

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



AGENDA

MEETING OF THE LRGVDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

=====

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

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 12:00 noon

Audio access is available by calling: 1 (408) 650-3123, Access Code: 200-840-005

Presiding: Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez, President

=====

Item #1: Call to Order

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

Item #2: Consideration and ACTION to Approve
Meeting Minutes (August 31, 2022)-----President

Item #3: Public Comment

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

- A. Presentation and **ACTION** to Approve Texas Gas Service
Rio Grande Valley Energy Efficiency ProgramJasmine King-Bush
Energy Efficiency Programs Manager
- B. Executive Director Report..... Manuel Cruz
Executive Director
 - 1. Introduction of New Staff Members
 - 2. Updates on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings, and Legislation

Item #5: Department Reports

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

Program Status Reports

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

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

Area Agency on Aging Program Status Reports

- Direct Services
- CDC Vaccine Outreach Project
- Past Events
- Upcoming Events
- Information Referral & Assistance
- Subrecipients and Senior Center Operations
- Benefit Counseling & Care Transition Coaches
- Ombudsman

C. Public Safety

Program Status Reports

- Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program Status Reports Rene Perez
Program Supervisor
- Regional Police Academy Status Reports Manuel Cruz
Executive Director
- Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District
Status Reports..... Dennis Moreno
Assistant Director RGV911
 - GIS Division
 - Public Education Division
 - 9-1-1 | Information Technology

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Action Item Sarah Dierlam
Assistant Executive Director

- 1. Consideration and ACTION to Approve Procurement of Support Vehicles for Valley Metro

Valley Metro Status Reports

- Ridership Report
- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity

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

Item #6: New or Unfinished Business

Item #7: Adjourn

REMINDER

Next Meetings:
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
12:00 noon

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

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

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

ITEM #2.

MINUTES

MINUTES

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

12:00 PM WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022

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

PRESIDING: PRESIDENT AMBROSIO "AMOS" HERNANDEZ

- DRAFT -

President Ambrosio "Amos" Hernandez called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared.

President Hernandez took item 3. A. - Legislative Update from The Honorable Mayra Flores, Congressional District 34 out of order and recognized Congresswoman Flores. Ms. Flores introduced herself and thanked the Board and President Hernandez for the opportunity to speak today. She informed the Board about her achievements, about several issues she is working on such as the plight of farm workers, border issues, homeland security, and infrastructure improvements. At the conclusion of her update, Congresswoman Flores encouraged Board Members to contact her office with any concerns or issues she might be able to help with.

President Hernandez thanked Ms. Flores and opened the floor for questions. There being no questions from board members, the President broached the issue of how important border security is and urged Ms. Flores to fight to provide solutions to upgrade ports of entry along the entire southern border, from Brownsville, Texas to San Diego, California. President Hernandez stated that providing security on the southern border provides security for the entire USA, yet our region pays the bulk for this security with local taxpayer money. As such, the federal government should take that into consideration when they fund federal highways. Ms. Flores agrees and understands the issues we have at the southern border. President Hernandez brought up the struggle the Border Patrol has with employment. Currently many Border Patrol officers are being trained on the east coast and assigned to the RGV, an area and culture they are not familiar with. He stated that the training should be here and that there are many suitable candidates here, and when they complete their training, they are assigned elsewhere in areas they are unfamiliar with. Ms. Flores stated that they are aware of this issue and that it is something they are already working on.

Upon conclusion of questions and comments with Ms. Flores, President Hernandez moved to item #2: Consideration and Action to Approve Meeting Minutes (June 29, 2022). ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the June 29, 2022, Meeting Minutes as presented. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action on the minutes, President Hernandez moved to Item 3: Public Comment and recognized Lieutenant Alvino Flores, Weslaco PD Criminal Investigations Division and Adjunct Instructor for the LRGVDC Regional Police Academy (RPA). Lieutenant Flores spoke in support of the LRGVDC RPA and stated that the negative actions of previous RPA staff should not affect the status of the RPA itself, especially when those actions have been properly addressed by the LRGVDC Executive Director.

Next, President Hernandez recognized Ms. Monica De La Cruz, Republican candidate for Texas Congressional District 15. Ms. De La Cruz informed the Board of the issues she plans to address should she be elected to congress.

Upon conclusion of public comments, President Hernandez moved to Item 4: Administration.

A. Ratification of Executive Committee Action on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between LRGVDC, RGVMPPO & City of Brownsville and City of McAllen

Mr. Manuel Cruz, LRGVDC Executive Director, was recognized and informed the Board that the RGVMPPO Policy Board has approved this MOU, and they will provide planning funds from FY 2022-2023 UPWP to support the City of Brownsville and the City of McAllen in performing a Transit Plan Redesign. This would allow Brownsville and McAllen Metro to address changes in transit and transportation since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020 and update the Transit Plans published in 2017 and 2019. This action item was presented to the LRGVDC Executive Committee due to LRGVDC's oversight in the Procurement review and approval process and because the LRGVDC Board of Directors were not scheduled to meet in July. ***Commissioner David Garza made a motion to ratify the Executive Committee Action on the MOU between LRGVDC, RGVMPPO & the City of Brownsville and the City of McAllen. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Recognition and Gratitude for Weslaco FD and PD Service to LRGVDC

Mr. Cruz read an account of events that took place the afternoon of August 3, 2022. Around 3:30 pm, high winds tore loose a power line, and it landed on top of a palm tree along the railroad tracks behind our main campus catching the dried palm fronds on fire. The enflamed fronds fell to the ground causing a grass fire. More flaming embers were caught by the wind and blown to a second palm tree catching it on fire and causing another grass fire. 9-1-1 was called shortly after the fire was discovered and Weslaco PD and FD arrived quickly to put out the fires and ensure no new flames erupted. The second palm tree that caught fire was right next to Building B where the Ken Jones Executive Board Room and Small Board Room are located. The quick actions by Weslaco's finest ensured there was no damage to our structures; staff will be forever grateful.

C. Presentation on TxGLO's LRGV Economic Development Strategy and Diversification Study

Mr. David Moss, TxGLO Project Manager for the study introduced himself and thanked the Board for the opportunity to present an overview of the Economic Diversification Study that has been tailored for this region. He introduced Mr. Elijah Casas, TxGLO Intergovernmental Relations Representative who will be working directly on the project with their team. Mr. Moss stated that it is the mission of GLO's Community Development & Revitalization Planning Team to design and oversee planning studies, to collect, analyze, and communicate disaster related data to assist decision makers to better protect Texas from future disasters. He added that the GLO is aware that the Lower Rio Grande Valley has some of the state's most vulnerable populations, and as a direct result of the June 24, 2019, flood disaster, families in the region were either very slow to recover or have not recovered at all. Mr. Moss and staff are sensitive to making sure these voices are heard, which will be a part of their outreach efforts for this study. The intent of this study is to make it an actual decision-making tool, to accomplish this, the GLO partnered with AECOM. Mr. Moss then turned the floor over to AECOM Vice President, Mr. Chris Brewer.

Mr. Brewer acknowledged project partners Three Dimensional Development, Olivarri & Associates, and Asakura Robinson. He stated that from past experience, the team knows that in order to deliver a project like this they need to not only be on the ground in person, but also to collect a lot of data, and leverage what they know is ongoing research. Mr. Brewer stated that this will be a 15-month engagement and they are currently at the very starting point; he then stated the three project objectives, which are:

- To provide long-term recovery and economic revitalization strategies to help mitigate economic devastation from future major disasters.
- To understand the region's existing assets and market conditions to ultimately develop economic diversification strategies and an action plan specialized for the region.
- To join a statewide effort to store useful information for public use in future planning, disaster recovery, and community resiliency through the Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS) and

Community Health And Resource Management (CHARM).

Mr. Brewer then turned the floor over to Ms. Debbie Lindsey-Opel. Ms. Lindsey-Opel went over the project timeline and the public outreach phases and milestones. President Hernandez asked what this study will achieve and how it will help the region. Mr. Brewer stated that this study will do two things: 1) build engagement through outreach efforts, and 2) combine that with an intensive data driven approach to clarify how many businesses and homes have been impacted and what their needs are.

Ms. Veronica Gonzales asked if they were utilizing local resources that already exist. Mr. Brewer stated that their starting point is an engagement process that defines what those baseline resources are, and as the study progresses, they will help people align with both existing resources and new resources they will identify.

For the record, Commissioner David Garza asked for confirmation that this project is funded by HUD funds that came through the GLO. Mr. Casas confirmed that these are federal funds from the 2019 Disaster Recovery Funds. Upon conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Casas expressed the GLO's gratitude for the Board's continued support for their ongoing efforts in the community.

