

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notice is hereby provided that the LRGVDC Board of Directors will hold a Regular Meeting on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024 at 12:00 P.M.** at 301 W. Railroad ST., Weslaco, Texas and provide the public with the ability to view the meeting via internet live-streaming at: [LRGVDC COG - YouTube](#)

Presiding: Mayor Norma Sepulveda, President

**Item #1: Call to Order**

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

**Item #2:** Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Meeting Minutes for (August 28, 2024)..... President

**Item #3: Public Comment**

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

A. Presentation Age Friendly RGV Initiative: Update and Future Directions..... Dr. Sudi

B. Executive Director Report

- 1. Introduction of New Staff Members
- 2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training, and Legislation

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development..... Melisa Gonzalez Assistant Director

#### Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration
- Regional Small Cities Coalition
- 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

#### Program Status Reports

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

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

#### Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Action Items ..... Cesar Merla Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on application score sheets for FY2025-2026 Grant Cycle.
2. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on current membership roster for FY2025-2026.
3. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic plan for 2025-2030
4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Current Membership Roster for the FY 2025-2026.
5. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Application Score Sheets for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle.

## Program Status Reports

Police Academy Program .....Javier Solis  
Assistant Director

## Program Action Item

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the County of Hidalgo, Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 2 Office, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.

## Program Status Reports

- Regional Police Academy Status Reports

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District ..... Dennis Moreno  
Assistant Director

## Program Status Reports

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

D. **Transportation** ..... Tom Logan  
Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Acquisition of Vehicles under State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

## Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report

Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Report ..... Luis Diaz  
Interim Executive Director

## **Item #7 New or Unfinished Business**

## **Item #8 Adjourn**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday, October 30, 2024,**

**12:00 pm Noon**

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

**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, and each speaker will be allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes to speak. All individuals desiring to address the LRGVDC must sign up to do so before the open comment period. The purpose of this comment period is to provide the public with an opportunity to address issues or topics under the jurisdiction of the LRGVDC. For issues or topics that are not otherwise part of the posted agenda for the meeting, LRGVDC members may direct staff to investigate the issue or topic further. No action or discussion shall be taken on issues or topics which are not part of the 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 3minute time limitation applies."



**ITEM #2.**

**MINUTES**

## MINUTES

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

12:00PM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2024

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

PRESIDING: Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norma Sepulveda called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and quorum was attained.

**Present:** Mayor Norma Sepulveda

Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission  
Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County  
Mayor John Cowen, City of Brownsville  
Mayor Ramiro Garza, City of Edinburg  
Mayor Pro Tem Adrian Farias, City of Weslaco  
Mayor George Guadiana, City of San Perlita  
Mayor Alejandro Flores, City of Los Fresnos  
Commissioner Ricardo Medina, City of Pharr  
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville  
Commissioner Tom Goodman, City of San Benito  
Mr. Ron Garza, UTRGV Edinburg  
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College  
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake  
Mr. Ronald Mills, Willacy Co. Navigation Dist.  
Mr. Tony Chavez, Member at Large  
Ms. Ann Williams Cass, Member at Large  
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots

**Absent :**

Commissioner David Garza, Cameron County  
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County  
Mayor JR Garza, City of Alamo  
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna  
Mayor Javier Villalobos, City of McAllen  
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan  
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC  
Mr. Jim Darling, Member at Large  
Mayor Alma Salinas, Sullivan City

Mr. Cruz stated Madam Chairman, we have a healthy quorum. Mayor Norma Sepulveda stated to the Board, thank you all for attending in person today. As we transition to in-person meetings, your presence is greatly appreciated. I believe this format will foster a more productive dialogue and encourage increased participation. We understand there are many other events happening now, so we sincerely thank everyone for making the effort to join us. It was a choice to be here, and Mayor Sepulveda stated, I appreciate everyone being here today.

Without no questions from the board, Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item #2

Item #2 Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2024. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzalez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for June 26, 2024. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously upon vote.***

Item #3: Public Comment: No Public Comment, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to the next item.

Item #4: Administration

4A. Presentation took place for Heart Gallery of South Texas with Jennifer Oliva. Mayor Sepulveda recommended that a proclamation/resolution be provided to the LRGVDC so that it could be emailed to all local governments for their consideration to adopt.

4B. Presentation and Consider Action Regarding the 2023 Annual Audit with Melissa Gonzalez. Mrs. Gonzalez joined us virtually due to being ill, however, due to audio issues the board postponed the presentation until audio issues were fixed.

4C. Presentation and Action to Accept Quarterly Investment Report. ***Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Quarterly Investment Report. Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4D. Consideration and Action to approve the Letter of Support for TXDOT's Passenger Rail Route Inclusion in the federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification & Development Program. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for TXDOT's Passenger Rail Route Inclusion in the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification & Development Program. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

No further discussion or comments. Mayor Sepulveda moved on to Item 4E Executive Report.

4E. Executive Directors Report. Mr. Cruz began by introducing all new hires and promotions. First Item: Discussion on the potential action regarding the future LRGVDC board meeting schedule. As you know, we are transitioning to in-person meetings. The Mayor and I agreed to include this topic on the agenda to discuss any issues or concerns board members might have. I now open the floor for the mayor or board members to share any ideas, discuss relevant items, or decide whether to proceed with the current policy as it stands. Judge Aurelio Guerra asked what the policy was regarding the Meetings. Mr. Cruz stated that while we can still conduct virtual meetings for three counties or more, I believe it is important for the board to meet in person. Given the numerous ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives, such as the Regional Transit Authority, face-to-face meetings will be more beneficial for effective collaboration and planning. Additionally, I want to address a related matter: there may be occasions when members are unable to attend due to illness or other circumstances, as we see with some members and staff currently participating online. We need to establish clear guidelines for what constitutes an acceptable absence. It is crucial that everyone is informed about regional developments and efforts. It is important to consider whether there are any processes or opportunities that might arise in the future.

One other major benefit to note is broadband funding.

The State of Texas is set to receive approximately \$300 million. We need to be prepared to act on any applications if we decide to proceed and seek approval. In relation to virtual meetings, the previous bill introduced during the pandemic is still in effect. For three or more counties, we have the option to convene virtually. However, it is up to the local committees to decide how they wish to conduct business. Mayor Norma Sepulveda stated that there are many familiar faces in the room today, along with some new members and additions to the board. The Executive Board discussed the advantages of holding in-person meetings. It seems effective to hold in-person meetings, especially considering that most of us will remain for the MPO meeting that follows the COG Board meeting. So, it works, it's a great location but we also want to be flexible. As Manny mentioned, he sent me a message regarding someone who had COVID. I responded that it would be best to keep them at a distance, as we all have work to do. We should handle participation on a case-by-case basis with Manny. If someone is out of town or out of state but wants to participate in an agenda item, we should consider making exceptions for work-related travel and community representation. Valid reasons for exceptions might include conflicting schedules due to commission or city meetings. We should grant discretion to Manny to manage these situations appropriately. What are your thoughts?

Mr. Paul Hernandez from South Texas College stated that most institutions have already transitioned back to face-to-face meetings. We should revert to pre-pandemic protocols, which include keeping individuals who are sick or contagious at home to recover. But I feel that we need to be moving toward a face-to-face format. Judge Aurelio Guerra stated I'm okay with attending the LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting in person. However, I want to confirm that it's also acceptable to send someone else to represent me if needed, correct? Mr. Cruz then answered Yes, the way the COG board works is only elected officials can sit on the board. How you handle appointments at the county or city level is up to your discretion. However, if your commission specifies that only a certain person can attend the board meeting, then that's a different situation. I doubt that, but any elected official like the judge, commissioners, or mayor can attend the board meeting. Mayor Ramiro Garza asked, are there any positions where you can't use a substitute? Mr. Cruz then answered. No, at-large members can choose to appoint a proxy if they want. We have 10 at-large members, and three of them are selected to sit on the board. It's their responsibility to provide an alternate or proxy if needed. For instance, UTRGV and TSTC have both sent alternates to attend on behalf of the primary appointed members. We should be flexible about this, but you can't assign someone from another city. Ms. Ann Cass stated wanted to thank for the flexibility on her doing virtual due to her conditions.

No further questions or discussion Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to 4EB.

4EB. Add COSTEP and The RGV Partnership to the General Board Membership. Mr. Cruz states that they both agencies expressed interest to be part of the COG. We're always looking for opportunities and welcome anyone who meets the COG's mission and bylaw requirement to join the board, general membership, or board of directors. As a reminder, elections are held in May, when some of these board positions are review and chosen and appointed. **Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to approve to add COSTEP and RGV Partnership to the General Membership, Mayor John Cowen seconded the motion and upon a vote motion was carried unanimously.**

Mayor Sepulveda then moved back to item 4B Presentation regarding the 2023 Annual Audit with Mrs. Melissa Gonzalez. I'm Melissa Gonzalez, the auditor from Oscar Gonzalez CPA and Associates PLLC. I'm here to present the audit for the year ending December 31, 2023. Please turn to page one of the audit, specifically the first paragraph that discusses the opinions. We have audited the financial statements of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, including its governmental activities, component units, major funds, and other fund information for the year ending December 31, 2023. This also includes the related notes to the financial statements, which together make up the basic financial statements listed in the table of contents.

This also includes the notes that go along with the financial statements, which together make up the basic financial statements listed in the table of contents. 2023, and the changes in its financial position for that year, following accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Mrs. Gonzalez stated that basically, what that means is that you got a clean opinion in us performing our audit procedures on your financial statements. We didn't find any significant issues. Everything was compliant. The same positive opinion applies to your major programs; our testing showed they were also compliant. Mrs. Crystal Balboa and her staff did an excellent job. They keep your financial records well-organized, maintain them properly, and ensure they meet compliance standards. I want to emphasize that, given the large amount of federal and state grant money the council handles, they do an excellent job. Please turn to page 16. This page shows the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year ending December 31, 2023. The total federal grants received were \$9,682,441. The total state grants amounted to \$17,719,246. Your local revenues were \$5,147,250. This resulted in total revenues of \$32,548,937. Your expenditures were also \$32,548,937, so there was no change in your fund balance. Therefore, your fund balance at the end of the year is \$33,917. Please turn to page 11 in your packet. This page shows your statement of net position as of December 31, 2023. Your total current assets were \$24,889,840, and your total non-current assets were \$21,764,157. This brings your total assets to \$46,653,997. For liabilities, current liabilities were \$25,185,657, and total non-current liabilities were \$1,077,540, making total liabilities \$26,263,197.

Your net position includes \$20,356,883 invested in capital assets and \$33,917 in unrestricted funds. This results in a total net position of \$20,390,800. In your packet, I've included the schedule of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, comparing the budget versus actual figures. The main point to note is that the budgeted total revenues were \$38,766,329. On page 31, you'll see that the actual revenue received was \$32,548,937, which is less than the budgeted amount of \$38,766,329. This discrepancy is also reflected in the expenditures, which you can review on page 32. Finally, for the schedules of findings and questioned costs related to your federal and state programs, please see page 166. There were no findings; you'll find this noted at the bottom of sections B and C. There were no financial statement findings or issues with federal and state awards. That concludes my presentation, unless there are any questions. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve 2023 Annual Audit, Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #5 Department reports

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

Ms. Melisa Gonzales started off with the first of 2 Action items she had on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) membership. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the RGV Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGV EDAC) Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve updated Solid Rider 7 PM2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Request for Proposal (RFP) Award. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve the Updated Solid Rider 7 PM2.5 local Air Quality Planning Request for Proposal Award. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

## Program Status Reports

Mrs. Melisa Gonzalez started with a few announcements. First, I want to share that our first annual Regional Small Cities Coalition Conference on July 25th was a big success. We had 57 attendees and nine sponsors. We didn't start seeking sponsors until they reached out to us, so I'm very grateful for their support. Get ready for next year—I might reach out to you for sponsorship for our Regional Small Cities Conference. My second announcement is that our Community Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) need to be updated and submitted to the EDA by the end of this year. We've sent out a survey link to everyone. Once you receive it, please take a few minutes to answer the nine questions. It's a simple survey—just yes or no and your input. This will help us prepare for the public meetings scheduled for September.

We have three county meetings to discuss these findings: September 5th: Cameron County at 10 a.m. at the Annex Center in San Benito. September 5th: Willacy County at 1:30 p.m. at the Judge's Chambers in Raymondville, Willacy County Courthouse. September 11th: Hidalgo County at 10 a.m. Next, On October 1st, we will hold a kickoff meeting for our non-entitlement CDBG communities, focusing on our entitlement communities. They are invited to attend the 10 o'clock training session. At 11 o'clock, we will be awarding the CDBG funds for the upcoming year, and they can stay for the award ceremony if they wish. This year's awardees are Los Indios, the City of San Perlita, La Feria, Cameron County, Hidalgo County, and we also have a special guest, Rio Grande City. Rio Grande City is the sole awardee from the South Texas Council of Governments, and they requested to be included, which we gladly accepted. So, we'll have a special guest on that day. The event will take place on October 1st at 10 a.m. here at this office. And my final announcement is a friendly reminder to ensure everyone is following their water conservation plans. This message comes from Mayor Jim Darling, given our current water issues. Please remember to conserve water. Thank you!

