON THE LOG FORM FOR THAT UNIT.

If an employee needs to stop for the purpose of fueling in a different location that is different from their route assignment or if the employee does not have a route assignment (Office staff, Extra board Driver, Mechanic, etc.) then, prior to fueling, the employee must call the Dispatcher and get approval providing the vehicle mileage and the location and entering proper information required in the vehicle's fuel log. Dispatcher must enter that call information in the Daily Log.

Employees traveling outside the service area of LRGVDC-Valley Metro must log all the fueling transaction in the fuel log inside of the card binder and they must be submitted to their immediate supervisor upon their return. In the event of employees paying fuel with their personal funds, employees may receive reimbursement upon approval of their immediate supervisor.

Fuel Cards MUST NEVER be taken away from the unit or used for personal purposes i.e., using fuel cards to purchase fuel for personal vehicles. At the end of the working shift, Fuel binders containing the fuel cards must be turned in to maintenance staff in Harlingen, and dispatcher in Weslaco. Employees in RGC and Zapata will place binder inside the office. FOR THIS LOCATIONS DO NOT LEAVE BINDER WITH CARDS ON THE VEHICLE. Maintenance personnel in Harlingen and Dispatch staff in Weslaco will re-issue the fuel card binder the following day. Rio Grande City and Zapata drivers have keys to the office and can obtain the vehicle's binders assigned to the specific Route.

NOTE: Employees in Brownsville, Raymondville, Edinburg, McAllen, and Mission will continue leaving the Fuel card binder inside of the vehicle in a designated place.

4.20 A-Fueling Card use at the self-serve pump.

All employees of LRGDC-Valley Metro must follow the procedure described below when using the fuel card. All fuel transactions must be done at the self-serve pump. Under any circumstances, an employee should use the fuel card inside of the store unless is approved by the Dispatcher or immediate Supervisor.

When using the fuel card to fuel a service vehicle, at the self-serve pump, the employee will:

1. Enter the card into the self-serve pump
2. Enter the odometer reading into the self-serve fueling kiosk
3. Enter P.I.N. (Personal Identification Number) into the self-serve fueling kiosk
4. Select correct fuel type according to the unit assigned (Note: for gasoline units use Regular/Unleaded for diesel units use ULSD -Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel.

Then, in the fuel card binder the employee must record the following:

1. Date of transaction
5. Mileage of vehicle at the time of fueling
6. Gallons poured into the unit
7. Price of Gallon shown at the pump
8. Total price show on the receipt
9. Authorized/Approved purchase location
10. Employee's Full Name

Note: All LRGVDC employees must fuel at the approved locations and pay at the self-server pump using the assigned vehicle's card. However, if the fuel card is not operable, missing, in backorder, or when directed by the immediate Supervisor of Operations, Dispatch Supervisor, or fleet manager, employees must use one of the approved locations below and follow the procedures described in section B of this policy.

Approved fueling stations

- 1- Pico Propane and Fuels (809 S International Blvd, Weslaco, TX 78596)
- 2- Hino Gas (2759 W, US-83 BUS, Harlingen, TX 78552)
- 3- Pico Propane and Fuels (401 N Shary Rd, Mission, TX 78572)
- 4- Gordon's Bait & Tackle (7066 Padre Island Hwy, Brownsville, TX 78521)

Note: Approved fuel station have different service hours. LRGVDC-Valley Metro Employee are required to call dispatch to verify service hours.

4.20 B. Fueling at approved locations.

LRGVDC- Valley Metro has an agreement contract with different approved fuel stations across its service area. LRGVDC-Valley Metro employees are allowed to use these fuel stations to purchase **fuel only**, other products are not allowed. Please keep in mind that approved fuel locations should be used as backup and when a fuel card presents a problem to be used. Under these circumstances all employees using approved fuel stations must get approval from the dispatcher. Dispatcher must enter that call information in the Daily Log.