D. Presentation and Consider Action Regarding 2021 Annual Audit

Ms. Melissa Gonzalez, Oscar R. Gonzalez, CPA & Associates, was recognized and brought to the Board's attention the independent auditor's opinion at the top of page one of the audit. The opinion states that their firm audited the financial statements of the LRGVDC for the year ended December 31, 2021, and their opinion is that we do present fairly in all material respects the financial position of LRGVDC. There were no findings for the grant testing or at all on our financials. Ms. Gonzalez stated that LRGVDC has a very good accounting staff and that they, and Finance Director Crystal Balboa do a very good job especially considering that they handle \$27MM in both federal and state funds. ***Upon conclusion of the presentation of the audit, Mr. Troy Allen made a motion to accept the 2021 Annual Audit. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

E. Presentation and Action to Accept Quarterly Investment Report

Ms. Crystal Balboa was recognized and presented the quarterly investment report. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to accept the quarterly investment report. Mr. Jim Darling seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

F. Consideration and Action to Approve Revisions to LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual

Ms. Sarah Dierlam, LRGVDC Assistant Executive Director was recognized and informed the Board that the revisions to the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual are mostly housekeeping items as well as newly added policies such as: Telecommuting Policy and a new COBRA and HIPAA policies. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the revisions to the LRGVDC Personnel Policy Manual as presented. Mayor Trey Mendez seconded.***

G. Consideration and Action to Approve Replacing BCycle Station

Mr. Cruz was recognized and informed the Board that on April 14, 2022, the new BCycle station located at the Hugh Ramsey Nature Park in Harlingen was destroyed as a result of a car accident. Staff has been working with the insurance company to replace the one (1) BCycle Station and three (3) bicycles. The entire cost of \$60,711.00 will be covered under our insurance at 100% with a \$250.00 deductible. Staff is working on replacing the station along with the 3 bicycles as soon as possible to continue providing this service to the community. ***Mayor Trey Mendez made a motion to approve replacing the BCycle station and bicycles as presented. Mayor Gus Olivarez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

H. Executive Director Report

1. Introduction of New Staff Members

Mr. Cruz informed the Board that six (6) new staff members have recently joined the LRGVDC.

2. Transportation Staff Recognition for Years of Service

Ms. Dierlam was recognized and presented Transportation Department staff (Valley Metro and RGVMPD) with service awards for completing 5, 10, and 15 years of service. As with last month's staff recognitions, most of these staff members completed their milestones in 2020 or 2021 and their presentations were delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic social distancing requirements. Special congratulations went to RGVMPD Executive Director Andrew Canon for completing 15 years of service in 2020.

3. Update on Regional News, Funding Opportunities, Trainings, and Legislation

Mr. Cruz provided a list of topics of interest in the meeting packet.

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

A. Community & Economic Development

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

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Request to Amend 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M) conducted a public hearing on August 23, 2022, to provide information on the amendment, which will add a Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 project to the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. ***Mr. Jim Darling made a motion to approve the Request to amend the 2021 Rio Grande Regional Water Plan. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Request to Establish Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that the Community & Economic Development staff have conducted several meetings with members of the Rio South Texas Economic Council (RSTEC). RSTEC is a group composed of several area Economic Development Organizations (EDO) and would serve as an advisory committee for the proposed Economic Development District within the LRGVDC. The idea is for the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee (RGVEDAC) to be a platform for all the local economic development organizations and stakeholders to come together to share best practices and receive training. The RGVEDAC could be the next starting point for the next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee which will be underway in the next six months. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the request to establish the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee.***

Ms. Veronica Gonzales stated that it was her understanding that with RSTEC dissolving, it would be divided up to where the LRGVDC would have a role, as would the RGV Partnership and UTRGV. She asked if the proposed RGVEDAC would be under the CEDS model, for instance, where it would have transparency, all cities participate, all stakeholders participate, and they would develop a strategy that moves forward for economic development; it is not a whole new group that would normally convene as

previously under the CEDS. Mr. Carrera clarified that the CEDS Committee would encompass the proposed RGVEDAC as well as high education and industry partners. The RGVEDAC would be mostly and EDO focused group.

Ms. Gonzales expressed concern about the potential of creating a separate group that might replicate an existing group and possibly create conflict in the strategies that various groups develop. She stated that the purpose of CEDS, as stated in its statute is to make sure that there is representation from across the region in creating an economic development strategy. The idea was for the RGV Partnership to be the marketing arm; UTRGV to do the Building Blocks and data work; and have the LRGVDC convene a group that would then be the CEDS and set up the strategy for the Rio Grande Valley based on input from all the members of these groups.

Mr. Carrera informed the Board that the EDOs have approached the LRGVDC because they want to have Building Blocks, learning opportunities, and a place to convene that is strictly an EDO center group. He added that the RGVEDAC would be under the auspices of the LRGVDC and this Board of Directors who would thereby have final say on all recommendations they make, including their bylaws which have not yet been written.

Mr. Cruz commented that the CEDS has not had a formal committee structure, so formalizing the RGVEDAC would provide that structure under the LRGVDC; he reiterated that any recommendations the RGVEDAC makes would come before this Board for final approval. President Hernandez stated that he would like to see in writing how the proposed RGVEDAC would work. Mr. Cruz stated that the purpose of this action item is to create the committee. The next step would be to write the bylaws and present them before the Board for consideration and approval. Based on discussion, ***Mayor Oscar Montoya modified his motion to approve the request to establish the Rio Grande Valley Economic Development Advisory Committee with the provision that all future moves from concept to setting up go through the LRGVDC Board of Directors. Mr. Troy Allen seconded, and upon a vote the motion carried with one vote against.***

Upon conclusion of action, Mr. Carrera noted that the status reports were in the meeting packet for review and pointed out that there has been a very slight increase in the reservoir levels, but despite the recent rains, the reservoirs are still extremely low, and we are still in a severe drought.

B. Health & Human Services.

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

Area Agency on Aging Program Action Items

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

Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the Advisory Council recommends approval to add the contractors to the direct purchased services pool as recommended by the Advisory Council. ***Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve adding the list of contractors to the Direct Purchase Services Pool as presented. Mayor Gus Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Extending Current Direct Purchased Services (DPS) Contracts

Ms. Lopez stated that the Advisory Council recommends approval to extend the current DPS contracts for 90 days beginning October 1, 2022, through December 3, 2022. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve extending the current Direct Purchased Services contracts for 90 days as recommended by the Advisory Council. Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports

Upon conclusion of action, Ms. Lopez informed the Board that the status reports are in the meeting packet for review. Mr. Cruz acknowledged the efforts of the Area Agency on Aging staff to arrange for the RGV Veteran's Coalition to meet at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board Room for the foreseeable future.

C. Public Safety

Program Status Reports

The Criminal Justice & Homeland Security Program, Regional Police Academy, and Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District status reports were provided for review in the meeting packet.

D. Transportation

1. Consideration and Action to Approve Agency for Valley Metro Maintenance Plan

Ms. Maribel Contreras, Director of Valley Metro was recognized and informed the Board that staff requests approval to select Hendrickson Transportation Group, LLC (HTG) to develop the Valley Metro Maintenance Plan. This firm was selected through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process.

Ms. Contreras noted that only HTG answered the RFQ the first time it was released; so, it was released again in the hopes of receiving additional responses, but HTG was again, the only firm to respond. The project will be funded through FTA grant # TX-90-Y066-00 for a total cost of \$150,000.00 at a percentage of 80/20; \$130,000.00 will come from FTA funds and \$30,000.00 will come from local funds. ***Mayor Trey Mendez made a motion to approve Hendrickson Transportation Group, LLC (HTG) to develop the Valley Metro Maintenance Plan. Judge Aurelio Guerra seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and Action to Approve Updates to Valley Metro Transit Services Department Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy

Ms. Contreras stated that staff requests Board approval for minor revisions made to Valley Metro's LRGVDC Transit Services Department Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy as requested by TxDOT during the Drug and Alcohol Compliance Review held on July 6, 2022. The sections being revised are listed in the meeting packet and the full policy with changes noted in red is available for review on lrgvdc.org meetings page. ***Mayor Gus Olivarez made a motion to approve the updates to the Valley Metro Transit Services Department Drug & Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Consideration and Action to Approve Updates to Valley Metro Title VI/Limited English Proficient (LEP)/Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy

Ms. Contreras stated that staff requests approval of the following updates to Valley Metro's LRGVDC Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy:

- Contact information for Director of Public Transit Systems
- LRGVDC and Valley Metro Logos
- LEP Program Statistics Information
- Valley Metro Systems Map

Mayor Oscar Montoya made a motion to approve the updates to Valley Metro Title VI/Limited English Proficient (LEP)/Environmental Justice (EJ) Policy as presented. Mr. Troy Allen seconded and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration and Action to Approve Updates to Valley Metro Public Transit Agency Safety Plan

Ms. Contreras stated that staff requests Board approval for the following updates to the Public Transit Agency Staff Plan:

- Compliance with all USDOT Regulations and Annual Review (673.11(a).
- Ongoing commitment to fully implement a Safety Management System (SMS).
- Engage our agency employees in developing a robust safety culture.