No further questions or concerns Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Health and Human Services.

### **A. Health and Human Services Action Item:**

Mrs. Margarita Lopez was recognized and started with her 2 Action Items. Ms. Margarita Lopez informed the Board that she had provided everyone with Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 for their review and mentioned that these would be part of the action items needing approval.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List. ***Ron Mills made a motion to approve the Direct Purchase of Services (DPS) Contractors List. Commissioner Edward Gonzales seconded the motion, upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

These contractors will offer essential services such as medical transportation, homemaker assistance, respite care, residential modifications, medication assistance, medical supplies, and durable medical equipment.

2. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the List of the Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act-Services under Title III. ***Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve the List of the Subrecipients providing services under the Older Americans Act-Services under Title III. Mayor Ramiro Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

The sub-recipients will provide services including congregate meals, home-delivered meals, transportation, senior center operations, and caregiver education and training to seniors in Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties. Please refer to the attached list, exhibit 2.1.

## Program Status Reports

Ms. Margarita Lopez began with her status reports. I have a few quick announcements and highlights. First, I want to update you on the interns we've hosted this year. We had a total of nine interns who completed 1,140 hours, which will count toward our in-kind requirements. Additionally, we are pleased to announce that our new contract has been awarded; the LRGVDC ADRC received another three-year contract. Along with this, we have new CDBG allotments. For the first time, the Aging Disability Resource Center has received a grant from Donna, Elsa, and Harlingen through the Community Development Block Grant to provide services for individuals with disabilities and veterans. Normally, we receive CDBG funds, and we're grateful for those—please keep them coming for older adults.

However, this is the first time any ADRC in Texas has received funds specifically for the Resource Center to assist individuals with disabilities and the veteran community. Additionally, we've been quite active this year, welcoming two new employees to the Area Agency on Aging. Our agency is growing rapidly, and we've also had four internal promotions. You'll see more new faces at next month's meeting. That concludes my report.

With no further questions or comments, Mayor Norma Sepulveda moved on to Public Safety.

### **C. Public Safety**

Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Program Action Items.

Mr. Cesar Merla started off with the 4 Action Items he had on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HAS) Bylaws as is for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. ***Ron Mils made a motion to Approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Bylaws as is for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. Lupita Sanchez seconded the motion upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***
2. Consideration and ACTION to approve to Update and Approve the Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Policies and Procedures for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. ***Mr. Paul Hernandez made a motion to Update and Approve the Homeland Security Advisory (HSAC) Policies and Procedures for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion, upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
3. Consideration and ACTION to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) Bylaws for FY 2025-2026. ***Ron Mills made a motion to Approve the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's Bylaws for FY 2025-2026. Commissioner Edward Gonzalez seconded the motion upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***
4. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Policies & Procedures as is for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve Policies & Procedures as is for the FY 2025-2026. Ron Mills seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

## Program Status Reports

Regarding the status report, the program has been very active since July. We've been engaging with the community and working to make it safer by distributing over 2,000 emergency response guidebooks in English and approximately 800 in Spanish. We still have some available, so if your jurisdiction needs more guidebooks, please contact me or Mr. Cruz, and we'll arrange that for you. I also wanted to highlight some pictures related to this work. As you can see, the staff is actively engaged in outreach and supporting other programs within the department. At the bottom of the page, you can see the K-9 competition held in Hidalgo County and the transformative care workshop that took place a couple of weeks ago at the LRGVDC facilities. I also want to highlight some upcoming training sessions. On September 5th, we will have a TCOLE -certified training session, which will provide two hours of training for law enforcement. I want to spend a bit of time on the next topic. We had a site visit yesterday from the instructor, Tab Troxler from Louisiana. The purpose of this course is to help all jurisdictions review their emergency management plans. It's not just about identifying what you're doing well, but also recognizing areas where you may be lacking. As leaders, we should always focus on improving our weaknesses. This training is a two-day event, taking place on Thursday and Friday, September 19th and 20th.

It will help with reviewing and updating emergency management plans, especially since many plans will be due for updates in 2025. There is still plenty of space available; we currently have 31 confirmed registrations and are planning to accommodate more. Moving on to the last update, from October 21st to 23rd, there will be a three-day course focusing on support related to mental health. This course is more geared toward law enforcement but is available for all officers to sign up and register. Also, regarding the management training, I forgot to mention that it includes a list of participants. However, anyone can attend, including nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, and others. Disasters require a community-wide and regional approach.

No further Questions or Comments Mayor Norma Sepulveda than moved on to item C Police Academy.

Mr. Javier Solis with the Police Academy had 1 Action item on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve an Interlocal Agreement as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with City of Combes Texas, by & through the Combes Police Department, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and with the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. ***Mayor Ramiro Garza made a motion to Approve an Interlocal Agreement as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with City of Combes Texas, by & through the Combes Police Department, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement and with the authority to have the LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz sign and finalize the agreement. Ron Garza seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

## Program Status Report

I'll keep it short: This month's standout highlight was hosting the 2024 Rio Grande Valley Police K9 competition. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Mayor Ramiro Garza and the City of Edinburg for their crucial support in making the event possible. We worked closely with the Edinburg Parks and Recreation Department, and Mr. Javier Garza was exceptional in his role. His efforts, along with those of his team, were key to the event's success. Over 50 police canine teams participated in the training. The training covered narcotic detection, explosive detection, and criminal apprehension. We hosted 26 police canine units and law enforcement agencies, and we were also joined by teams from Mexico and the Kansas City Railroad Police, who participated in narcotic detection training. Planning for next year's event is already in progress. I want to extend my thanks to all the sponsors and everyone who contributed to making this



event a success. To underscore the significance of these trainings, since hosting the event, we've seen five success stories from the canine handlers and their dogs who participated. Within just a few weeks of the training here in the Rio Grande Valley, we've already had five drug seizures directly linked to this training. One notable success involved the seizure of 40 kilograms of methamphetamine hidden in cement bricks inside an 18-wheeler—an impossible find for the human eye or nose, but detectable thanks to the specialized training. Another significant seizure included 700 grams of fentanyl. These accomplishments highlight the direct impact of this training on our communities. We're already planning for next year's event and appreciate everyone's continued support. Mr. Javier Solis mentions one last thing, Mayor Sepulveda, I also want to mention that the Harlingen Basic Peace Officer course graduation is coming up next month. I'll be reaching out to your office to extend an invitation, as I believe it would be wonderful for you to attend and welcome the new officers to the city of Harlingen.

With no further comments or questions Mayor Nora Sepulveda moved on to Rio Grande Emergency Communication District.

### Program Status Reports

Mr. Dennis Moreno started by letting the Board know that there were no Action Items and then proceeded to the GIS Division, 911 and Information Technology, and community Engagement reports that were all in the packet provided to everyone for review. Mr. Cruz added after Mr. Moreno's status report that Under the emergency communication district, I had the honor of being invited to testify before the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety regarding House Bill 3290. In relation to the Next Generation 9-1-1 service fee, system rollout, and implementation, I testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety on August 15th. Representatives Guillen and Canales are members of this committee. I provided an update on our Next Generation 9-1-1 system, which transitioned to a digital platform in 2021. For our region, encompassing Hidalgo and Willacy County, we received \$2.6 million in funding to cover implementation and recurring costs. Since the upgrade from analog to digital, costs have increased significantly, from \$300,000 per year to \$1.3–\$1.4 million annually. One of the key lessons learned was the substantial rise in recurring expenses. We are actively pursuing grant opportunities and additional funding sources to address these increased costs and are also working to advocate for an increase in the 9-1-1 fee. Currently, the fee is \$0.50, and we are considering a potential increase of \$0.25 due to the high costs of maintaining the system. We hope this issue will be reviewed and approved during the upcoming legislative session. If not, we will seek additional funding from the governor. We are actively pursuing these avenues to support future implementation and ongoing costs.

With No Further Comments or concerns, Mayor Norma Sepulveda then moved to Item D Valley Metro

### **D. Transportation Valley Metro Action Item**

Mr. Tom Logan was recognized and had 2 action items on the agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION on Review and Approval; Promotion of election Day and Get Out the Vote Initiative with Valley Metro Bus Service. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez made a motion to approve Promotion of election Day and Get Out the Vote Initiative with Valley Metro Bus Service. Lupita Sanchez Martinez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mayor Sepulveda mentioned the short turnaround time and wanted to ensure Valley Metro had a plan in place to collect contributions for this initiative. Mr. Logan confirmed, and the plan was ready to be implemented following the meeting. Mayor Norma Sepulveda stated I believe it's a fantastic idea, especially for communities like mine that heavily rely on this type of transportation. When a city doesn't

have its own communication system, like Brownsville does, it can be challenging. Brownsville excels at getting their message out, and I've mentioned to Manny that we should model our approach after theirs. I'm often in Brownsville, so I'm less familiar with what's happening in Hidalgo County, but I believe their method significantly enhances public participation in the democratic process. Overall, I think it's a great idea.

2.Consideration and ACTION to Approve Acquisition and Overhaul Vehicles under State and Federal approved Grants for LRGVDC Valley Metro. ***Paul Hernandez made a motion to approve Acquisition and Overhaul Vehicles under State and Federal approved Grants for LRGVDC Valley Metro. Troy Allen seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

We have allocated over \$2 million for a major overhaul and replacement of some of our buses. These buses have reached their midlife, with nearly 400,000 miles on them, and require new engines, transmissions, and general maintenance. We will be investing in these necessary upgrades.

#### Program Status Reports

Mr. Logan then moved on to the Ridership Report. Quick update on our ridership report: we've surpassed 741,000 riders for the year, indicating that the system is in excellent shape. We continue to receive numerous requests for additional service and are currently exploring how we can address those needs.

#### Rio Grande Valley MPO Status Reports

Luis Diaz started off with a quick report, I'd like to provide a quick update on our upcoming public involvement activities for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan. This includes our 25-year project plan and our four-year plan. Public involvement will commence on September 9th and will close on October 9th. We will then present the findings to our Technical Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Board in October for approval. Promotional materials, including posters and flyers, will be available on our website under the News and Events section. Please keep an eye out for these updates.

#### Item #7 New & Unfinished Business

If there are no immediate questions, Mr. Cruz had two brief items to share.

First, I attended one of the initial census meetings on Thursday, August 22nd. For the upcoming census, we will be actively involved, particularly with our 911 district, to ensure accurate data collection and that everyone is counted. We will coordinate with Cameron County's 911 to provide the necessary information. If you receive an invitation to participate, please do so, as it is crucial for accurately representing the Valley.

Second, I want to invite everyone to our second Regional Mobility Advisory Committee (RMAC) meeting, which is part of the Regional Transport Authority initiative. The meeting is scheduled for September 5th. If you haven't received the invitation yet, please look out for it and participate if possible. Your feedback is valuable, and this initiative could potentially increase funding for the Valley Metro, possibly even tripling the current funding, which would allow us to expand services throughout the five-county area.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mayor Norma Sepulveda made a motion to adjourn at 12:57 PM

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Mayor Norma Sepulveda

ATTEST:

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Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary

**ITEM #3**

**PUBLIC**

**COMMENT**

**ITEM# 4.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**ITEM#4.A.**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR  
REPORT**

Lower Rio Grande Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday September 25, 2024

Item #4 Administration

3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

**New Hire Date: August 19th, 2024**

Clara Munoz : Planner I : - Transportation – RGVMPO

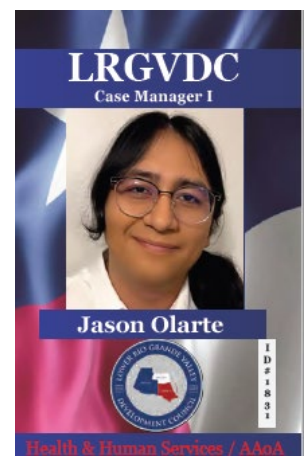
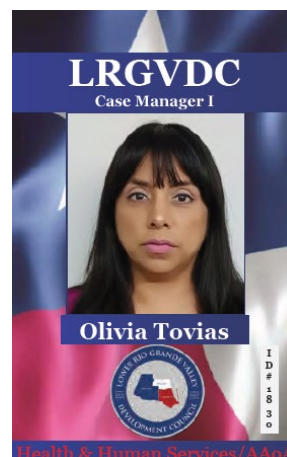
Yvonne Salinas: CSR II: Health & Human Services - AAA

Olivia Tovias: Case Manager I: Health & Human Services - AAA

Jason Olarte: Case Manager I: Health & Human Services – AAA

Kaila Garcia: Case Manager I: Health & Human Services – AAA

Isaiah Clover: Case Manager I: Health & Human Services – AAA



Lower Rio Grande Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday September 25, 2024