When fueling at an approved fueling location, the employee will:

- 1- Go inside of the fueling location and request fuel for Valley Metro
- 2- Attendant will open the fuel pump
- 3- At the end of fueling the unit, employee will return to the Attendant to provide the following
 - a- Unit plates number
 - b- Unit number
 - c- Name of drive
- 4- Employee will receive a receipt that needs to be turned in to their immediate supervisor or dispatch on same day or following day.

Failure to document information requested or misuse of fuel card may be subject to disciplinary action or termination

EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM:

LRGVDC's Transit Services Department

VALLEY METRO

Fuel Card Usage Procedure

Employee Acknowledgment Form

I have received a copy of the LRGVDC's Transit Services Department **Revised Policy 4.20 Fuel Card use Procedure**, which outlines the procedures and responsibilities when using Valley Metro fuel cards on its vehicles. I understand that it is my responsibility to read and abide by the rules contained in this policy.

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Employee Name (print): _____

LRGVDC's Transit Services Department – Valley Metro Witness Signature:

Date: _____

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status ReportMaribel Contreras, Director of Regional Transit

- Ridership Report

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

Breakdown of Ridership per system with percentage increase or decrease:

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM				
Agency	Mar	Apr	May	%
VALLEY METRO	26,707	22,799	21,671	-5%
UTRGV	18,433	21,800	6,468	-70%
STC	154	154	63	-59%
TSTC	106	90	110	22%
Total	45,400	44,843	28,312	-37%
RURAL AND URBAN COUNT				
AREA	Mar	Apr	May	%
Rural	6,681	5,570	5,012	-10%
Urban	38,719	39,273	23,300	-41%
Total	45,400	44,843	28,312	-37%
RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY				
COUNTY	Mar	Apr	May	%
Hidalgo County	32,580	34,310	18,634	-46%
Cameron County	10,337	8,608	7,993	-7%
Willacy County	281	222	202	-9%
Starr County	2,025	1,542	1,355	-12%
Zapata County	177	161	128	-20%
Total	45,400	44,843	28,312	-37%

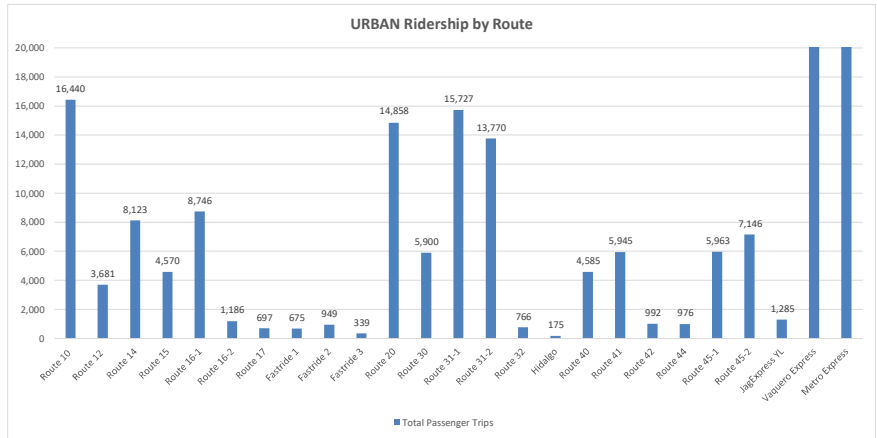
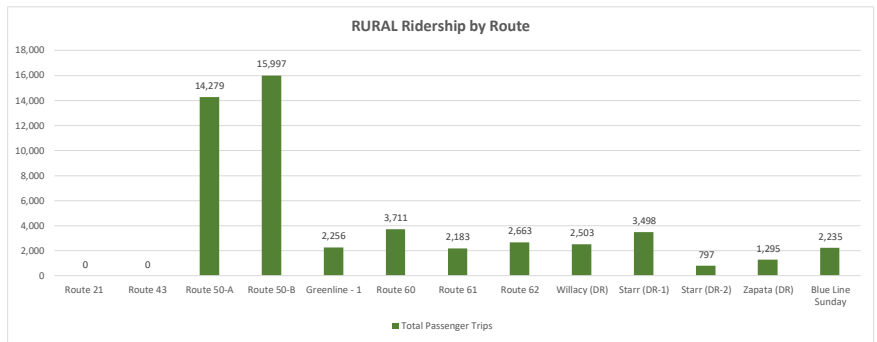
- COVID-19 Precautionary Measures continue
 - Facial covering recommended for all passengers
 - Daily cleaning with CDC-approved disinfectant
 - Drivers recommended to use facial covering
 - Installation of hand sanitizer dispensers inside buses
 - Issuing safety memos to staff

- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity
 - LRGVDC Valley Metro was awarded a Continuation Grant to address the needs and gaps found in the Five-Year Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan.
 - A sub-committee of the RTAP was formed to address these needs. First meeting was held on May 26, 2022.
 - Valley Metro Planning Department staff has held community outreach events in Cameron and Hidalgo County. These events highlighted the modes of transportation available to the public and addressed any concerns and comments the public had.
 - Intake of public comments and recommendations on transportation needs are noted for further review.



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

	Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
RURAL	Route 21	0	0%	Sullivan City, West Hidalgo County
	Route 43	0	0%	South Cameron County
	Route 50-A	14,279	4%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
	Route 50-B	15,997	5%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
	Greenline - 1	2,256	1%	Rio Grande City
	Route 60	3,711	1%	Roma, Rio Grande City
	Route 61	2,183	1%	Rio Grande City
	Route 62	2,663	1%	Rio Grande City
	Willacy (DR)	2,503	1%	Willacy County
	Starr (DR-1)	3,498	1%	Starr County
	Starr (DR-2)	797	0%	Starr County
	Zapata (DR)	1,295	0%	Zapata County
	Blue Line Sunday	2,235	1%	Brownsville, Port Isabel
URBAN	Route 10	16,440	5%	Edinburg
	Route 12	3,681	1%	Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg
	Route 14	8,123	2%	Edinburg
	Route 15	4,570	1%	Edinburg
	Route 16-1	8,746	3%	Edinburg
	Route 16-2	1,186	0%	Edinburg
	Route 17	697	0%	Edinburg
	Fastride 1	675	0%	Edinburg
	Fastride 2	949	0%	Hidalgo County
	Fastride 3	339	0%	Cameron County
	Route 20	14,858	4%	Mission
	Route 30	5,900	2%	Pharr, San Juan
	Route 31-1	15,727	5%	Cameron-Hidalgo County
	Route 31-2	13,770	4%	Hidalgo-Cameron County
	Route 32	766	0%	Donna
	Hidalgo	175	0%	City of Hidalgo
	Route 40	4,585	1%	Harlingen
	Route 41	5,945	2%	Harlingen
	Route 42	992	0%	San Benito
	Route 44	976	0%	Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa
	Route 45-1	5,963	2%	Cameron County
	Route 45-2	7,146	2%	Cameron County
	JagExpress YL	1,285	0%	Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen
	Vaquero Express	137,671	41%	Edinburg
	Metro Express	23,062	7%	Rio Grande Valley
TOTAL		335,644	100%	



VALLEY METRO ROUTES (38)
23 Flex-routes (7 Rural, 16 Urban)
7 Demand Response Routes (4 Rural, 3 Urban)
3 Fixed Routes (3 Urban)
5 Temporarily Inactive (2 Rural, 3 Urban)