Mayor Trey Mendez made a motion to approve the updates to Valley Metro Public Transit Agency Safety Plan as presented. Mayor Gus Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Valley Metro Program Status Reports

Ms. Contreras provided the Valley Metro ridership update noting that in July Valley Metro provided 27,688 passenger trips which is a decrease in ridership of 8% from the previous month due to some colleges and universities being out for the summer. Regarding fare collection, since being implemented in April this year, \$238,553.49 in fares have been collected.

RGVMPO Status Report

The status report for the RGVMPO was provided in the meeting packet for review.

Item 6. – New or Unfinished Business

A. Discussion on Emergency Medical Service in the RGV

President Hernandez stated that it is common knowledge that the RGV has multiple hospitals and trauma centers, and he stated that a way to help out the system needs to be developed. RGV first responders are overwhelmed, many patients need to receive medical service outside of the RGV and require air transport. It is incumbent on RGV leadership to figure out a solution for the entire area to develop one standardized medical air lift service similar to the structure of a police department. We have an opportunity here at the LRGVDC to contact the State to help fund emergency medical transportation for the entire RGV. He wanted to make the Board aware of this issue and would like to talk further about it at a later date.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn. ***Mayor Trey Mendez made a motion for adjournment; Mayor Oscar Montoya seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.***

Mayor Ambrosio “Amos” Hernandez, President

ATTEST:

Deborah Morales, Recording Secretary

ITEM #5. A.

**COMMUNITY
&
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development

Program Status Reports

- Economic Development Administration

Staff continue to meet with regional EDOs concerning the planning of projects that will provide economic impact. Meetings have included site tours of potential projects in the area, getting first-hand views of project potential while meeting with all involved with potential project development. Technical assistance continues to be provided as well as beneficial workshops and outreach. Staff continue to monitor opportunities that will potentially be made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and will continue to disseminate that information as it becomes available. Staff also serve as the regional point of contact for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will continue to disseminate information accordingly. Staff also continue to coordinate efforts with other governmental entities on their economic development related activities in order to maximize benefit of all projects and objectives for the region and avoid any duplication of efforts and resources. Several different entities are conducting economic development outreach efforts, including TWDB, TxDot, Texas GLO, and others.

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 Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org.

- Pandemic Response

The contracted consulting firm, Thomas P. Miller & Associates (TPMA) has conducted all outreach for the Economic Recovery & Resiliency Plan and has provided a draft document to staff for comments and feedback. The document is anticipated to be finalized by October 2022. The intent for this plan is to improve the LRGV region in preparing for quicker recovery and to be resilient when addressing challenges tied to future pandemics, flooding, and other events that pose a threat to the region. The plan will also assist the region to identify opportunities to promote economic diversification. This plan will provide a set of actionable strategies for economic recovery and long-term economic resiliency in the region.

The LRGVDC continues to be proactive as a liaison between various governmental levels and stakeholders. Staff have had discussions with area EDOs on further potential initiatives to help with resiliency efforts including the recruitment and

marketing efforts needed for new investment in the area. Staff have also brought together and coordinated efforts between governmental, workforce, higher education, and other entities to encourage collaboration on funding opportunities and other initiatives to address workforce needs and other facets of local economic development. Participation in local area economic development groups continue as well to further provide regional efforts. Resiliency efforts for the regional tourism industry continues to be a focus also, utilizing Explore RGV as a springboard for marketing efforts. See the Explore RGV updates further in this report for details.

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

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

- Regional Small Cities Coalition

A Regional Small Cities Coalition (RSCC) Hybrid meeting was held August 16, 2022, at 10:00 am in the Ken Jones Executive Board Room (Building B) at 301 W. Railroad St., Weslaco TX. Informative presentations were provided by USDA-Rural Housing Program, Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) on CDBG funding for non-entitlement communities, Texas Water Development Board on funding opportunities, and by LRGVDC on Section 3 and Economic Development Administration updates on funding possibilities and current opportunities. The next RSCC meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

- Explore RGV

Explore RGV continues to progress with updates to improve functionality and the user experience. The app is in final stages of these improvements which will be approved by staff before a re-launch effort occurs. Staff will notify of this re-launch when a date has been firmly established. In the meantime, the current marketing strategy continues. That strategy, which is composed of several actions to promote a tourism product in the RGV, include public relations, tourism trade activities, and a web campaign. Additionally, staff are creating promotional campaigns targeted towards international and national cities with the most potential to visit the RGV. Staff continue to meet with other vendors and partners that can utilize the platform for marketing purposes, furthering the potential for expanded marketing reach for both entities. Staff continue the development of industry training designed to benefit local tourism partners in customer service, rate yield, international markets, and product offerings. Outreach efforts to promote the app and website will continue as well.

- Community & Economic Development Assistance Fund

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

For any information or assistance needed, contact Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org.

- Solid Waste Management Program

A virtual Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting was held on August 23, 2022, at 10:00 am. Texas State University provided an update on the tire study currently being conducted. The study is progressing very nicely, and updates include information on how other countries are dealing with tires, strategies other states are using, and a regional analysis of TCEQ data to understand tire volumes. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Staff participated in the web meeting conducted by the Border Affairs program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in conjunction with the US EPA. The meeting helped establish binational engagement and discussion of scrap tires in the border area.

Staff want to thank the UTRGV Office of Sustainability for inviting Community and Economic Development to participate in their Sustainability Adelante Podcast Series. Several aspects of the LRGVDC Solid Waste program were discussed during the podcast, and that podcast can be heard at this link: <https://www.utrgv.edu/sustainability/programs/sustainability-podcast-series/index.htm>

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

- Water Quality Program

Staff continue to educate the public on water quality issues for the months of September with the themes "Back to School". You can find educational social media postings on the LRGVDC Facebook page. Outreach efforts for this program include staff attending in person events.

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

Staff also continue 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

The LRGVDC is soliciting nominations for a RWRAC committee member to serve in *Institute of Higher Education* category. Each nominee will be selected based upon their qualifications, experience, and interest. The purpose of the advisory committee is to educate, promote, foster, and coordinate community and regional planning efforts on the environmental, economic, and other social impacts of existing, new, or proposed regulations, policies, and control regarding water resources management. If you have any questions about the nominations process or committee, please contact Rick Carrera, rcarrera@lrgvdc.org.

A Regional Water Resource Advisory Committee (RWRAC) meeting was held on September 21, 2022, at 10:00 am. The agenda included updates and presentations on current ongoing water projects, such as Region M, Fresh Water Flows, RFPG #15, Clean Rivers Program, and Flood Infrastructure Fund. The next RWRAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

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

Staff participated with several different stakeholder groups at the Community Learning Exchange workshop at the Museum of South Texas History. The workshop was co-hosted by UT Austin's Planet Texas 2050, to bring community teams together to learn from each other, learn the historical context of flooding and other natural disasters in South Texas and northeastern Mexico, and build partnerships that can lead to regional collaborative work relative to flood and other natural disaster mitigation. The event was a success, and staff want to thank the Museum of South Texas History and UT Austin for the invitation to participate and meet with valuable and critical stakeholders in an open forum that provided excellent discussion time.

- Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group (Region M)

The Region M water planning group held a public meeting related to a proposed amendment to the 2021 Water Plan on August 23, 2022. The consultant

engineering firm Black & Veatch, contracted to conduct this meeting, provided time for public comment, and demonstrated the details of the proposed amendment. This amendment was approved by the LRGVDC Board of Directors at the August 31 Board of Directors meeting. The amendment is currently under public comment and will be subject to comment at the next Region M meeting by Texas Water Development Board representatives, consultants, and members of the Region M group while being considered for adoption at that meeting.