Item #4 Administration

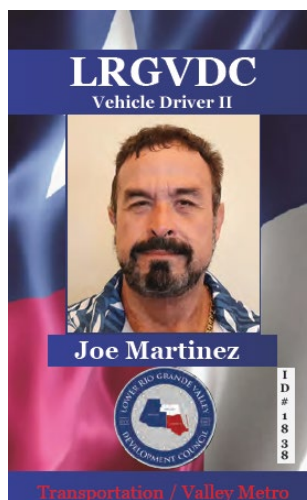
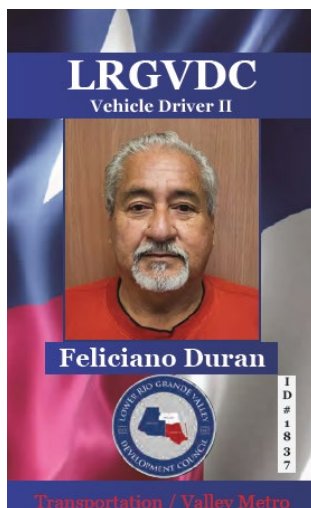
3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

**New Hire Date: September 3, 2024**

Feliciano Duran: Vehicle Driver II: - Transportation – Valley Metro

Joe Martinez : Vehicle Driver II : Transportation- Valley Metro

Juan Garcia : Fleet Maintenance Detailer Fueler : Transportation – Valley Metro





Lower Rio Grande Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday September 25, 2024

Item #4 Administration

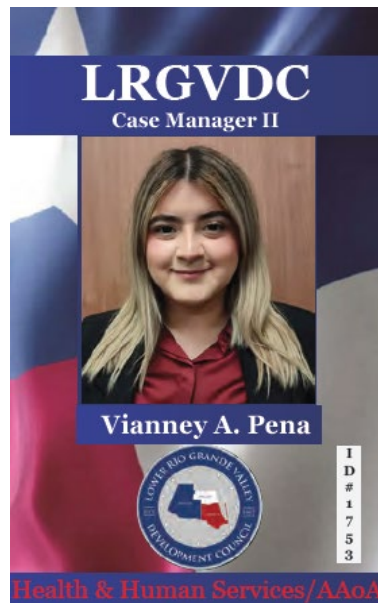
3. Introduction of New Staff Members..... Manuel Cruz  
Executive Director

**Promotions: September 16, 2024**

Monic Galvan: Grant Specialist I: Transportation – Valley Metro

Vianney Pena: Case Manager II: Health & Human Services - AAA

Stephany Andino: Ombudsman I: Health & Human Services - AAA



**ITEM #5. A.**

**COMMUNITY  
&  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

September 25, 2024

## Item #5: Department Reports

### A. Community & Economic Development

#### Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Updating LRGVDC 2025-2023 CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) – Through the developed Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC), they will strengthen the CEDS for the region, as well as assist in the input and development of that regional plan.

A CEDS survey has been sent out to our stakeholders, EDC, Chambers, CVBS, Special EDOs, Workforce Solutions, and other economic development entities, to finalize our strategies and goals. If you have not filled out the survey yet, no worries, use the QR Code to get the CEDS survey link.



LRGVDC CED'S Survey QR Code



In addition, staff hosted three CEDS public meetings conducted in each county, two on September 5<sup>th</sup> and one on September 11<sup>th</sup>, to review and gather input from the public on the strategies and goals that have been developed.

Cameron County



Willacy County





The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for EDAC committee members to serve in the following categories: (2) Special EDO, and (1) Institute of Higher Learning. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on economic development in the Rio Grande Valley, and other social impacts of existing, new or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding economic development. The advisory committee will provide advocacy, guidance, technical assistance, and information to the LRGVDC Board on priority matters of economic development. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Melisa Gonzales-Rosas. Nomination forms need to be emailed to [vramos@lrgvdc.org](mailto:vramos@lrgvdc.org).

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Meetings are held hybrid at the LRGVDC Small Board Room and via GoToMeeting.

EDA has published Fiscal Year 2023 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(grants.gov link\)](#). Public Infrastructure & Economic Adjustment Assistance key elements:

- EDA's standard project Application
- Funds planning, construction, and land acquisition
- Cost share can be 80% grant / 20% non-federal match
- Cost share can vary depending on (1) the 24-month unemployment rate and (2) per capita income
- Examples of projects funded:
  - Industrial Park infrastructure (water, sewer, utilities, roadway)
  - Entrepreneurial programs (business incubators/RLF)
  - Quality of life project (nature center)

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](#).

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. 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.

For more information and resources on EDA's funding opportunities, visit <https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/>.

- Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC)

A virtual RSCC Meeting is scheduled for October 08, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

We will have a representative from the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) share information that will benefit our small communities.

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

Staff continue to carry out specified technical assistance activities to TxCDBG eligible localities within our operating region, to ensure program compliance. Staff continue to disseminate program information to keep TxCDBG eligible communities informed of information, promote Fair Housing, provide support to the Unified Scoring Committee (USC) member, and host any grant kick off meetings to award communities.

Upcoming Activity:

- October 1, 2024, Regional Kick-off Meeting (for CDBG awarded communities in the LRGV Region). The City of Rio Grande will also be joining as an awarded community.

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:

A Solid Waste Advisory Committee virtual meeting was held on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Each solid waste awardee provided and update on their projects.

- **City of Mission**



City of Mission was previously funded for a drop off recycling facility. Currently with the new funding, City of Mission will be obtaining (1) 20 yard roll off, (1) 2-cubic yard front loader container and fifteen (15) 8 cubic yard front loader containers. Once purchased they will begin integrating equipment into its recycling operations. The city staff has begun creating educational recycling flyers to bring awareness to constituents.



The City of Alton purchased (6) 30-yard rolls with the Solid Waste Grant. Since the implementation of this program, the city has been servicing the six roll-offs weekly, which are filled with tires, white goods, construction debris, recycling materials and other waste. This program effectively serves not only the Alton community but also the surrounding areas, and it has been working exceptionally well.



The LRGVDC staff discussed with the SWAC the possibility of having some members appoint personnel from their code enforcement departments to collaborate with LRGVDC on developing a regional tire ordinance. Currently, LRGVDC is adhering to the recommendations outlined in the 2022 Scrap Tire Management and Available Alternatives in Texas' LRGVDC Region Study, which aims to identify alternative solutions for tire disposal instead of landfilling. The spring Road to Recycling event intends to incorporate one of these recommendations thereby supporting our Regional Solid Waste Management goals for 2022-2042.

The next Virtual Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting will be on December 03, 2024, at 2:00 PM via GoToMeeting platform.

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

- Water Quality Program

Staff continue to educate the public on water quality issues with monthly themed Facebook posts. Give a thumbs up or leave a comment! Other outreach efforts for this program include staff attending in-person events, and or in partnership with other LRGVDC departments, and outside organizations. 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. In addition, staff has gone out to hand deliver brochures (that include our water resources information) & water quality promo items to our local entities to introduce our department and inform our local entities of our water resource website and let them know that staff is available to aid or answer questions regarding water quality,

water projects, or anything water related, if they are unable to find it on our Water Resource Website.

Staff 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 FIF regional coordinator has visited and monitored 14 RTHS sites from Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron counties and has also helped install 2 RTHS stations to completion in Lyford and Brownsville. Site visits will continue, and during rain events visiting will be high priority to see these stations in action taking in and producing data.

Staff are working with Hidalgo & Cameron Counties for the Flood infrastructure Funds (FIF), TWDB Project No. 40038. The counties will undertake Task 2.2 (Drainage Characterization) and Task 2.3 (Project Assessments) of the TWDB Project No. 40038. The FIF project requires the development, processing, and contracting for characterizing drainage pathways, identifying flood control projects, and assessing the feasibility of those projects; and procures qualified engineering firms and staff to conduct engineering and drainage projects regularly. The project has been approved by TWDB for a no-cost time extension until December 31, 2026.

RWRAC meeting was held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the meeting was very informative and provided several water issue and project updates. The following information was presented and shared with the committee: staff overview of the USIBWC Floodway Tour, Regional Flood Planning Group #15, GLO Resilient Communities Program & Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, FIF 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle, TWDB Funding Opportunities, Region 15 FIF State Plan, and update on the LRGVDC FIF Project. The next RWRAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM.

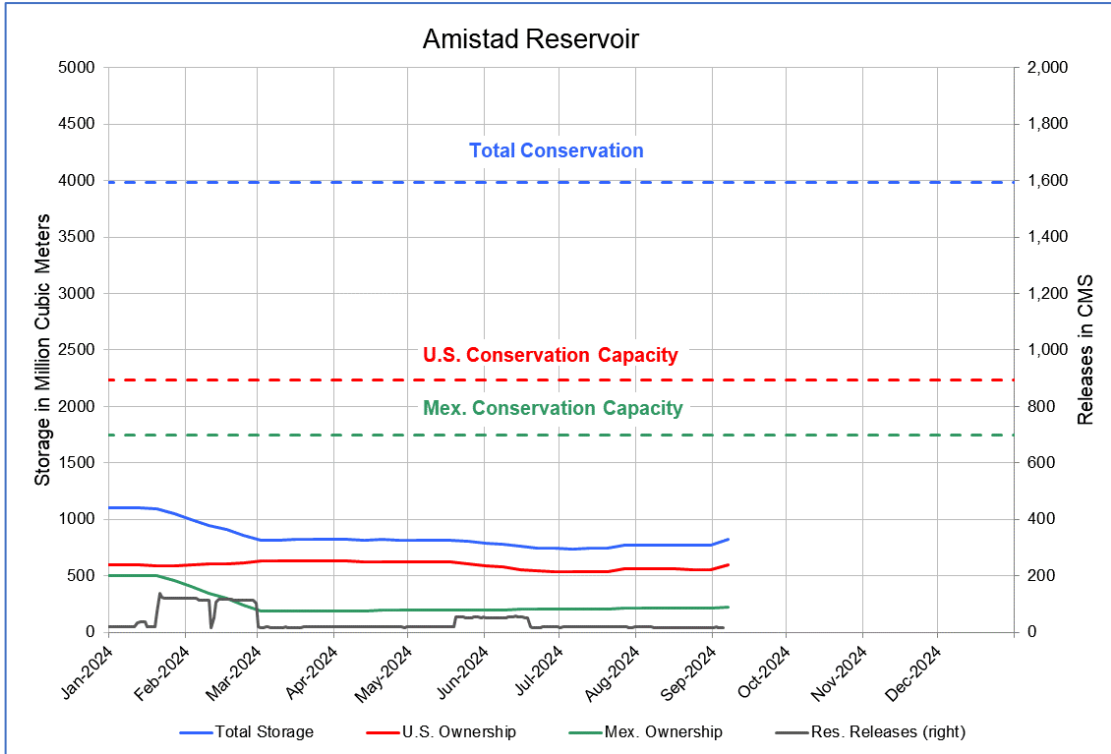
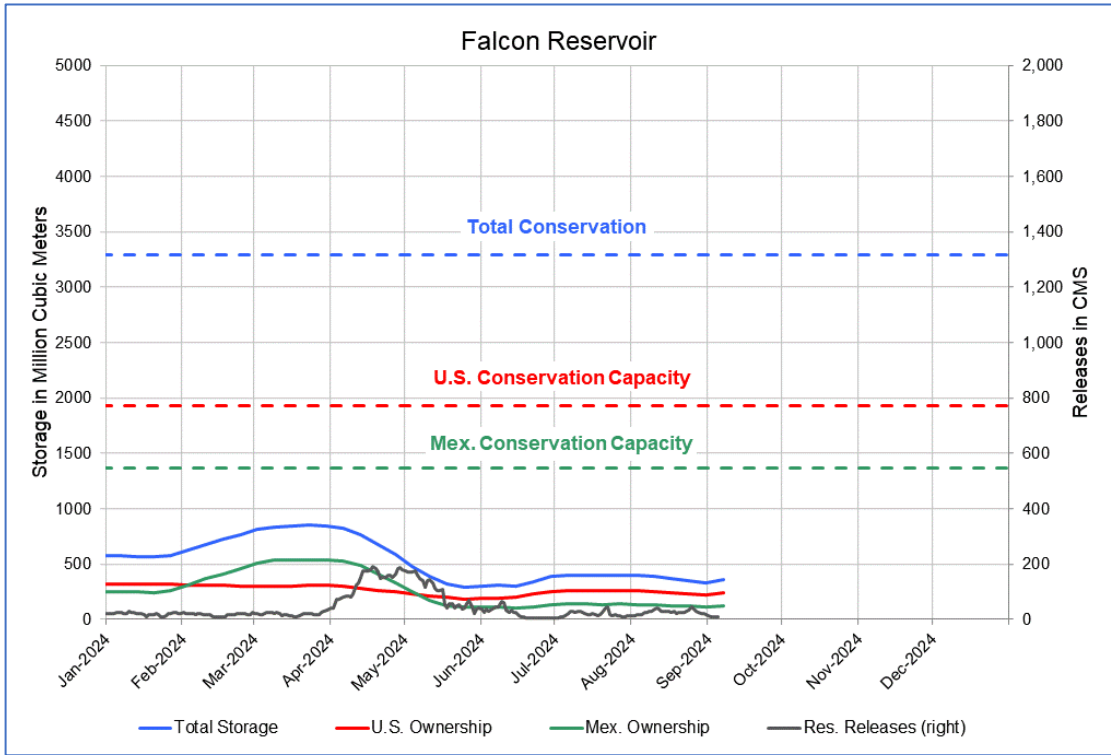
Staff continue to support, provide technical assistance, outreach, and administer water projects. Information about water resources is available at <https://www.lrgvdc.org/water.html>

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The next Region M Group meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2024, at 9:30 am. Meetings are held hybrid at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Board Room and via GoToMeeting.