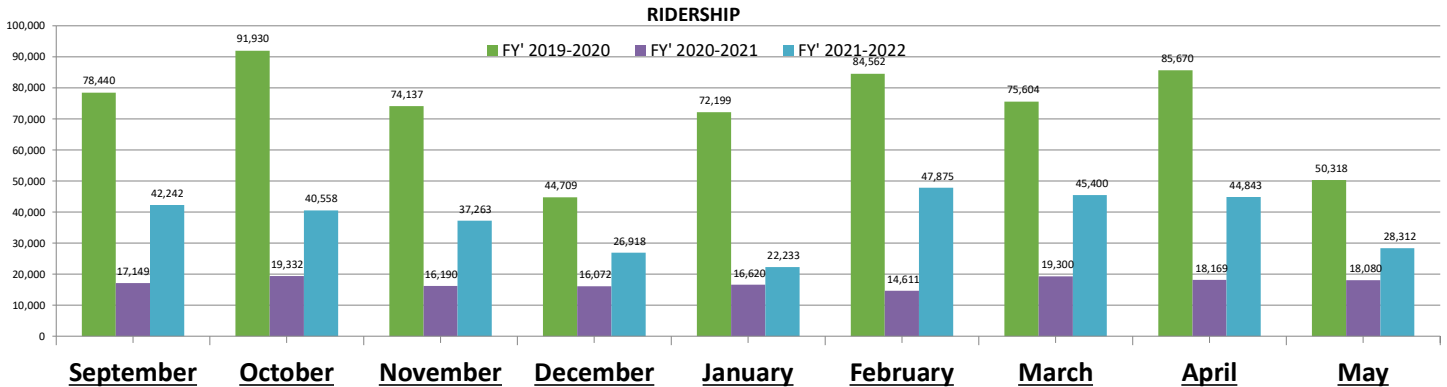
**Pending STC Nov Count

****Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized**
YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT

Year to Date - May 2022	Prior Year Sept-May Total	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
335,644	99,974	235,670	236%

* Rural service - service in rural low -population areas outside of urbanized areas

* Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas



Fiscal Year	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	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	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	45,400	44,843	28,312	0	0	0	335,644	109,124	48%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	25,093	21,226	21,073	10,846	5,613	33,264	26,100	26,674	10,232	-19,842	-19,774	-31,381	109,124	-38,119	
Percent Change	146%	110%	130.16%	67%	34%	228%	135%	147%	57%	-100%	-100%	-100%	48%		

FY 2022 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Hidalgo	34	33	38	35	32	3	0	0	0	175
Edinburg	3,803	4,021	3,250	2,767	2,581	4,344	5,258	4,794	4,714	35,532
UTRGV Edinburg	21,078	18,983	16,944	4,825	2,835	26,305	18,433	21,800	6,468	137,671
Pharr	1,014	1,003	931	911	986	909	994	820	847	8,415
Mission	739	781	859	832	766	705	903	748	720	7,053
McAllen	3,276	3,288	3,212	4,004	3,364	3,345	4,357	4,214	4,148	33,208
Hargill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Carlos	33	32	29	56	54	44	43	22	28	341
La Blanca	4	6	13	2	2	5	5	11	10	58
Elsa	68	60	49	56	49	53	66	63	47	511
Edcouch	42	53	55	46	9	45	65	39	45	399
Sullivan City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Villa	8	7	32	35	26	40	32	36	38	254
La Joya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Penitas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palmview	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Palmhurst	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Juan	478	520	372	418	417	387	479	326	358	3,755
Alamo	278	259	275	277	237	249	345	255	221	2,396
Donna	364	323	397	578	465	426	537	300	265	3,655
Weslaco	809	755	743	598	523	652	805	642	491	6,018
Mercedes	182	196	240	314	257	225	258	240	234	2,146
La Feria	109	120	106	183	168	156	210	121	124	1,297
Harlingen	2,303	2,345	1,976	2,237	2,037	1,914	2,686	1,820	1,514	18,832
San Benito	99	104	235	458	420	254	215	138	106	2,029
Los Indios	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Paloma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
El Ranchito	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Olmito	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brownsville	2,875	3,081	3,561	4,114	3,258	3,478	4,702	4,472	4,376	33,917
Santa Rosa	0	0	0	10	49	34	56	48	42	239
Primera	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	6
Combes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Fresnos	176	229	121	176	213	315	386	230	196	2,042
Laguna Vista	174	198	175	183	207	252	252	177	158	1,776
Laguna Heights	261	300	195	262	203	201	264	178	135	1,999
Port Isabel	1,549	1,516	1,496	1,562	1,312	1,250	1,566	1,421	1,342	13,014
Rio Hondo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
La Grulla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rio Grande City	1,372	1,290	1,244	937	842	1,432	1,569	1,192	935	10,813
Willacy County	263	341	331	326	265	272	281	222	202	2,503
Starr County	645	555	352	493	537	487	456	350	420	4,295
Zapata County	206	159	32	223	116	93	177	161	128	1,295
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	45,400	44,843	28,312	335,644