The next meeting of the Region M Group is scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 9:30 am. That meeting will include the consideration of adoption of the proposed amendment described herein, as well as updates and discussion that occurs at quarterly meetings. These meetings are currently being conducted in person and online. For more information on Region M, please visit website: <http://riograndewaterplan.org>

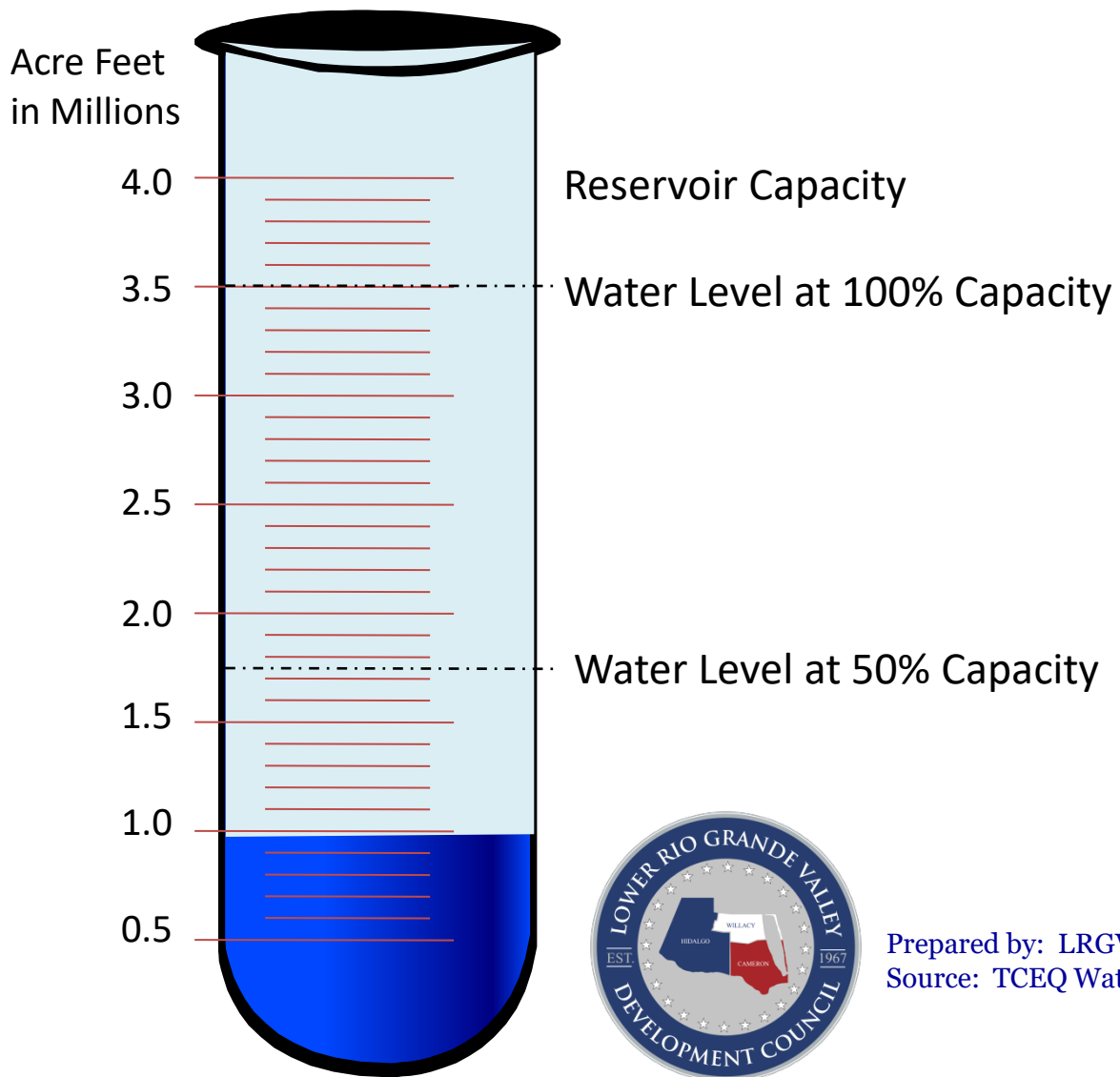
- Reservoir Levels

On September 17, 2022, the U.S. combined ownership at Amistad/Falcon stood at 29.14% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 988,398 acre-feet, down from 38.13% (1,293,343 AF) of normal conservation a year ago. Overall the system is holding 27.38% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 1,621,248 acre-feet with Amistad at 34.39% of conservation capacity, impounding 1,126,468 acre-feet and Falcon at 18.69% of conservation capacity, impounding 494,780 acre-feet. Mexico has 25.01% of normal conservation capacity, impounding 632,850 acre-feet at Amistad/Falcon.

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

9/17/2022, 29.14% of Capacity or 988,398 AF

Down from 1,293,343 AF of Normal Conservation a year ago



**NOTE: Mexico Ownership/Reservoir Capacity for
September 17, 2022: 25.01% (632,850) A.F.**

Rio Grande Watermaster Report

09/17/22

Amistad Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	340.462 Meters	1,117.00 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	326.075 Meters	1,069.80 Feet	-47.20
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	1,389.483 MCM	1,126,468 Acre-Feet	34.39%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	913.172 MCM	740,318 Acre-Feet	65.72%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	476.311 MCM	386,150 Acre-Feet	34.28%
Total Releases (Average)	19.60 CMS	692 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	16.10 CMS	569 CFS	82.14%
Mexico Release (Average)	3.50 CMS	124 CFS	17.86%
Total Inflows (Average)	195.00 CMS	6,886 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	60.20 CMS	2,126 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	134.80 CMS	4,760 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	9.08 CMS	321 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	6.12 CMS	216 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	2.96 CMS	105 CFS	

Falcon Reservoir

Normal Conservation Elevation	91.805 Meters	301.20 Feet	
Current Water Elevation	79.730 Meters	261.58 Feet	-39.62
Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
Current Total Combined Storage	610.305 MCM	494,780 Acre-Feet	18.69%
U.S. Share of Current Storage	306.004 MCM	248,081 Acre-Feet	50.14%
Mexico Share of Current Storage	304.301 MCM	246,700 Acre-Feet	49.86%
Total Releases (Average)	19.10 CMS	675 CFS	
U.S. Release (Average)	16.50 CMS	583 CFS	86.39%
Mexico Release (Average)	2.60 CMS	92 CFS	13.61%
Total Inflows (Average)	46.00 CMS	1,624 CFS	
U.S. Inflows (Average)	24.60 CMS	869 CFS	
Mexico Inflows (Average)	21.40 CMS	756 CFS	
Total Losses (Average)	7.15 CMS	252 CFS	
U.S. Reservoir Loss (Average)	3.60 CMS	127 CFS	
Mexico Reservoir Loss (Average)	3.55 CMS	125 CFS	

Overall Status

Amistad

Total Normal Conservation Capacity	4,040,325 TCM	3,275,532 Acre-Feet	
U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	2,270,663 TCM	1,840,849 Acre-Feet	
Current U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	913,172 TCM	740,318 Acre-Feet	40.22%
Mexico Share Normal Conservation	1,769,662 TCM	1,434,683 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	476,311 TCM	386,150 Acre-Feet	26.92%

Falcon

Total Normal Conservation Capacity	3,264,813 TCM	2,646,817 Acre-Feet	
U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	1,913,180 TCM	1,551,034 Acre-Feet	
Current U.S. Share of Normal Conservation	306,004 TCM	248,081 Acre-Feet	15.99%
Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	1,351,633 TCM	1,095,782 Acre-Feet	
Current Mexico Share of Normal Conservation	304,301 TCM	246,700 Acre-Feet	22.51%
Total Normal Capacity in Amistad/Falcon System	7,305,138 TCM	5,922,348 Acre-Feet	
Total Normal Conservation Capacity for the U.S.	4,183,843 TCM	3,391,883 Acre-Feet	57.27%
Total Normal Conservation Capacity for Mexico	3,121,295 TCM	2,530,465 Acre-Feet	42.73%
Current Combined Storage for the U.S.	1,219.176 MCM	988,398 Acre-Feet	29.14%
Current Combined Storage for Mexico	780.612 MCM	632,850 Acre-Feet	25.01%
Current Storage in the Amistad/Falcon System	1,999,788 TCM	1,621,248 Acre-Feet	
Percent of Storage Capacity			27.38%

ITEM #5. B.

**HEALTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES**

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

B. Health & Human Services

Area Agency on Aging Status Report

- Direct Services
August 2022, Care Coordination and Caregiver Support Services

CARE COORDINATION SERVICES	
Total Cases Opened Overall number of cases opened from all service lines for the month.	96
Total Clients Served Overall number of clients assisted from all service lines for the month.	212
Transportation Services Overall number of clients for transportation services to medical appointments, dialysis, and rehab services.	3
Residential Repair Services Overall number of clients for residential repair services which includes ramps, grab bars, removal of tubs, and ADA commodes.	43
Health Maintenance Services Overall number of clients for health maintenance services which includes durable medical equipment, medications, and medical supplies.	65
Homemaker Services Overall number of clients for homemaker services which includes cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	101
CAREGIVER SUPPORT SERVICES	
Total Cases Opened Overall number of cases for caregiver support services for the month.	67
Total Clients Served Overall number of clients assisted for caregiver support services for the month.	174
Respite In-Home Services Overall number of clients for respite in-home services which includes personal grooming, feeding, bathing, cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation.	153
Health Maintenance Services Overall number of clients for health maintenance services which includes durable medical equipment, medications, and medical supplies.	21

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

Consumer Numbers Impacted					
Consumers 60+	Consumers 21-59	Consumers 20 and below	Individuals with disability	Individuals who are Veterans	Individuals with a Caregiver
130	685	327			
Total: 1,142					

1st and 2nd Shot	Booster Shot
	20
Homebound Vaccines: 15	
Total: 35	

- Past Events:

8/2/2022	Pharr National Night Out
8/3/2022	Hidalgo County Sheriff's Back to School
8/11/2022	Amigos Del Valle Vaccine Clinic
8/12/2022	Weslaco Back to School Teacher Fair
8/19/2022	RGV Coalition for Veterans
8/25/2022	Senior Day at the Park
8/30/2022	UTRGV - Military & Veteran Resource Fair

- Upcoming Events:

9/1/2022	UTRGV - Military & Veteran Resource Fair
9/22/2022	Prominence Community Health Fair
9/22/2022	RGV Promotions Senior Community Health and Wellness Fair
9/28/2022	Hidalgo Co. Community Health Fair and Vaccine Clinic

- Information Referral & Assistance:

Top 3 Call Topics	Total
Homemaker	96
Benefit Counseling	95
Respite	94

- Subrecipients and Senior Center Operations:

Services	Unduplicated Clients	Units
Congregate meals	318	7481
Home delivered meals	119	53181
Senior center transportation	25	1666
Senior Center operations	116	18725

- Benefit Counselors & Care Transition Coaches:

August Totals	Benefits Counselors	Care Transition Coaches
Unduplicated (New Clients)	446	164
Units of service (New and Existing Clients)	458	253
Total	904	417

- Ombudsman:

Volunteer In-Kind Hours	Activity Hours	Investigated Complaints	Cases
71 Hours	491	300	143

Volunteer In-Kind Hours	Activity Hours	Investigated Complaints	Cases
68 Hours	376	210	114

ITEM #5. C.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety Rene Perez, Program Supervisor

Criminal Justice Program

- August 1 was the deadline for counties to reach a 90% Computerized Criminal History (CCH) status in both categories (adult and juvenile) of arrest dispositions, for grant applicants to receive an award from Criminal Justice Division. Below are the Updates as of August 1. The District Attorney's offices from each of the counties are the responsible agencies in meeting this requirement. Acknowledging the burden COVID19 has placed on court systems across Texas, leading to significant delays in dispositions, last year the Public Safety Office (PSO) considered counties that had achieved a minimum average of 78% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions as eligible for grant funding. For FY 2023, and based on the DPS August 1, 2022, Disposition Completeness Report 243 counties successfully attained an average of 90% or above for dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database. This is up from 217 counties meeting the 90% threshold in August 2021. As a result, and based upon the commendable actions counties across Texas continue to engage into maintain their dockets, PSO will consider any entity located in a county to be eligible for FY 2023 grant funding where the following conditions are met:

The county has achieved a minimum average of 83% or above on both adult and juvenile dispositions entered into the computerized criminal history database, and significant progress towards the originally required 90% threshold has been demonstrated through incremental increases in monthly reporting averages since the issuance of the Texas Supreme Court's 36th Emergency Order (dated March 5, 2021) allowing for in-person jury and non-jury proceedings to recommence.

County	ADULT	JUVENILE
Cameron	90%	97%
Hidalgo	87%	92%
Willacy	86%	99%

Source: Texas DPS, Crime Records Service

Homeland Security Program

- Staff attended webinar for Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) “The Role of Public Health Official in Supporting School Safety Efforts” on September 6, 2022.
- Staff attended webinar for FEMA “Proposed Risk Methodology Enhancement” on September 7, 2022
- Staff attended webinar for Active Shooter Preparedness for Region 6, on September 8, 2022.
- Staff attended Cybersecurity Group Meeting on September 13, 2022.
- Staff attended the RGVHPC Coalition Meeting FY22 September video conference on September 14, 2022.
- Staff hosted the Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) Meeting on September 15, 2022, at the LRGVDC Ken Jones Executive Board Room.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Regional Police Academy

- September 6, 2022, the Mission Day Academy location graduated fifteen cadets.
- The academy has continued implementing a log in/out sheet to document the use of firearms for each academy site.
- The academy has continued implementing in each vehicle used for EVOC training a gas/fuel card log. Each EVOC instructor will be responsible for logging mileage and amount of gas needed to refuel the vehicle, gas receipts will be required for documentation.
- The 215th Harlingen Night Academy completed firearms training successfully.
- Radio Communications, TCIC/TLETS training was held for all of the academy sites in the Ken Jones Board Room over a two-day period.
- In-Service training continues in person and is being conducted at various locations throughout the region. This provides law enforcement officers with the opportunity to attend training without having to travel long distances.
- DPS Instructors conducted SFST and Advanced DWI training to the 215th and 218th Harlingen Day/Night academies.

Mission Day Academy at Firearms training BPOC 216



Checking the targets



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

C. Public Safety

Rio Grande Valley Emergency Communication District Status Report

- GIS Division

The GIS team continues to maintain the GeoMSAG and has achieved 100% geocode matching on the GeoMSAG. This will enable calls in the counties of Hidalgo and Willacy to direct to the relevant Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) using our GIS data as the router. The GIS team has completed the ArcGIS Enterprise 10.9.1 platform upgrade and are now transferring our data from our old Portal to the 10.9.1 portal. This will facilitate in creating a data sharing HUB, and an improved address ticketing system.

- Public Education Division

On September 1, 2022, the RGVECD celebrated its 1st Anniversary of becoming a District! This joyous occasion celebrated a year of challenges, uncertainties, and the perseverance and dedication staff demonstrated to overcome the many challenges set forth to establish the District during this first year. Well done RGVECD! As a token of appreciation, Executive Director Manuel Cruz presented a challenge coin to members of the RGVECD Board of Managers, RGVECD staff, and the LRGVDC Board Members who attended. Our thanks to Olive Garden, Stefano's Pizza, HEB, and Jackie's Sweets for their generous sponsorship that helped make this event extra special.

On September 8, as part of National Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month, Public Education Coordinator Maribel Alonzo attended the Mental Health & Workplace Stress Webinar. The tools she learned about will allow her to prepare an in-house training for staff and provide better judgment and understanding on the importance of this matter.

On September 10, the Public Education team were invited to and attended the Out of the Darkness Walk 2022 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention event. Staff distributed public education items to the community.

On September 21, the Public Education team attended the Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator Course (SAFVIC) on Human Trafficking. This 8-hour course was designed to provide telecommunicators and law enforcement officers with the tools needed to effectively recognize, respond to, and investigate human trafficking. This course will be utilized as an in-house training protocol for present and future telecommunicators.

Future Events / Trainings:

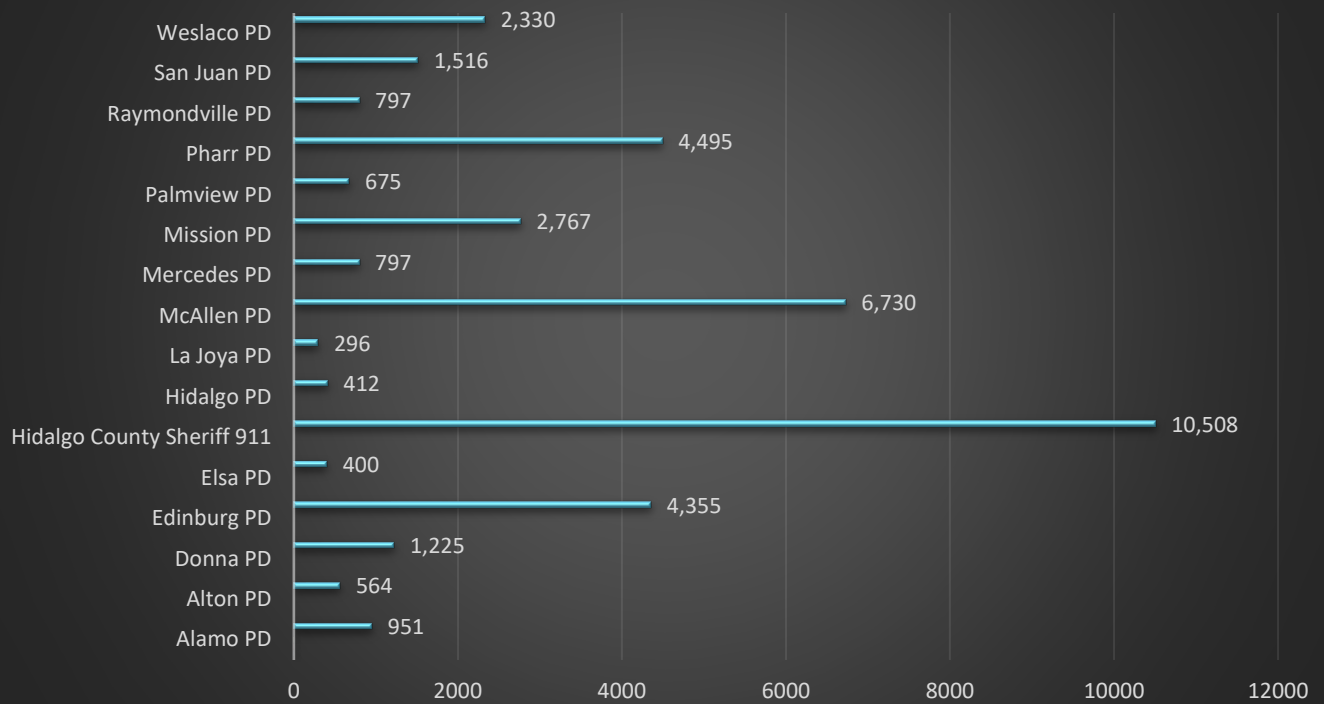
- Weslaco National Night Out (October 01)
- HCSO National Night Out (October 04)
- Public Educators of Texas Conference (October 11)
- Sexual Assault Family Violence Training for Telecommunicators (October 26)
- Mercedes Public Safety Department National Night Out (October 29)

- 9-1-1 | Information Technology

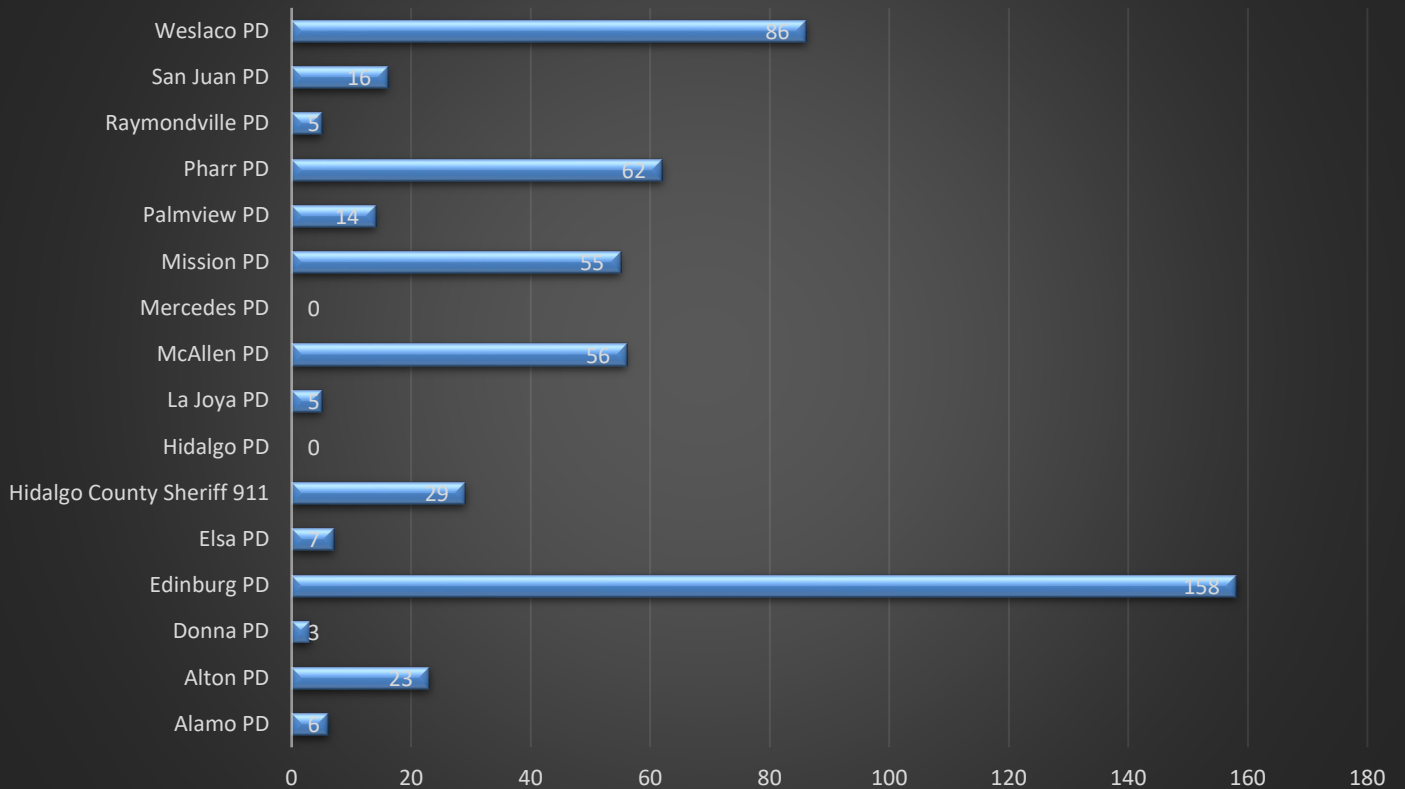
The 9-1-1 | Information Technology Team is preparing to conduct audits on all Public Safety Answering Points to verify our Viper7 Migration was successful. During our audit review, the team will ensure that call delivery, call recording, and network integrity is clear and approved by 9-1-1 standards. This migration has provided firsthand experience to our technicians and paves the way to increasing our resiliency during disaster situations and/or periods of high call volume. In addition to the auditing, our team inspects all generators to ensure we are at optimal readiness. With the ever-changing weather in the Gulf, these steps are taken to ensure interoperability during unforeseen weather events or power outages.

We are proud to continue our mission to better serve our community.