For any Region M meeting information, please visit website: <http://riograndewaterplan.org>

- Reservoir Levels as of September 12, 2024 (taken from IBWC: [Home - IBWC](#))





**ITEM #5. B.**

**HEALTH  
&  
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Report

The following document represents the Area Agency on Aging's and the Aging and Disability Resource Center's report for August 2024.

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Care Coordination August 2024**
  - The Care Coordination Program serviced a total of 91 new clients.
  - A total of 351 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Care Coordination Services</b>	91	351
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	116	149
<b>Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	14	70
<b>Transportation Services</b> Assistance with transportation services to medical, rehabilitation, and dialysis appointments.	1	5
<b>Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	21	21

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Caregiver Support August 2024**
  - The Caregiver Support Program serviced a total of 23 new clients.
  - A total of 172 individuals were provided with case management assistance.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Caregiver Support Services</b>	23	172
<b>Respite In-Home Services</b> Provide relief to the caregiver and includes personal care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and light housekeeping duties.	26	117
<b>Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	17	18

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Community Development Block Grant August 2024**
  - All fund exhausted for 2024.

<b>Direct Consumer Services</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Clients Serviced</b>
<b>Community Development Block Grant Health Maintenance Services</b> Assistance paying for medication, durable medical equipment, and other medical supplies.	All fund exhausted for 2024.	
<b>Community Development Block Grant Homemaker Services</b> Temporary assistance with light housekeeping duties such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	All fund exhausted for 2024.	
<b>Community Development Block Grant Residential Repair Services</b> Assistance with home modifications such as grab bars, ADA commodes, ramps, widening of doorways, and tub removals.	All fund exhausted for 2024.	

- **Direct Consumer Services Report – Interest List August 2024**

- As of September 9th, 2024, 1,591 individuals have expressed interest in our services through the Area Agency on Aging. The increased demand is attributed to ongoing outreach and collaborative efforts across the Rio Grande Valley.

<b>Direct Consumer Services Interest List</b>	
Care Coordination Services	1,264
Caregiver Support Services	327
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,591</b>

- **Nutrition Program Report: August 2024**

- Successfully enrolled 156 new clients into the Home Delivered Meals program
- Successfully delivered 48,821 meals.
- Successfully enrolled 73 new clients into the Congregate Meals program.
- Successfully served 12,799 Congregate meals.

<b>Meals Program</b>	<b>Total New Clients</b>	<b>Total Meals Served</b>
Home Delivered Meals	156	48,821
Congregate Meals	73	12,799

- **Senior Center Operations Report – August 2024**

- Program successfully enrolled 189 new clients.
- Senior Centers conducted 30,574 activities with their clients.

<b>Senior Center Operations</b>	
New Clients	189
Total activities	30,574

## Special Services Report

### ● Benefit Counselors Program – August 2024

- Achieved the enrollment of 193 new clients and established 199.75 contacts.

Benefit Counselors	Total New Clients	Total Contacts
HICAP Awareness	60	25
HICAP Assistance	19	36
MIPPA	72	64
Legal Awareness	13	2
Legal Assistance	29	72.75

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

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

### ● Care Transition Intervention (CTI) Report – August 2024

- During August, the Care Transition Intervention (CTI) coaches successfully enrolled 52 new clients.
- They made a total of 211 contacts across hospitals within the tri-county area.

CTI Coaches	Total New Clients	Total Clients Served
August 2024	52	211

\*5 Hospitals: Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen Medical Center, Knapp Medical Center, Rio Grande Regional Hospital, and Mission Regional Medical Center

- **Ombudsman Program Report – August 2024**

- The Ombudsman handled 71 complaints.
- They dedicated 150.74 activity hours and recorded 310 activity totals.
- The volunteers collectively contributed 5 in-kind hours.
- We have 3 full certified volunteers and 4 new volunteers in training. We received 1 new volunteer application.

Ombudsman				
Month	Total Volunteer Hours	Total Activity Hours	Total Activities	Total Investigated Complaints
August 2024	5	150.74	310	71

- **August 28 and 29, The 2024 QMP Quality in Long-Term Care Conference.**



The Ombudsman team had the privilege of attending 2024 QMP Quality in Long-Term Care Conference in Austin Texas. The team attend different sessions like Supporting and Engaging Resident and Family Councils, Wound Care 101, Addressing wandering and psychomotor agitation in persons living with dementia, and Virtual Dementia Tours. This conference will help the team best serve the residents at the nursing facilities and assisted facilities.

## Aging and Disabilities Resource Center

- **Information Referral & Assistance Report – August 2024**

- The intake team had a total of 584 interactions via phone lines, walk-ins, emails, faxes, and follow ups.

IR&A Interactions	
1-800 AAA	29
1-855 ADRC	18
(956) 682-3481	94
(956) 412-0958	107
Walk-ins	11
E-mails	223
Fax	25
Follow ups	77
Total Interactions	584

Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	397
Consumer 59 and below	21
Total Consumers	418

Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	417
Veterans	20

Top Call Topics	
Benefits Counseling	124
Homemaker Services	95
Health Maintenance	81
Residential Repairs	75
Respite Services	74

● **Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultant Report – August 2024**

- During August, the Benjamin Rose Institute (BRI) Care Consultants successfully enrolled 4 new caregivers and made 14 total contacts.
- Actively participated in 5 events, meetings, and coalitions reaching a total of 50 individuals, 33 were 60 years of age and above, 17 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- During outreach activities interacted with 11 individuals with a disability, and 9 veterans.

Caregivers Assisted	
Total New Clients	4
Total Contacts	14

Outreach Events	
Total Outreach Events	5

Outreach Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	33
Consumers 59 and below	17
Total Consumers	50



Outreach Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	11
Veterans	9

- **ADRC Benefits Counseling Report – August 2024**
  - Assisted 1 consumers with MIPPA, HICAP, and Legal Assistance cases.
  - Engaged with 256 individuals during outreach activities, comprising 28 individuals aged 60 and above and 228 individuals aged 59 and below.
  - Included in the outreach activities were 10 individuals with disabilities, 16 veterans, and 6 caregivers

Consumers Assisted	
Unduplicated Consumers Assisted	1

Outreach Events	
Total Events Attended	8

Outreach Consumer Age Group	
Consumers 60+	28
Consumers 59 and below	228
Total Consumers	256

Outreach Consumer Demographics	
Consumers with a Disability	10
Veterans	16
Consumer with a Caregiver	6

- **ADRC Housing Navigator Report – August 2024**

- Offered assistance to 7 consumers with housing inquiries by providing tailored resources such as information regarding rental relief and utility assistance.
- Engaged with 164 individuals through in-person outreach activities, including 40 aged 60 and older, and 124 aged 59 and younger.
- Interacted with 13 individuals with disabilities, 12 veterans, and 9 caregivers.

<b>Housing Intakes Total</b>	
Cameron County	4
Hidalgo County	3
Willacy County	0
Total Housing Intakes:	7

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Outreach Events	6

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	40
Consumers 59 and below	124
Total Consumers	164

<b>Outreach Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	13
Veterans	12
Consumer with a Caregiver	9

- **ADRC Special Initiatives Report – August 2024**

- Engaged with 475 individuals, 245 individuals were 60 years of age and above, 230 individuals were 59 years of age and below.
- Interacted with 5 individuals with a disability, 11 Veterans, and 11 individuals with a Caregiver.

<b>Outreach Events</b>	
Total Events	15

<b>Outreach Consumer Age Group</b>	
Consumers 60+	245
Consumer 59 and below	230
Total Consumers	475

<b>Outreach Consumer Demographics</b>	
Consumers with a Disability	5
Veterans	11
Consumer with a Caregiver	11

- **Outreach Events:**

- **August 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual K9 Competition and Fair**

- Our staff had the privilege of attending the 2nd Annual 2024 RGV K9 Competition and Fair in support of law enforcement's continued education. While there, we also set up an information booth to share details about the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center programs. These programs are essential in providing support and education regarding the care of our aging population, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers.



- **August 13<sup>th</sup> Willacy County Health Fair**

- The team attended the Willacy County Health Fair, where they provided information on housing accessibility, support for caregivers, and resources to assist with the transition from hospital to their home. These services are essential in helping individuals navigate their care journey and access the support they need.



○ **August 15<sup>th</sup> National Night Out Willacy County**

- The team attended the National Night Out Willacy County. At the event, the team provided information about our programs, including respite care, benefits counseling, and the ombudsman program. These vital services support caregivers, advocate for residents' rights, and help individuals access the resources they need to enhance their quality of life.



○ **August 27<sup>th</sup> Veterans Health and Resource Fair**

- Our staff had the privilege of tabling at a Veteran Resource Fair in Pharr, where they highlighted the caregiver support program and benefits counseling available to veterans and their families. In addition to these efforts, the team provided valuable information about the Area Agency on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Center programs, which are essential resources for supporting the aging population, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers, ensuring they receive the care and assistance they need.



**ITEM # 5.C.**

**PUBLIC  
SAFETY**



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on application score sheets for FY2025-2026 grant cycle.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee convened on September 11, 2024, to deliberate and approve the score sheets per grant category (5 total) for the upcoming CJAC Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 grant cycle. These steps aim to ensure that the committee is ready and able to grade the applications once they are made available from the Governor's Public Safety Office. The committee's commitment to these considerations will foster a structured approach to its work, contributing to advancing its mission in the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.







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Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

2.Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on current membership roster for FY2025-2026 grant cycle.

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee convened on September 11, 2024, to deliberate and approve the current membership roster for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 grant cycle. These steps aim to ensure that the committee is ready and able to continue serving the region. The committee's commitment to these considerations will foster a structured approach to its work, contributing to advancing its mission in the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COG-21)**  
**Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC)**

**FY 2025**

**Tom Hushen**

Cameron County-Chair

**Patrick “Kelley” McCormick**

Hidalgo County-Vice Chair

**Annette Hinojosa**

Willacy County-Parliamentarian/Secretary

**Annie Romero**

Cameron County

**Mario G. Perea**

Cameron County

**David K. Longoria**

Cameron County

**Gloria Ocampo**

Cameron County

**Laura Soule**

Cameron County

**Luis Saenz**

Cameron County

**Pablo Almaguer**

Cameron County

**Rose Gomez**

Cameron County

**Rosie Mendoza**

Cameron County

**Antonio “Rick” Gonzalez**

Hidalgo County

**Carla Rodriguez**

Hidalgo County

**Christina Sprawls**

Hidalgo County

**Eddie Guerra**

Hidalgo County

**Mark Perez**

Hidalgo County

**Patricia “Cookie” Bader**

Hidalgo County

**Toribio “Terry” Palacios**

Hidalgo County

**Rosa Hernandez**

Hidalgo County

<b>Rosie Martinez</b> Hidalgo County
<b>Robert Lopez</b> Hidalgo County
<b>Maryann Denner</b> Hidalgo County
<b>Benjamin Clinton</b> Willacy County
<b>Uvaldo Zamora</b> Willacy County
<b>Raul Garza</b> Willacy County
<b>Monica H. Sanchez</b> Regional

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

3.Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Criminal Justice Advisory Committee's (CJAC) recommendation on the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025-2030.

The Criminal Justice subcommittee convened on September 4th, 2024, to review and update the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025-2030. Subsequently, the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee convened on September 11, 2024, to deliberate and approve updates to the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for 2025 – 2030. The strategic plan was drafted to reflect current and trending regional priorities.



# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

## Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan

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DRAFT



# **LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan**

## **Executive Summary**

### **Mission**

To address the region's changing and diverse needs in the criminal justice area as well the enhancement and sustainment of programs that currently target the region's criminal justice's needs.

### **Vision**

To have effective criminal justice programs and services in the region, therefore, making the area resilient to the ever changing problems affecting the communities due to local and national trends.