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	20,844	21,293	20,046	21,983	19,345	21,347	26,707	22,799	21,671	196,035
UTRGV	21,078	18,983	16,944	4,825	2,835	26,305	18,433	21,800	6,468	137,671
STC	256	228	196	50	30	154	154	154	63	1,285
TSTC	64	54	77	60	23	69	106	90	110	653
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	45,400	44,843	28,312	335,644

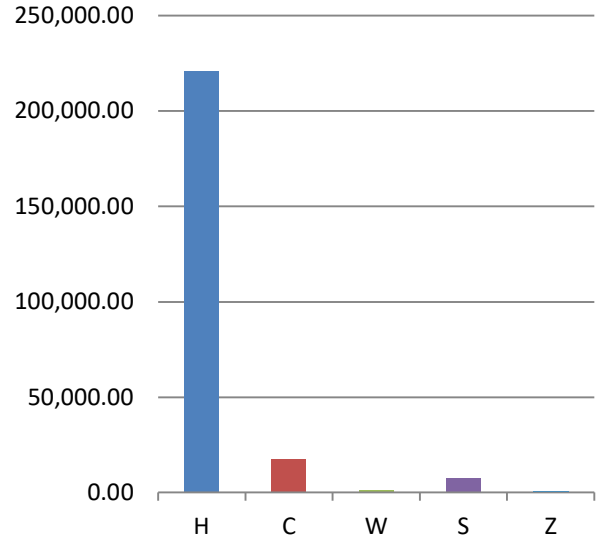
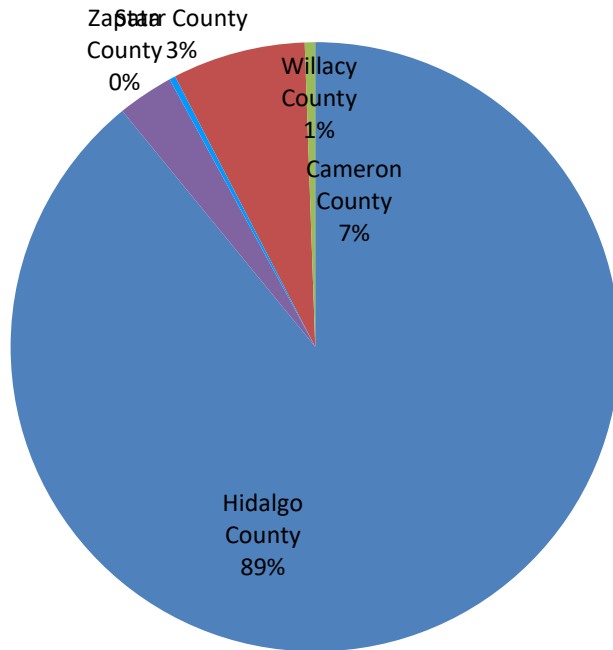
RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Rural	6,271	6,167	5,480	5,662	5,022	5,552	6,681	5,570	5,012	51,417
Urban	35,971	34,391	31,783	21,256	17,211	42,323	38,719	39,273	23,300	284,227
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	45,400	44,843	28,312	335,644