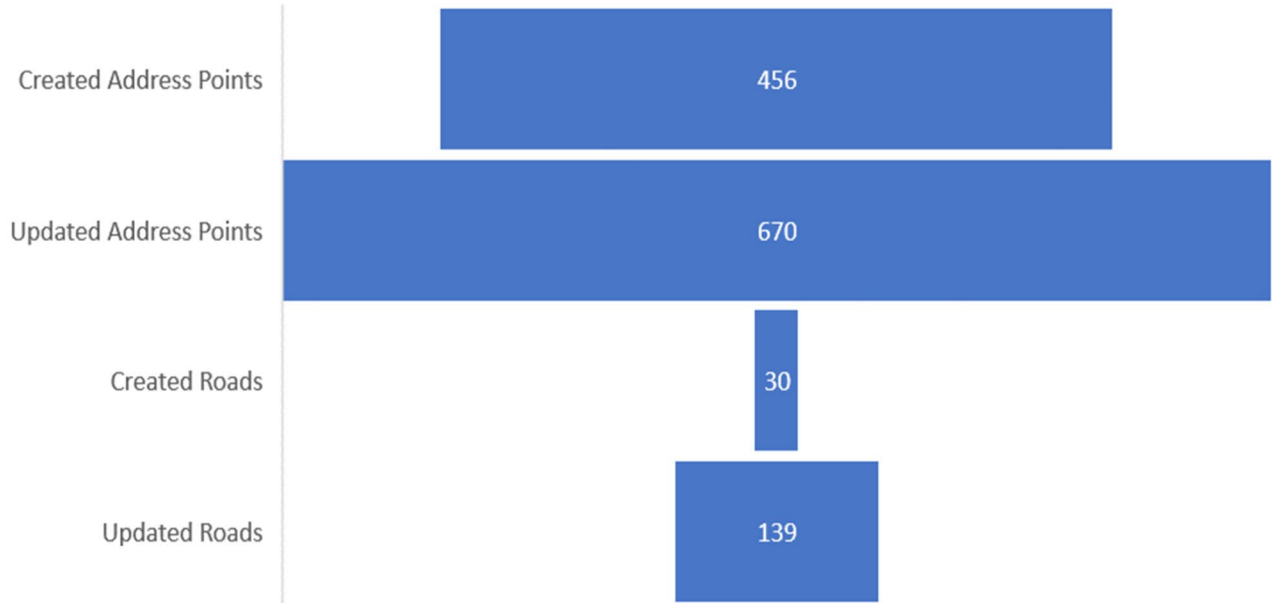
Call Summary August 2022



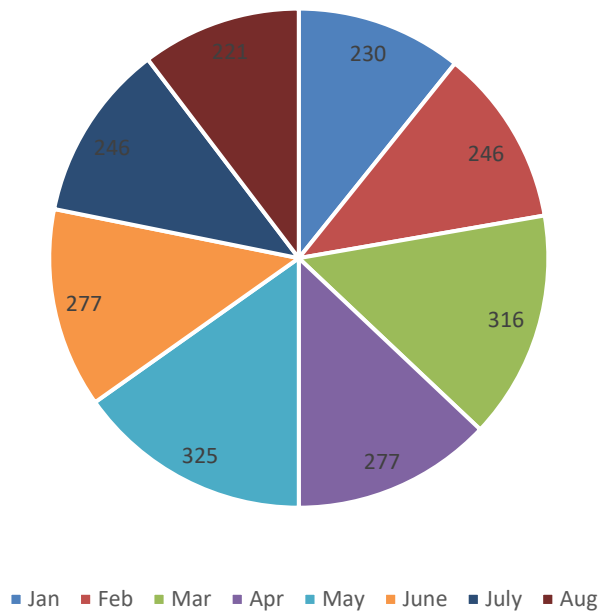
Text to 9-1-1 August 2022



August 2022 Mapping Features



Address Tickets from Jan - Aug 2022



ITEM #5. D.

TRANSPORTATION

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report Sarah Dierlam, Assistant Executive Director

1. Consideration and **ACTION** to Approve procurement of support vehicles for Valley Metro.

Staff requests Board approval to purchase support vehicles. These support vehicles will be incorporated into the Valley Metro Fleet as replacements for vehicles that have met their useful vehicle life expectancy. Purchase of these vehicles will be made with 100% FTA federal funding and TxDOT Transportation Development Credits.

Grant # TX-2021-103, total funding \$253,566

Vehicle types – 1) Ford F350 \$63,498

4) Ford Explorers \$143,824

Grant balance will be used in a future purchase

Grant # TX-2022-057, total funding \$120,000

Vehicle types – 2) Ford F250 \$ 113,509.60

SILSBEE FORD

Government and Commercial Sales

1211 U.S. Highway 96 North Silsbee TX 77656 Phone: (409) 895-3800

Date: 8/9/2022

Prepared by: Richard Hyder
direct phone: (409) 300-1385
email: rhyder.cowboyfleet@gmail.com

**Using Grant
TX-2021-103**

Prepared for: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Armando Perez
phone:
fax:
email: aperezjr@lrgvdc.org

Commodity#

# of items	Description	Price	Extension
1	Ford F350 crew cab SRW 4x2 Series 3520 per TPASS Contract 070-A1	\$ 35,183.00	\$ 35,183.00
1	Opt 803-upfitter switches	\$ 165.00	\$ 165.00
1	Opt 11--diesel engine	\$ 9,710.00	\$ 9,710.00
1	Opt 30--spray in bedliner	\$ 399.00	\$ 399.00
1	Opt 866A--TXDOT truck make ready	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
1	Opt 999--model upgrade	\$ 13,391.00	\$ 13,391.00
1	Opt 52--4x4 upgrade	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 2,850.00
ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY		TOTAL:	\$ 63,498.00

Notes: Please call if you have any questions. Thank you

SILSBEE FORD

Government and Commercial Sales

1211 U.S. Highway 96 North Silsbee TX 77656 Phone: (409) 895-3800

Date: 8/4/2022

Prepared by: Richard Hyder
direct phone: (409) 300-1385
email: rhyder.cowboyfleet@gmail.com

**Using Grant
TX-2021-103**

Prepared for: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Armando Perez
phone:
fax:
email: aperezjr@lrgvdc.org

Commodity#	# of items	Description	Price	Extension
	3	Ford Explorer RWD Series X160 per TPASS Contract 070-A1	\$ 29,711.00	\$ 89,133.00
	3	Opt 999 additional items-- model upgrade	\$ 6,245.00	\$ 18,735.00
ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY			TOTAL:	\$ 107,868.00

Notes: Please call if you have any questions. Thank you

**Plus 1 additional ford
explorer. Estimated
total \$ 143,824**

SILSBEE FORD

Government and Commercial Sales

1211 U.S. Highway 96 North Silsbee TX 77656 Phone: (409) 895-3800

Date: 8/4/2022

Prepared by: Richard Hyder
direct phone: (409) 300-1385
email: rhyder.cowboyfleet@gmail.com

**Using Grant
TX-2022-057**

Prepared for: Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Armando Perez
phone:
fax:
email: aperezjr@lrgvdc.org

Commodity#	# of items	Description	Price	Extension
	2	Ford F250 Regular cab 4x2 per Series 2500 per TPASS Contract 070-A1	\$ 28,946.00	\$ 57,892.00
	2	Opt 803-upfitter switches	\$ 165.00	\$ 330.00
	2	Opt 171--utility body standard	\$ 10,040.80	\$ 20,081.60
	2	Opt 30--spray in bedliner	\$ 399.00	\$ 798.00
	2	Opt 866A--TXDOT truck make ready	\$ 1,899.00	\$ 3,798.00
	2	Opt 999--Reading service body with Master lock, headache rack upgrade, model upgrade	\$ 15,305.00	\$ 30,610.00
ALL VEHICLES SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY			TOTAL:	\$ 113,509.60

Notes: Please call if you have any questions. Thank you

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

Valley Metro Status Report Sarah Dierlam, Assistant Executive Director

- Ridership Report

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

Breakdown of Ridership per system with percentage increase or decrease:

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM				
Agency	June	July	Aug	%
VALLEY METRO	21,990	20,444	24,138	18%
UTRGV	8,024	8,378	14,183	69%
STC	20	32	146	356%
TSTC	78	45	100	122%
Total	30,112	28,899	38,567	33%
RURAL AND URBAN COUNT				
AREA	June	July	Aug	%
Rural	4,956	4,804	5,763	20%
Urban	25,156	24,095	32,804	36%
Total	30,112	28,899	38,567	33%
RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY				
COUNTY	June	July	Aug	%
Hidalgo County	20,382	19,641	27,856	42%
Cameron County	8,158	7,636	8,510	11%
Willacy County	233	209	212	1%
Starr County	1,200	1,242	1,765	42%
Zapata County	139	171	224	31%
Total	30,112	28,899	38,567	33%

- Regional Transportation Advisory Panel (RTAP) Activity
 - Meetings for RTAP and the Subcommittee are scheduled bi-monthly to update members on the individual transportation agency's efforts to better inform the public of the available transportation resources.
 - Valley Metro Planning Department staff has held community outreach events in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties. These events highlight the modes of transportation available to the public within their perspective city. Staff addresses any concerns, recommendations, or comments the public might have.

Public Outreach Events

Date	Location	Event Name	Time
7/12/2022	McAllen	Texas A&M Student Orientation	7:30 am - 9am
7/13/2022	McAllen	Texas A&M Student Orientation	7:30 am - 9am
7/19/2022	McAllen	Texas A&M Student Orientation	7:30 am - 9am
7/27/2022	Pharr	Vail 32nd ADA Celebration & Art Showcase	10 am - 1 pm
7/29/2022	San Juan	Operation Border Health and Preparedness	7 am - 2 pm



VALLEY METRO 956-969-5761
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Follow Valley Metro

VM Transit Website



Route Maps with locations



ValleyMetro Weslaco

Ride Systems

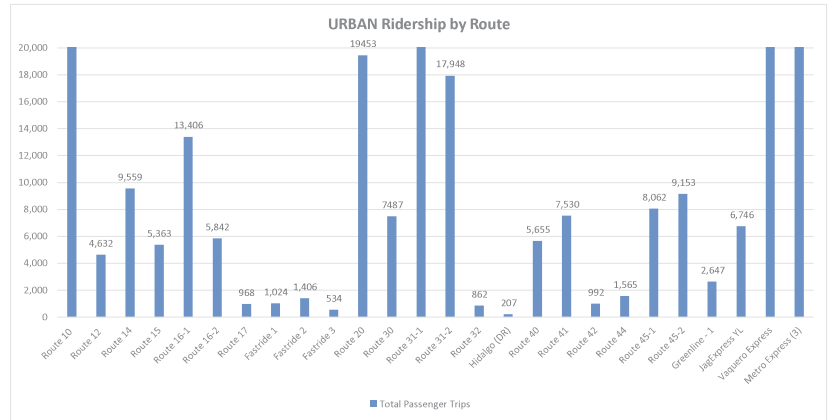
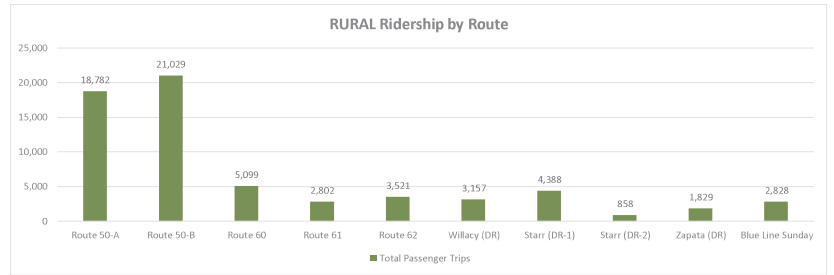