### **Introduction**

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) represents the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy. Together, these three counties cover 3,644 square miles, and have a total population of 1.3 million residents as per the 2020 U.S. Census (Cameron: 424,884, Hidalgo: 893,365, Willacy: 20,134). The 1.3 million does not take into account the influx of Winter Texans that visit the region each year as well as the thousands of undocumented people who cross via the U.S.-Mexico border and reside in the area without documentation. Both of these groups are also vulnerable to many of the issues identified in this plan.

### **Planning Process**

The LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan emerged in 2014 from the existing community plans of Cameron County, Hidalgo County, Willacy County and the 5 year LRGVDC Regional Strategic Plan. This regional strategic plan overall process included meetings in each of the counties. In the winter of 2014, another meeting was held in each of the counties to improve the current regional criminal justice plan. The participants consisted of local entities from all three counties who provided their subject matter knowledge and experiences.

Among those contributing to the process were: elected officials, law enforcement personnel, victim services program staff, community-based partners, and other local agencies.

### **Guiding Principles**

- Relationship building among agencies fostering regional collaboration.
- Flexibility of a living, breathing document that is responsive to emerging trends, new ideas, and opportunities.

### **Local Priorities**

The Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties lists several high-priority issues in the region to be addressed with the Office of the Governor's Criminal Justice Division funding. In no particular order, based on the planning process, the gaps listed within this strategic plan were identified to be most common to the region:

Drug Related Crime  
Border Related Crime  
Violent Crime  
Juvenile Crime  
Crime and Drug Prevention  
Technology/Public Safety Equipment  
Mental Health  
Human Trafficking

The plan recognized the needs, the available resource providers, the coordination of those resource providers, and the goals and strategies available to address the identified priorities. The participants also pinpointed the gaps in services within the community, determined what is needed to overcome those gaps, and looked at program measures for the priorities established.

## Gaps Identified in the Region

The community plans of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy were initially used to identify gaps for the region. Yearly meetings with community members in each of the counties as well as previously criminal justice local grant applications were also referenced as additional resources for identifying gaps.

- **Drug Related Crime**

Gaps Identified:

1. Lack of financial support for multi-agency drug enforcement task forces.
2. Lack of police/law enforcement equipment to sustain and enhance operations.
3. Lack of in/outpatient alcohol and substance abuse programs.
4. Training and Training Availability for each population (apply to all gaps)

- **Border Related Crime**

Gaps Identified:

1. Lack of detention and processing facilities for undocumented immigrants.
2. Identifying funding and emergency applications provisions for trafficking and immigration related crime.
3. Lack of medical and mental health care.
4. Training and Training Availability for each population

- **Human Trafficking**

Gaps Identified:

1. Need for direct and referral services, including treatment, for victims of labor and sex trafficking.
2. Lack of housing programs for victims of labor and sex trafficking.
3. Lack of public information and education programs that address victims of labor and sex trafficking.
4. Human Trafficking and lack of shelter and services for victims
5. Training and Training Availability for each population

- **Violent Crime**

Gaps Identified:

1. Need for direct and referral services, including treatment, to victims of crime.
2. Lack of housing programs for victims of family violence.
3. Lack of public information and education programs that address violent crime.

4. Crimes committed on school campuses
5. Training and Training Availability for each population

- **Juvenile Crime**

Gaps Identified:

1. Lack of adequate staff to address the juvenile population, i.e. counseling, residential services, etc.
2. Lack of community outreach programs to target youth.
3. Lack of programs to address life and parenting skills for youth and their families.

4. Crimes committed on school campuses
5. Training and Training Availability for each population

- **Crime and Drug Prevention**

Gaps Identified:

1. Lack of funding to operate crime watch and crime stoppers programs to include public schools.
2. Lack of anti-drug use information and education programs for adults and juveniles that address domestic violence; sexual assault; human/sex trafficking; bullying; elder abuse; underage drug abuse; substance abuse; cybercrime.
3. Need for crisis management training for school personnel.
4. Training and Training Availability for each population

- **Technology/Public Safety Improvement**

Gaps Identified:

1. Lack of hardware and software to automate criminal justice records and link separate local law enforcement computer systems.
2. Lack of adequate personnel to operate criminal justice information systems.
3. Lack of implementation of automated mug shot, criminal imaging, and fingerprint scanning systems in local jails.
4. Lack of a centralized clearinghouse for data collection and program evaluation.
5. Lack of adequate public safety measures in the schools, i.e. including training, personnel, and protected systems,
6. Training and Training Availability for each population

- **Mental Health**

Gaps Identified:

1. Limited services related to mental health and disabilities for adults and juveniles.
2. Limited community awareness and prevention education services.
3. Limited equipment and technology to address mental health issues.
4. Limited mental health collaboration task forces
5. Limited housing capacity for mental health related issues
6. Training and Training Availability for each population

DRAFT

## **Goals Identified for the Region**

The Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and the CJAC subcommittee help identify goals for the region. After looking at the goals for each county, seven common goals were identified out for the region.

### **Goal 1. To support agencies that address drug related crimes in the communities of the region.**

Objectives:

1. To build the capacity of multi-agency task forces.
2. To advocate for public awareness of drug related issues in the community.
3. To advocate for prevention and intervention programs that deter drug-related crimes.
4. To build the capacity of agencies that address drug interdiction and identification.
5. To decrease crimes on school campuses
6. To increase Training and Training Availability for each population

### **Goal 2. To build the local agencies capacity to assist victims of violent crime.**

Objectives:

1. To support programs that provide direct and/or referral services, to victims of violent crime.
2. To support programs that provide housing and employment opportunities for victims of violent crime.
3. To advocate for effective outreach education, prevention, and intervention programs to service communities and public schools in the region.
4. To strengthen the working relationship between law enforcement, assistance centers, and other agencies that provide services to victims of violent crime.
5. To advocate for the hiring of victim liaisons to help meet the need to assist victims of violent crime.
6. To increase awareness of other funding sources for victim services
7. To increase Training and Training Availability for each population

### **Goal 3: To build the capacity of local agencies to address juvenile crime.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To support the hiring of criminal justice personnel and juvenile mental health professionals.
2. To support quantifiable research base programs.
3. To advocate for the development of community base rehabilitation programs and post residential services.
4. To advocate for family strengthening programs.
5. To provide effective training for school personnel to identify and address juvenile issues.
6. To increase Training and Training Availability for each population
7. To decrease crimes on school campuses

### **Goal 4: To build the capacity of local agencies to address crime and drug prevention.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To support neighborhood watch programs and other community policing programs.
2. To advocate for the establishment of public information and education programs that educate the community about domestic violence; sexual assault prevention; substance abuse; and cybercrime.
3. To support school programs that help deter crime and drug use.
4. To provide training for law enforcement and other agencies that address issues as a result of crime and drug use.
5. To increase Training and Training Availability for each population

### **Goal 5: To build the capacity of law enforcement agencies by providing them with equipment to address technology and public safety issues.**

#### **Objectives:**

1. To support new/current databases to link local enforcement agencies.
2. To advocate for more automated systems that include criminal imaging, mug shots, fingerprinting scanning, and long-term evidence retention equipment.
3. To advocate for increased capacity and technology for long term video evidence storage for prosecution purposes
4. To advocate for intelligence gathering hardware and software for law enforcement agencies.
5. To advocate for training regarding information sharing among law enforcement agencies.

6. To support radio interoperability amongst law enforcement agencies in the region.
7. To increase Training and Training Availability for each population

**Goal 6: To enhance the capacity of mental health programs.**

Objectives:

1. To increase mental health programs for indigent and low-income populations.
2. To advocate for mentoring, guidance, counseling, and character development programs targeted toward the persons in need.
3. To support additional training resources for professionals in the mental health field as well as law enforcement who work with individuals with mental health challenges.
4. To provide educational awareness in prevention, intervention, and treatment of mental health to the public.
5. Advocate for mental health services in rural communities.
6. To increase training and training availability for each population

**Goal 7: To build the capacity of local agencies to address border related crime.**

Objectives:

1. Identify resources and funding during crisis situations.
2. Support a comprehensive report when addressing border related crime amongst local agencies.
3. Support training opportunities for programs/agencies that addresses border related crime
4. Address the need for multipurpose facilities during temporary surges in the region.

**Goal 8: To build the capacity of local agencies to address human trafficking.**

Objectives:

1. Identify resources and funding for shelter facilities and victim services
2. Support a comprehensive report when addressing human trafficking amongst local agencies.
3. Support training opportunities for programs/agencies that addresses human trafficking



## STRATEGIC PLANNING WORK GROUP PARTICIPANT DISCIPLINES

<b>Disciplines of Participants</b>
LRGVDC Criminal Justice Department
LRGVDC Criminal Justice Advisory Committee
Prosecution
Victim Services
Mental Health Services
Law Enforcement
Public education

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## **Future Steps and Implementation**

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC), the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, and the CJAC subcommittee help ensure a regular exchange of ideas and best practices. Individuals active in the planning process generally serve on many of these committees and share mutual concerns.

The Planning Team strives to meet periodically throughout the year to review the region's needs and make necessary additions, deletions, or modifications to the LRGVDC Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan.

Drafts and annual updates of the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan are circulated by e-mail with requests for comments, changes, etc. Wherever possible, e-mail is used to reduce the need for meetings, printing, postage, etc.

It is the intent of the Planning Team to improve the outcomes with problems described in the Plan and provide the vital services that they require. Efforts are being made by many local agencies and organizations to address problems with local funds. However, considering that the needs in services are much greater than anticipated, multiple state and federal funding sources are being considered as well. To the extent that these funds are available, the Regional Planning Team will continue to encourage agencies to provide programming that addresses the outlined focus areas.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

4. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Current Membership Roster for the FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle.

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee convened on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to approve the Current Membership Roster for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. The steps aim to ensure that the committee operates efficiently, remains aligned with its objectives, and abides by the established protocols. The committee's commitment to these considerations will foster a structured approach to its work, contributing to advancing its mission in the Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (COG-21)**  
**Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC)**

**2025**

**Chair**

Tom Hushen, EMC  
***Cameron County***

**Vice Chair**

Jeff Johnston, Assistant City Manager/EMC  
***City of McAllen***

**Parliamentarian**

Odee Leal, EM Administrator/EMC  
***City of Brownsville***

Michael Kester, Police Chief/Assistant EMC  
***City of Harlingen***

Hector Gonzalez, Police Chief  
***City of Los Fresnos***

Jim Pigg, Fire Chief/EMC  
***City of South Padre Island***

Omar Garza, Fire Chief/EMC  
***City of Edinburg***

Ricardo Saldana, EMC  
***Hidalgo County***

Jesus Ortega, Lieutenant/EMC  
***City of Hidalgo***

Adrian L. Garcia, Fire Chief/EMC  
***City of Mission***

Dr. Johnathan Flores, City Manager  
***City of Pharr***

Antonio (Tony) Lopez, Fire Chief/EMC  
***City of Weslaco***

Uvaldo Zamora, Police Chief  
***City of Raymondville***

Frank Torres, EMC  
***Willacy County***

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024


Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Program Action Item .....Cesar Merla, Assistant Director

5. Consideration and **ACTION** to approve Homeland Security Advisory Committee's (HSAC) Application Score Sheets for FY 2025-2026 Grant Cycle.

The Homeland Security Advisory Committee convened on September 5th, 2024, to approve the Application Score Sheets for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Grant Cycle. The steps aim to ensure that the committee operates efficiently, remains aligned with its objectives, and abides by the established protocols. The committee's commitment to these considerations will foster a structured approach to its work, contributing to advancing its mission in the Homeland Security Advisory Committee.