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

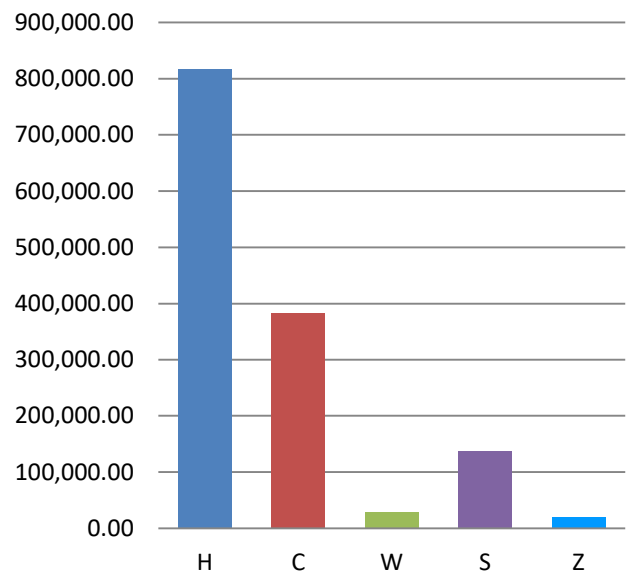
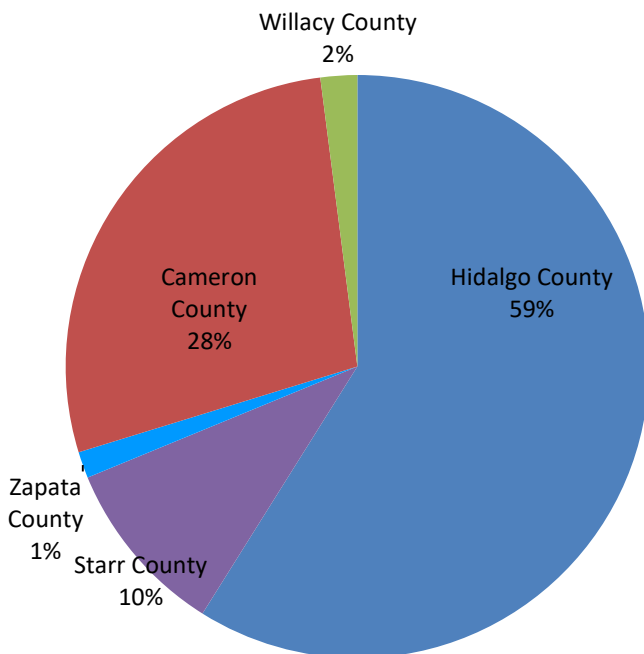
COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	32,210	30,320	27,439	15,754	12,603	37,737	32,580	34,310	18,634	241,587
Cameron County	7,546	7,893	7,865	9,185	7,870	7,854	10,337	8,608	7,993	75,151
Willacy County	263	341	331	326	265	272	281	222	202	2,503
Starr County	2,017	1,845	1,596	1,430	1,379	1,919	2,025	1,542	1,355	15,108
Zapata County	206	159	32	223	116	93	177	161	128	1,295
Total	42,242	40,558	37,263	26,918	22,233	47,875	45,400	44,843	28,312	335,644

Distribution of Revenue Hours



Revenue Hours Provided	
Hidalgo County	220,950.05
Starr County	7,383.45
Zapata County	806.40
Cameron County	17,499.32
Willacy County	1,364.95
Total Revenue Hours	248,004.17

Distribution of Revenue Miles



Revenue Miles Provided	
Hidalgo County	816,065
Starr County	136,936
Zapata County	20,217
Cameron County	383,969
Willacy County	28,157
Total Revenue Miles	1,385,344



FY 2021-2022 Valley Metro

TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	48	64
October	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	46	54
November	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	23	77
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	37	21	60
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	23
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	23	69
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	24	106
April	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	23	90
May	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	72	24	110
June	0	0	1	2	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	16	2	27
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	9	9	0	0	18	0	0	0	2	386	256	680
FY 2020-2021	4	9	0	1	0	0	29	1	0	0	0	18	91	44
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	9	8	0	0	-11	-1	0	0	2	368	165	636

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	57	52	76	58	23	69	106	87	96	18	0	0	642
Indirect Routes	7	2	1	2	0	0	0	3	14	9	0	0	38
Monthly Total	64	54	77	60	23	69	106	90	110	27	0	0	680

2021 - 2022 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count