HSAC Member:	Date:											
Homeland Security Grants Division Grant Program Grant Cycle 2025-2026												
	Did the applicant attend a COG grant workshop? If "No", application is ineligible.	<p>*If applicant is part of a Special Response Team or has First Responder Capabilities: 1) if applicable, is team FEMA Typed? 2) if SWAT, is team typed according to NTOA standards? 3) has applicant provided the COG a copy of a formal-type cooperation? (for example: MOU; SOPs; contract; plan(s); written agreement) If "No", application is ineligible.</p>	<p>How well does the project address target capabilities related to prevention, preparing for, protecting against, or responding to acts of terrorism as indicated on the RFA (Request for Applications) issued by the Office of the Governor- Homeland Security Grants Division?  *LETPA projects must have a clear link to one or more of the following Core Capabilities: Planning; Public Information &amp; Warning; Operational Coordination; Intelligence &amp; Information Sharing; Interdiction &amp; Disruption; Screening, Search &amp; Detection; and Forensics &amp; Attribution</p>	How well does the project address one of the COG's Activity Areas? (Interoperable Emergency Communications, Sustaining Special Response Teams & First Responder Capabilities, Critical Infrastructure, Cybersecurity)	How well does the project address a national priority areas? (Addressing Emerging Threats; Enhancing Cybersecurity; Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places; Intelligence and Information Sharing)	How well does the project address gaps identified in the LRGVDC's THIRA (Threats & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment) and SPR (Stakeholder Preparedness Review)?	How well does the project impact the region? (I.e. a positive impact for developing or sustaining capabilities that benefit neighboring jurisdiction(s), state, or nation)	Is the project S.M.A.R. T.? (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely)	Funding recommendation:	If partial recommendation, what amount?	Comments:	TOTAL PTS
	Y N NA	Y N NA	0-25 PTS	0-15 PTS	0-15 PTS	0-15 PTS	0-15 PTS	0-15 PTS	Full Partial None			
Project Grant Applications												
Addressing Emergent Threats												
Emergency Operations Center Technology and Enhancements												
Improving Interoperability Capabilities												
Information & Intelligence Sharing/Cooperation												
Interoperable Emergency Communications												
Planning & Community Preparedness												
Protection of Soft Targets/Crowded Places												
Support of First Responder Capabilities												

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Criminal Justice Program

- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) Subcommittee meeting September 4, 2024, to update the Regional Criminal Justice Strategic Plan at the LRGVDC CEIDO Room, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted the Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety Training for Law Enforcement on September 5, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom, Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted the NALOXONE TRAINING: “Learn How to Save Lives” Overdose Education and Prevention on September 6, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom Weslaco, TX.
- Staff hosted the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting September 11, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended the Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) Bi-Annual Staff Training and Annual Board of Directors Meeting on September 17-20, 2024, In Austin, TX.
- Staff attended the 2024 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar on September 19, 2024, in McAllen Convention Center, McAllen TX.

### Homeland Security Program

- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee meeting on September 5, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended a webinar for TARC eLearning “Using Social Media to Elevate your Online Presence for Public Engagement” on September 12, 2024.
- Staff participated in the Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) Preparedness Programs Regional Conference Call on September 12, 2024.
- Staff attended the Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assess & Stakeholder Preparedness Review Training on September 17-18, 2024, at the UTRGV Campus Harlingen, TX.
- Staff member attended the Texas Association of Regional Council (TARC) Bi-Annual Staff Training and Annual Board of Directors Meeting on September 17-20, 2024, in Austin, TX.
- Staff hosted and participated the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) “Management 412 Emergency Operations Planning Training” on September 19-20, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom in Weslaco, TX.
- Staff attended the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) West Side tour on September 23, 2024, in Mercedes Field Office in Mercedes, TX.
- Staff attended and participated in the Cameron County OEM Workshop on ESF 6 (Volunteer & Donations Management) for Local Agencies on September 24, 2024, at Cameron County EOC in Brownsville, TX.
- Staff will host the RGV-ETAB Fire Academy on September 26, 2024, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Boardroom Weslaco, TX.
- Staff will host the 2025 THIRA/SPR/IP virtual workshop in order to coordinate updates to the assessments in preparation for the next State Homeland Security grant cycle and regional safety priorities on September 30, 2024



# SAVE *THE* DATE

**October 21st-23rd**



**SUPPORT  
THAT SAVES**

**BUILDING AND  
SUSTAINING  
PEER SUPPORT**

**Hosted by Mercedes Police Department**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
301 W Railroad St, Building B Weslaco, Texas 78596

**October 21st-23rd | 8:00am-5:00pm**

**Registration Link:**

<https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/Default.aspx?MO=mCourseCatalog&D=LS&C=LET692&S=8>



SCAN TO  
REGISTER

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING  
**TEEX**  
EXTENSION SERVICE

# Learn how to save lives.



## NALOXONE TRAINING

Overdose Education & Prevention

### Why Attend?

Nationally and locally, overdose death rates have been on the rise and Texas is responding by distributing education and Naloxone to all regions in Texas.

### Training includes:

- Opioid trends leading to overdose
- Recognize & Respond to an opioid overdose
- How to Administer Naloxone
- Provide Free Naloxone (after training)

For more information contact:  
Vanessa Ramos  
(956) 787-7111, ext. 126  
[vramos@bhsst.org](mailto:vramos@bhsst.org)



**BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH  
SOLUTIONS**

October 25, 2024. Register Here

**NALOXONE KITS  
AVAILABLE**

# De-Escalation Training for Law Enforcement



Register:  
[www.lemitonline.org/dtc](http://www.lemitonline.org/dtc)

301 W. RAILROAD ST  
WESLACO, TEXAS 78596  
BUILDING B

**AVAILABLE AT NO  
COST**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2024, 8AM - 5PM**

**HELD IN THE KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM**

**8 HRS OF TCOLE 1849 CREDIT**

Law Enforcement Management  
Institute of Texas (LEMIT), in  
partnership with the U.S. DOJ COPS  
Office and Blue Shield Tactical  
Systems, is pleased to offer eligible  
agencies a 1-day (8 hour)  
de-escalation training course.



**COPS**

Community Oriented Policing Services  
U.S. Department of Justice



**DE-ESCALATION  
TRAINING CENTER**



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2024

Public Safety

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY ACADEMY

Program Action Item ..... Javier Solis Asst. Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve an Interlocal Agreement, as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act Chapter 791 Texas Government Code, with the County of Hidalgo, Texas, by and through the Hidalgo County Constable Precinct 2 Office, for the purpose of reporting law enforcement training to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement and with the authority for LRGVDC Executive Director Manuel Cruz to sign and finalize the agreement.



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2024

Department Reports

Public Safety .....Javier Solis Jr, Assistant Director

Lower Rio Grande Valley Academy

- On Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>, the LRGV Academy celebrated its 225<sup>th</sup> Basic Peace Officer Academy graduation which was hosted by the Harlingen Police Department. Ten cadets have completed their training and are now eligible to become licensed officers within our region.
- The 224<sup>th</sup> LRGV Weslaco Police Academy is in its final month of training and is currently preparing to seek the licensing of 15 cadets to be certified as Texas peace officers for the region.
- The 226<sup>th</sup> LRGV Mission Academy has completed Crisis Intervention Training, De-escalation Techniques, and received scenario-based training on how to deal with people or victims struggling with mental health issues.
- The 227<sup>th</sup> LRGV Edinburg Academy has completed phase one of their training and have received training on Ethics, Professional Policing, Texas Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. They are currently receiving training on Texas Traffic Code.

<b>New Police Officers added to the Region</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Total In-Service Courses Taught</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>Total Officers Trained</b>	<b>1,433</b>
<b>Total Contact Hours</b>	<b>52,093</b>
<b>Total Officers Trained in ALERRT Active Shooter Response</b>	<b>341</b>

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council  
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

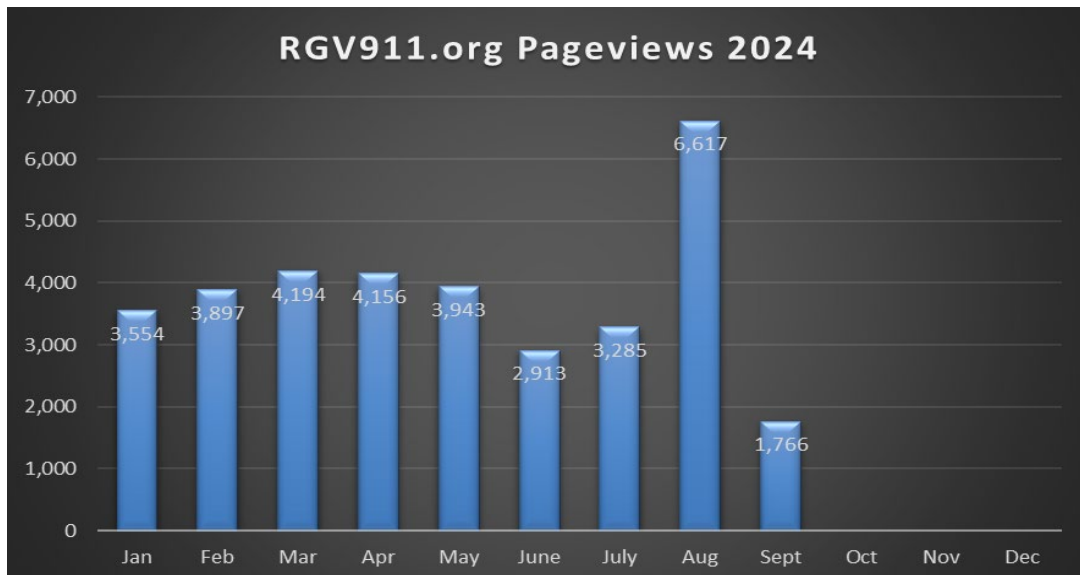
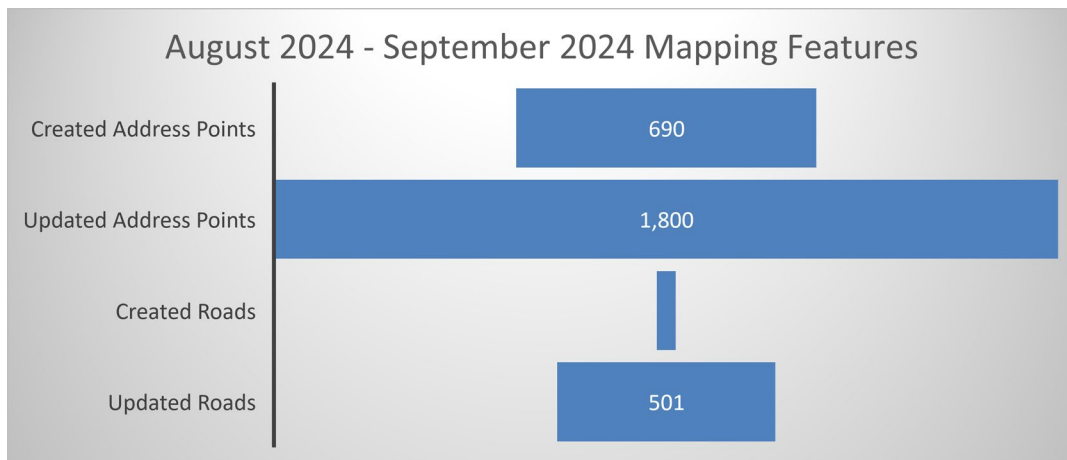
Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

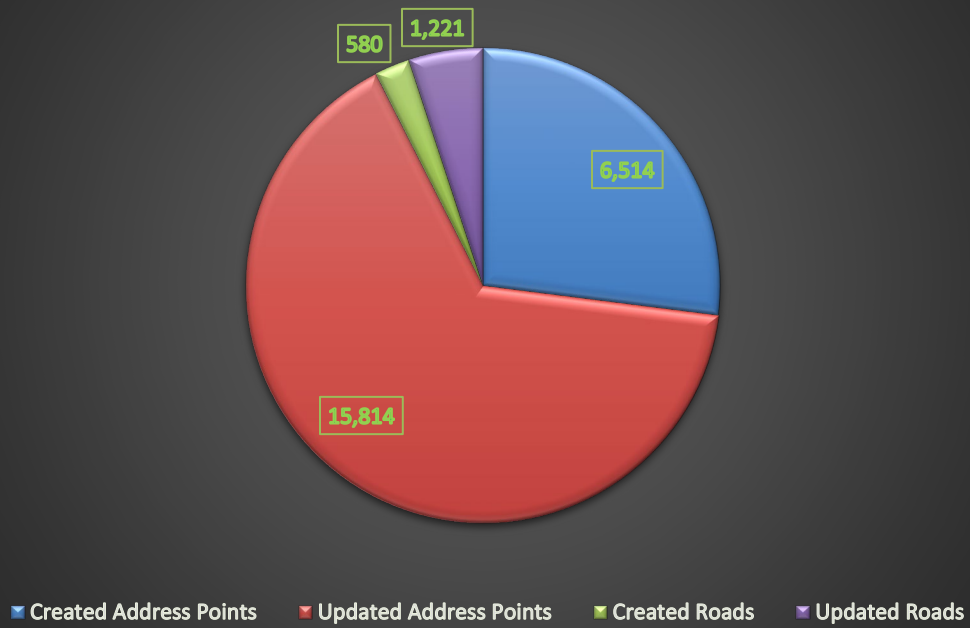
Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

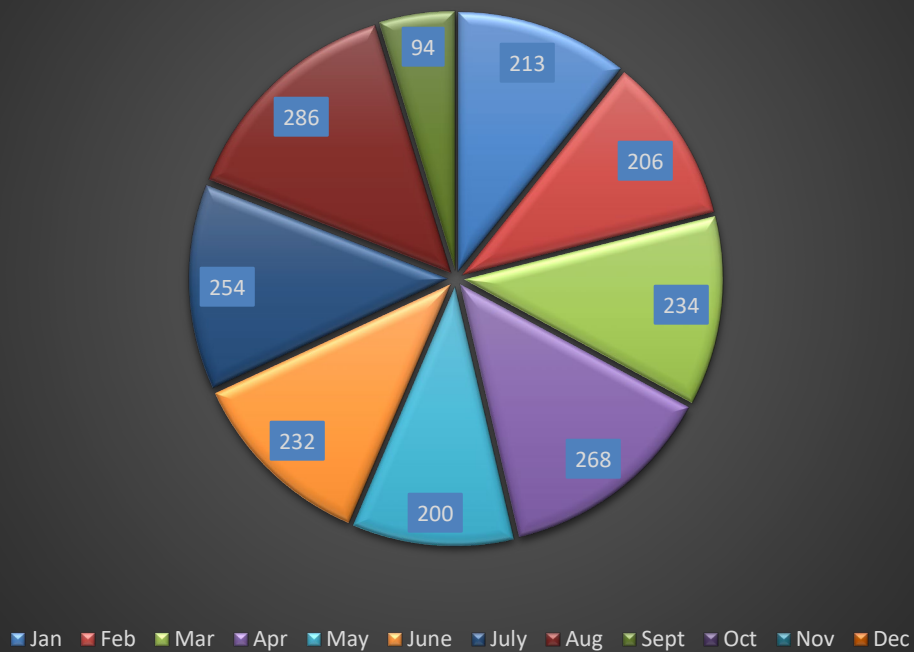
Our GIS Data Hub is now our primary website and can be found at [www.rgv911.org](http://www.rgv911.org). The GIS team has uploaded several informational maps that other public entities, and the public can readily download. This data has streamlined our general information request process. Following our GeoSpatial Strategic plan, we have begun our project to upgrade to ArcGIS Enterprise 11.3.1. This will be a 3-tier project involving the upgrade, installation of an additional image server to house our 3D aerials, and to upgrade our ticketing system. We have begun our annual planning sessions to prepare next year's strategic plan.



## 2024 Total Production : GIS



## Address Tickets from January to September 2024



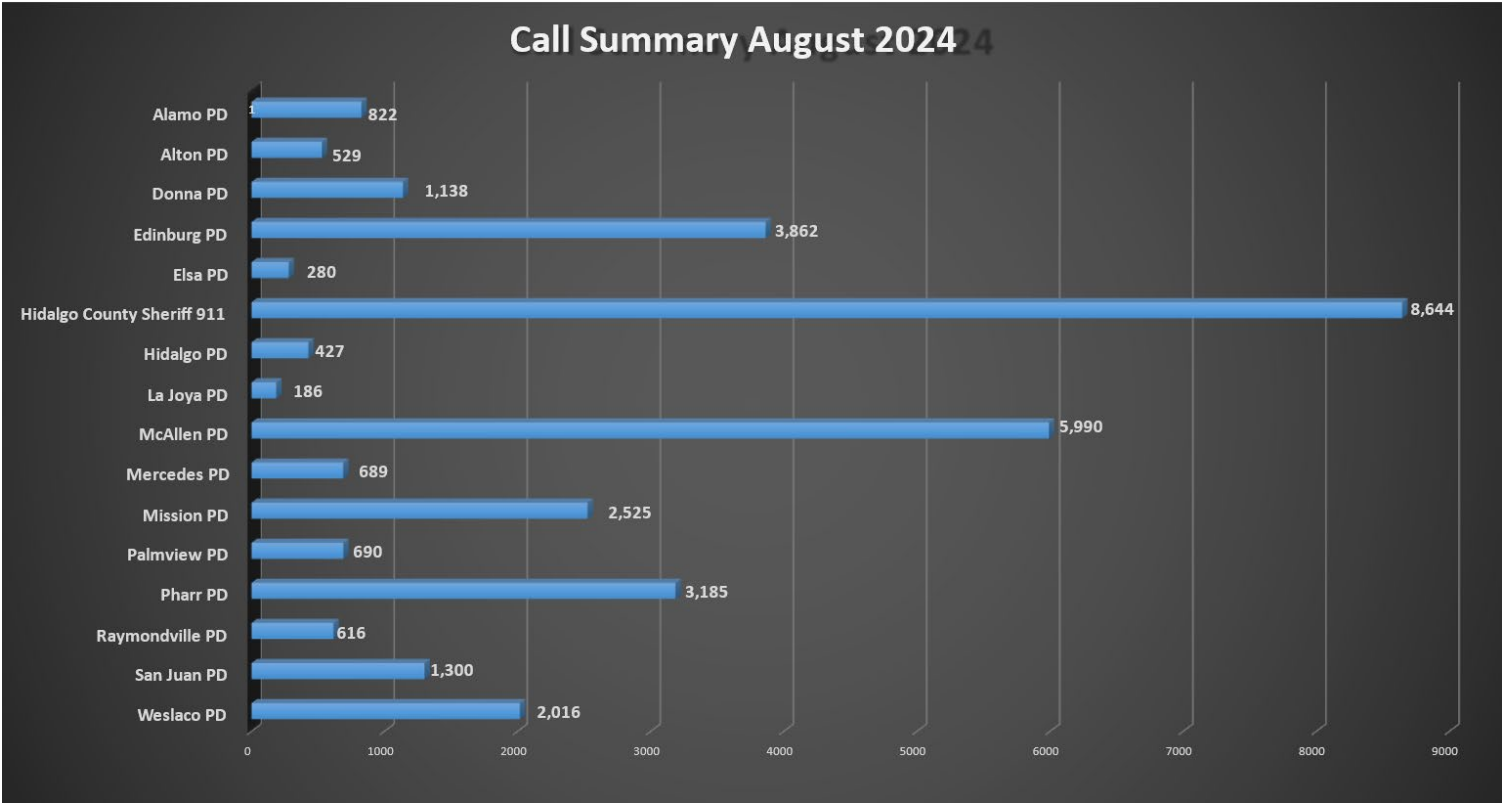
- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

The 9-1-1 | Information Technology team recently hosted our third round of Power 911/MapFlex training sessions for 2024, held on August 26th, 27th, and 28th. These sessions provided both new and experienced telecommunicators with essential training on the latest call delivery features, GIS mapping system updates, and industry best practices.

In addition to training, the team is currently working on the new router project for our 17 PSAPs. Given our redundant network design, the number of routers is doubled to ensure continuous service in case of any system failures.

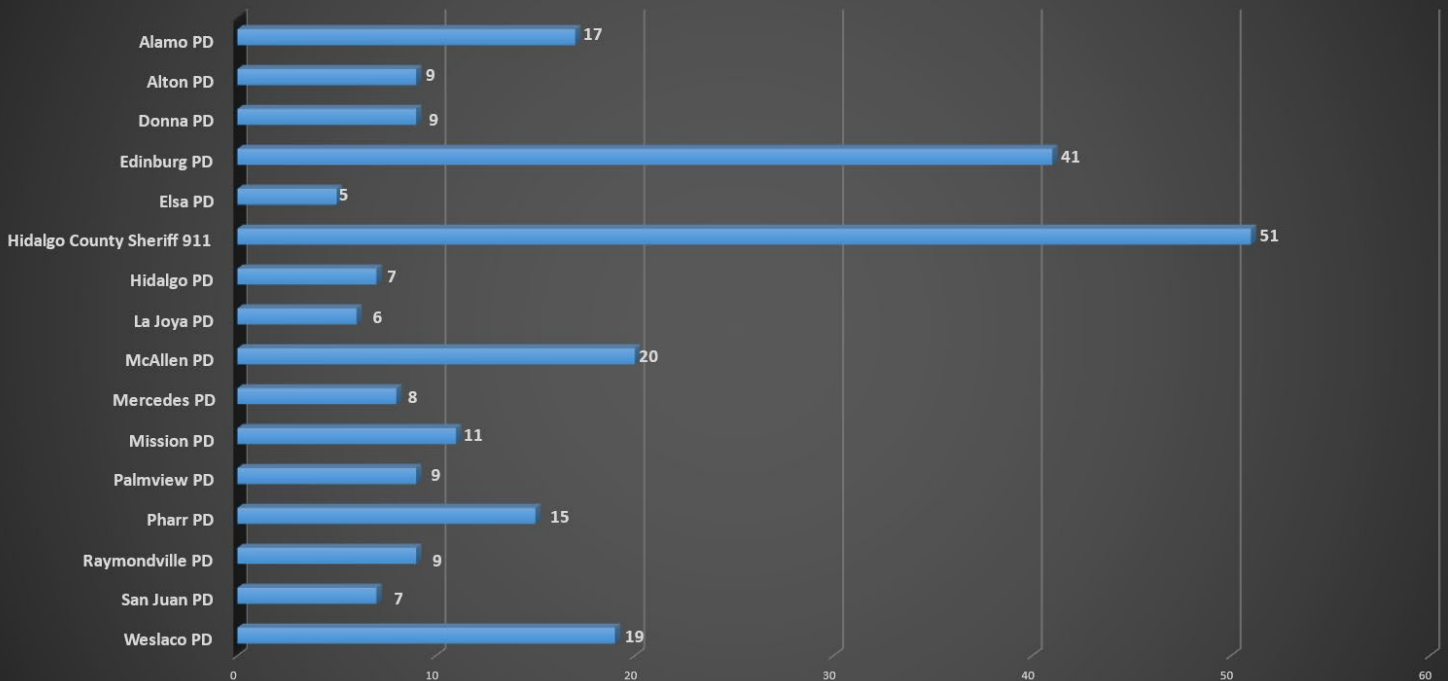
This upgrade is part of our 5-year maintenance cycle for 9-1-1 routers. Regular updates are crucial for maintaining the reliability, security, and performance of our network. By replacing aging equipment, we ensure faster data processing, reduced downtime, and improved overall system performance. This proactive approach helps us mitigate potential issues, ensuring that emergency calls are routed efficiently and without interruption.

Our ongoing goal is to ensure that our 9-1-1 call delivery systems and GIS mapping technologies are working seamlessly together, maintaining 99.9% operational efficiency to serve our public safety partners and the community.





## Text Summary August 2024



- **Community Engagement**

August is always an exciting month for the Public Education team as it marks the kickoff of National Night Outs, bringing communities together to focus on safety. This month sets the stage for a busy season, filled with events and outreach efforts aimed at spreading awareness about public safety. Our team is dedicated to engaging with the public, providing crucial education on 911, and fostering stronger connections. As we continue our mission, we remain committed to ensuring that everyone understands the importance of safety in our communities.

- **2024 Annual RGV Police K9 Competition. August 3, 2024.** K9 units from across the Rio Grande Valley. This highly anticipated event features various challenges and demonstrations, highlighting the crucial role these canine officers play in law enforcement. Spectators witnessed impressive displays of obedience, agility, and detection abilities, celebrating the dedication and training of both the handlers and their K9 partners.
- **City of Sullivan National Night Out. August 8, 2024.** We had an amazing time connecting with the community and celebrating together. A big thank you to everyone for inviting RGV9-1-1 to be a part of this wonderful event. We danced, enjoyed delicious food, and had the chance to educate everyone on public safety. It was truly a night to remember, filled with joy and positive energy!
- **City of Granjeno Back to School Bash. August 9, 2024.** The City of Granjeno for hosting a Back to School Bash for all students returning to school. We had a blast

talking to the community about the importance of texting 911 and how easy it is to get emergency help. It was a great opportunity to connect with everyone and share vital information. We also enjoyed handing out school supplies to help students get ready for the new school year.

- **The Raymondville Chamber of Commerce.** A Senior Expo and Resource Summit. August 13, 2024. The Raymondville Chamber of Commerce hosted a fantastic Senior Expo and Resource Summit, bringing the community together. We had a blast playing Loteria with the senior citizens, and everyone was filled with excitement. Along with the fun, we took the opportunity to inform them about the importance of ensuring their addresses are registered with the 9-1-1 department. It was a perfect blend of entertainment and essential information for our beloved seniors!
- **City of Palmview National Night Out. August 14, 2024.** Palmview PD and the City of Palmview! The event was filled with excitement as hundreds of children received much-needed school supplies and vital Text-to-9-1-1 information. Parents were equally engaged, gaining important insights on address registration. It was a fantastic community event that brought everyone together with a shared sense of purpose and enjoyment.
- **City of Raymondville Police Department's National Night Out Christmas in August School Supply Giveaway.** August 15, 2024. This event is always filled with excitement, and this year was no exception. RGV911 proudly attended, spreading the word that getting help is easy! Our focus was on educating everyone about when to contact 911, the importance of knowing your location, and what to remember during an emergency. We were thrilled to get both students and the community ready for the upcoming school year with essential supplies and valuable 911 information.
- **The Raspy Dispatcher Podcast on August 22, 2024.** We were thrilled to participate in Ashley Valenzuela Raspy Dispatcher Podcast! The discussion was all about the future of 911 and how education plays a crucial role in it. We shared insights on the importance of teaching the community, especially our youth, about the significance of 911. It was an incredible opportunity to highlight the programs we're developing to ensure everyone knows when and how to call for help. The conversation was inspiring and reaffirmed our commitment to public safety education.
- **City of Mission PD National Night Out. August 29, 2024.** RGV911, along with other organizations, joined in on the fun, playing exciting games and enjoying refreshing raspas to beat the heat. Despite the hot weather, we had an incredible time connecting with the community. We made sure to share the easy steps for calling or texting 911.
- **2024 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar**  
On September 19, RGV911 held its 2nd Annual Public Safety Wellness Seminar, a significant event we take great pride in offering to our public safety personnel. We believe mental health is a crucial topic that often goes unaddressed in this field, making this seminar an essential platform for discussion and support. We had an incredible lineup of keynote speakers who brought valuable insights and personal

experiences on the topic of mental health in public safety. Their powerful stories and expertise resonated deeply with the audience, emphasizing the importance of addressing mental wellness in this field. Each speaker contributed significantly to the success of the event, making it an impactful experience for all who attended.

During the event, we had the privilege of recognizing our 911 telecommunicators for their years of commitment and dedication to serving the community.

Additionally, we awarded the prestigious Sandra Coronado Award to the 911 Telecommunicator of the Year and the PSAP Supervisor of the Year. The event was attended by over 350 individuals, underscoring its importance to our public safety community. The seminar was a resounding success, filled with valuable insights and recognition for those who play a vital role in emergency response. We look forward to continuing this tradition of support and acknowledgment for the heroes behind the scenes. Overall, it was a remarkable day dedicated to mental health, wellness, and appreciation.

- **Future events**

October and November mark the beginning of our quarterly training sessions for 911 dispatchers. During this period, we are dedicated to providing specialized training designed to equip our dispatchers with the skills and knowledge they need to handle emergency situations effectively. Our focus is on enhancing their abilities in areas such as call handling, crisis communication, and multi-agency coordination. These trainings will not only refresh critical skills but also introduce new techniques to improve response times and service quality. We believe that continuous education is vital to maintaining the highest standards of service. Through these efforts, our dispatchers will be better prepared to serve the community and save lives.

# 2024 Annual RGV Police K9 Competition



RGV911 staff education on the importance of public safety.

## City of Sullivan National Night Out



RGV911 staff teaching the steps to call 911.



## City of Granjeno Back to School Bash



RGV911 staff Teaching the children how to text 911 and handing out school supplies.

## Senior Expo & Resource Summit



Playing Loteria and educating on Knowing Your Location.



## City of Palmview National Night Out



RGV911 staff handing out school supplies.

## City of Raymondville Police Department's National Night Out Christmas in August School Supply Giveaway



The Public Education team  
ready to educate!



# The Raspy Dispatcher Podcast



We were thrilled to participate in  
The Raspy Dispatch Podcast with  
Ashley Valenzuela!



# City of Mission PD National Night Out



RGV911 staff engaging with the community.





**ITEM #5. D.**

**TRANSPORTATION**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday September 25, 2024

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation Action Item #1

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve Acquisition of Vehicles under State approved Grant for LRGVDC Valley Metro.

Staff is seeking the Board's approval for the Acquisition of Vehicles under State approved Grant essential for the operations of the transit agency, encompassing any forthcoming vehicle related to the awarded State "TXDOT" funding listed below, as long as funding remains available and necessary for acquisition, maintenance, and operational needs. The acquisition will adhere to LRGVDC procurement guidelines.

State Grant:

Source	Grant #	Award Balance
1. TXDOT	5339-D-2025-LRGVDC-00014	\$1,073,508
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Funds will go toward the acquisition of up to eight (8) ADA equipped vehicles with color scheme, camera system, bike rack, two-way radio, bus wrapping, and destination signs.</li></ul>		

The LRGVDC Valley Metro has identified a need to acquire vehicles and to ensure the efficient and reliable operation of its transit services. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to enhance service quality, meet increasing demand, and maintain compliance with safety and environmental standards. Funding for these activities is available through state approved grants.

**Benefits and Impact:**

- Expected improvements in service reliability, safety, and operational efficiency.
- Increased service capacity and reliability
- Long-term cost savings from overhauls compared to new vehicle purchases.
- Extends the life of existing assets with familiar operations
- Access to modern technology and improved environmental compliance
- Environmentally friendly and customizable to current needs

**EXHIBIT B**  
**AWARD FEDERAL FY24 DISCRETIONARY §5339 BUS AND BUS FACILITIES PROGRAM**  
**FUNDS TO RURAL TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS FOR FLEET**

<b>Rural Transit District</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Alamo Area Council of Governments	\$2,247,207
Ark-Tex Council of Governments	\$144,784
Brazos Transit District	\$3,005,480
Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS)	\$351,586
Central Texas Rural Transit District	\$703,172
Cleburne, city of	\$456,312
Colorado Valley Transit, Inc.	\$175,793
Concho Valley Transit District	\$351,586
Del Rio, city of	\$325,922
East Texas Council of Governments	\$1,521,040
Fort Bend County	\$1,706,602
Gulf Coast Transit District	\$353,253
Heart of Texas Council of Governments	\$574,063
Hill Country Transit District	\$274,905
Kleberg County Human Services	\$175,793
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	\$1,073,508
McLennan County Rural Transit District	\$117,751
Panhandle Community Services	\$1,348,302
Rolling Plains Management Corporation	\$938,674
Rural Economic Assistance League, Inc.	\$1,054,064
Senior Center Resources and Public Transit, Inc.	\$873,640
South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	\$304,208
South Padre Island, city of	\$325,922
South Plains Community Action Association, Inc.	\$1,406,344
Southwest Area Regional Transit District	\$351,586
SPAN, Inc.	\$175,793
STAR Transit	\$1,050,088
Texoma Area Paratransit System, Inc.	\$304,208
Webb County Community Action Agency	\$289,568
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.	\$1,118,846
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,100,000</b>

# Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

## 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 COUNT SEPT 2023 - AUG 2024													
	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
<b>Santa Rosa</b>	80	88	80	55	57	81	49	78	82	90	71	73	824
<b>Los Fresnos</b>	272	308	174	192	154	211	221	332	316	206	173	220	2,779
<b>Laguna Vista</b>	166	258	177	209	139	135	180	211	210	163	196	193	2,237
<b>Laguna Heights</b>	160	193	154	144	144	180	165	218	190	175	206	208	2,147
<b>Port Isabel</b>	1,266	1,176	1,117	1,233	1,101	1,232	1,521	1,588	1,667	1,546	1,682	1,616	16,745
<b>Rio Grande City</b>	1,532	1,735	1,441	1,030	1,104	1,373	1,290	1,531	1,078	898	1,157	1,365	15,534
<b>Willacy County</b>	233	249	225	242	270	274	284	239	155	141	155	133	2,600
<b>Starr County</b>	425	446	331	267	263	290	310	331	345	260	280	284	3,832
<b>Zapata County</b>	192	172	154	172	192	118	172	125	135	141	210	190	1,973
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,382</b>	<b>100,219</b>	<b>81,110</b>	<b>43,030</b>	<b>58,327</b>	<b>85,696</b>	<b>67,691</b>	<b>89,262</b>	<b>42,003</b>	<b>38,917</b>	<b>40,945</b>	<b>55,357</b>	<b>796,939</b>
<b>RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM</b>													
<b>Agency</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>VALLEY METRO</b>	28,553	29,294	24,112	22,484	24,809	27,549	27,358	31,035	27,434	24,422	24,524	28,322	319,896
<b>UTRGV</b>	65,221	70,258	56,528	20,318	33,307	57,734	40,047	57,839	14,430	14,405	16,354	26,733	473,174
<b>STC</b>	472	549	396	155	186	388	258	362	90	67	26	209	3,158
<b>TSTC</b>	136	118	74	73	25	25	28	26	49	23	41	93	711
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,382</b>	<b>100,219</b>	<b>81,110</b>	<b>43,030</b>	<b>58,327</b>	<b>85,696</b>	<b>67,691</b>	<b>89,262</b>	<b>42,003</b>	<b>38,917</b>	<b>40,945</b>	<b>55,357</b>	<b>796,939</b>
<b>RURAL AND URBAN COUNT</b>													
<b>AREA</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Rural</b>	5,685	5,808	4,942	4,776	4,687	5,243	5,976	6,471	5,985	5,492	6,143	6,138	67,346
<b>Urban</b>	88,697	94,411	76,168	38,254	53,640	80,453	61,715	82,791	36,018	33,425	34,802	49,219	729,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,382</b>	<b>100,219</b>	<b>81,110</b>	<b>43,030</b>	<b>58,327</b>	<b>85,696</b>	<b>67,691</b>	<b>89,262</b>	<b>42,003</b>	<b>38,917</b>	<b>40,945</b>	<b>55,357</b>	<b>796,939</b>
<b>RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY</b>													
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Hidalgo County</b>	83,623	89,123	71,808	33,639	48,994	75,451	56,295	76,580	30,248	28,430	29,539	43,396	667,126
<b>Cameron County</b>	8,377	8,494	7,151	7,680	7,504	8,190	9,340	10,456	10,042	9,047	9,604	9,989	105,874
<b>Willacy County</b>	233	249	225	242	270	274	284	239	155	141	155	133	2,600
<b>Starr County</b>	1,957	2,181	1,772	1,297	1,367	1,663	1,600	1,862	1,423	1,158	1,437	1,649	19,366
<b>Zapata County</b>	192	172	154	172	192	118	172	125	135	141	210	190	1,973
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,382</b>	<b>100,219</b>	<b>81,110</b>	<b>43,030</b>	<b>58,327</b>	<b>85,696</b>	<b>67,691</b>	<b>89,262</b>	<b>42,003</b>	<b>38,917</b>	<b>40,945</b>	<b>55,357</b>	<b>796,939</b>

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

RTAP Committee held a virtual meeting on August 22, 2024, and discussed the following:

- RTAP subcommittee meeting overview for July 23rd. Emphasizing the importance of synchronized feature service and discussed various topics, including bilingual information accessibility, route maps, outreach efforts, social media presence, challenges, and opportunities.
- Discussion on the ongoing work of the Active Transportation and Tourism Plan project, highlighting its draft status and the comprehensive nature of the plan, which includes details on demographics and population, presentation on the proposed trails, project details, featured maps that delineated existing and proposed trails in various regions.
- Updates on transit ridership and agency reports were presented, highlighting the significant increase in ridership and the completion of various projects across different transit agencies.
- The meeting continued with plans for the next meeting on September 24th and ongoing collaboration ideas for the five-county region and transit agencies.

- **Valley Metro Mobile App:**

- We are thrilled to announce that the Valley Metro Mobile App is now live and ready for public use! With this new app, riders can conveniently purchase single ride, 20-ride, and monthly passes directly from their mobile devices, streamlining their journey through our farebox system. The app simplifies fare management by allowing users to store and access their passes electronically, eliminating the need for physical tickets or cash transactions.

# CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

<https://lrgvdc-prod.gfcp.io/efare>







# 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.



## 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.

## 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

## 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

## VALLEY METRO TRANSIT TERMINAL LOCATIONS

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

## 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

Wednesday, September 25, 2024



Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

RGVMPO Status Reports.....Luis Diaz  
Interim Executive Director

## RIO GRANDE VALLEY

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

# PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT - November 2024 Revision Cycle

### Your Opportunity to Get Involved

As part of the 30-day public involvement process, the RGVMPO and the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) are giving notice of programming our short and long-range planning tables: the **FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**, the FY 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Section 5307 Program of Projects for regional transit providers.

The MTP is the RGVMPO's 25-year, long range transportation planning document that serves as a blueprint for the next 25 years. The TIP is the RGVMPO's 4-year short range plan that programs preliminary engineering, right of way acquisition, construction, and construction engineering phases for the next 4 years. Both highway and transit projects are listed within our region's short-range plan, as well as the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Transportation alternatives, such as hike & bike trails, are also listed within our long-range plan.

This information will be available for public review and comment on our **Website's News Section** from **September 9 – October 9, 2024**. We encourage the public to participate in our planning efforts by expressing concerns and asking questions related to our region's transportation projects. Public involvement briefings will be delivered via the RGVMPO website, social media outlets, and in-person engagement meetings. Drafted copies of our planning documents will be displayed, and an informational video will be available for viewing throughout the public involvement process.

**Connect with us via social media or visit our website.**



[RGV MPO | Edinburg TX | Facebook](#)

<https://twitter.com/rgvmpo>

[RGV MPO - YouTube](#)

[Rio Grande Valley MPO, TX | Home \(rgvmpo.org\)](http://rgvmpo.org)





**RGVMPO Staff will be hosting in-person public engagements at the following locations:**

**Metro McAllen Transit Center**

1501 US - 83 BUS - McAllen, TX 78501

**Date & Time: September 17, 2024 from 3:30 - 5:00 PM**

**LRGVDC Ken Jones Small Boardroom**

301 W. Railroad St. - Weslaco, TX 78596

**Date & Time: September 26, 2024 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM**

**La Plaza Transit Station**

755 International Blvd. - Brownsville, TX 78520

**Date & Time: Pending**

*\*Additional locations pending & schedule is subject to change*