Track our buses in real time

VM Regional Call Center 1-800-574-8322

August
RIDERSHIP COUNT YEAR TO DATE FY 2022 (August)

	Route	Total Passenger Trips	Route Activity	Area(s) Served
RURAL	Route 50-A	18,782	4% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
	Route 50-B	21,029	5% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
	Route 60	5,099	1% Roma, Rio Grande City	
	Route 61	2,802	1% Rio Grande City	
	Route 62	3,521	1% Rio Grande City	
	Willacy (DR)	3,157	1% Willacy County	
	Starr (DR-1)	4,388	1% Starr County	
	Starr (DR-2)	858	0% Starr County	
	Zapata (DR)	1,829	0% Zapata County	
	Blue Line Sunday	2,828	1% Brownsville, Port Isabel	
URBAN	Route 10	21,614	5% Edinburg	
	Route 12	4,632	1% Edcouch, Elsa, Edinburg	
	Route 14	9,559	2% Edinburg	
	Route 15	5,363	1% Edinburg	
	Route 16-1	13,406	3% Courthouse Circulator	
	Route 16-2	5,842	1% Courthouse Circulator	
	Route 17	968	0% Edinburg T-line	
	Fastride 1	1,024	0% Edinburg	
	Fastride 2	1,406	0% Hidalgo County	
	Fastride 3	534	0% Cameron County	
	Route 20	19,453	0.04437 Mission	
	Route 30	7,487	0.01708 Pharr, San Juan	
	Route 31-1	20,288	0.04627 Cameron-Hidalgo County	
	Route 31-2	17,948	4% Hidalgo-Cameron County	
	Route 32	862	0% Donna	
	Hidalgo (DR)	207	0% City of Hidalgo	
	Route 40	5,655	1% Harlingen	
	Route 41	7,530	2% Harlingen	
	Route 42	992	0% San Benito	
	Route 44	1,565	0% Primera, La Feria, Santa Rosa	
	Route 45-1	8,062	2% Cameron County	
	Route 45-2	9,153	2% Cameron County	
	Greenline - 1	2,647	1% Rio Grande City	
	JagExpress YL	6,746	2% Weslaco, Pharr, McAllen	
	Vaquero Express	168,256	38% Edinburg	
	Metro Express (3)	32,984	8% Rio Grande Valley	
TOTAL		438,476	100%	**Total Ridership Count subject to change when finalized



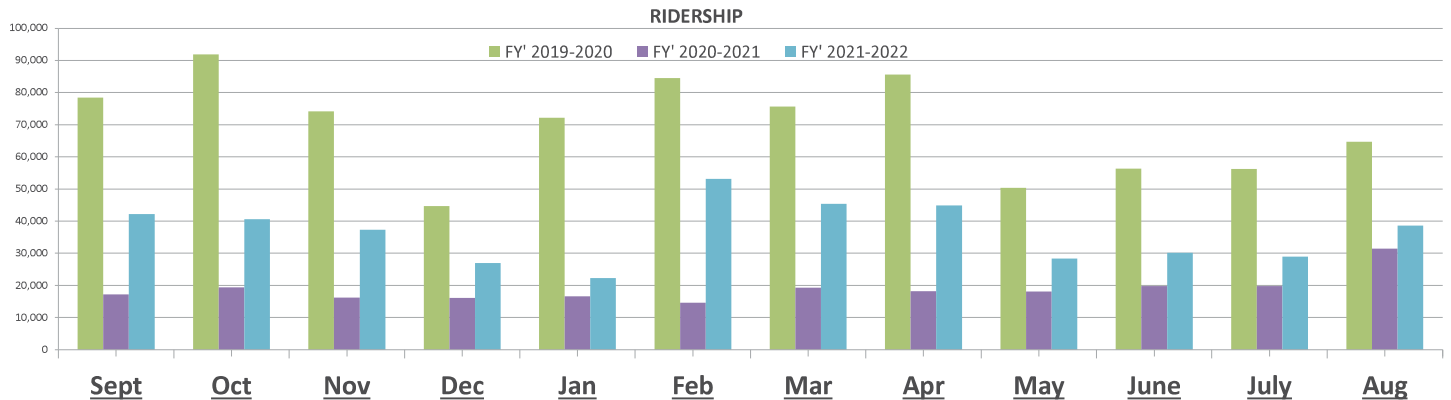
Active Routes	Rural	Urban	Total
Flex Routes	6	19	25
Demand Response	6	4	10
Fixed-Metro Express	0	3	3
	12	26	38

YEAR TO DATE RIDERSHIP REPORT

Year to Date - August 2022	Prior Year Sept-August Total	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
438,476	226,520	211,956	94%

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

* Urban service- service between or within urbanized areas

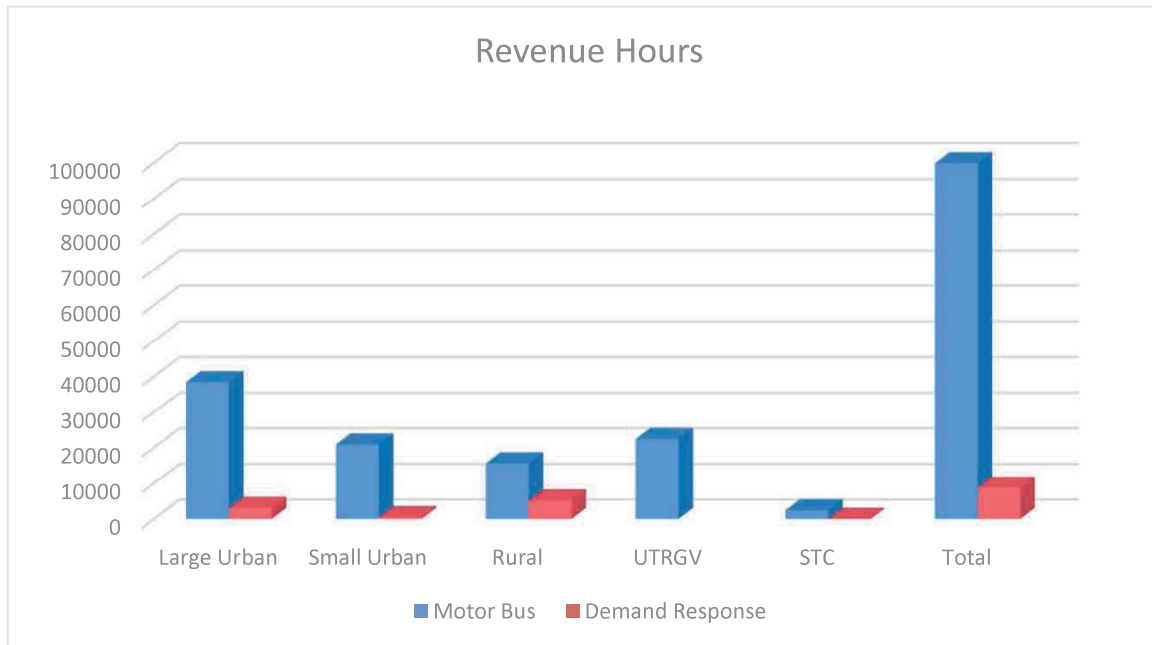


Fiscal Year	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Total	Difference	%Change
FY 2019-2020	78,440	91,930	74,137	44,709	72,199	84,562	75,604	85,670	50,318	56,330	56,234	64,773	834,906	145,243	21%
FY 2020-2021	17,149	19,332	16,190	16,072	16,620	14,611	19,300	18,169	18,080	19,842	19,774	31,381	226,520	-608,386	-73%
FY 2021-2022	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	28,899	38,567	438,476	211,956	94%
Monthly Change from Previous FY	25,093	21,226	21,072	10,846	5,613	38,517	26,100	26,674	10,234	10,270	9,125	7,186	211,956	226,520	52%
Percent Change	146%	110%	130.15%	67%	34%	264%	135%	147%	57%	52%	46%	23%	94%	+37%	

Year to Date 2022-2023

Distribution of Revenue Hours

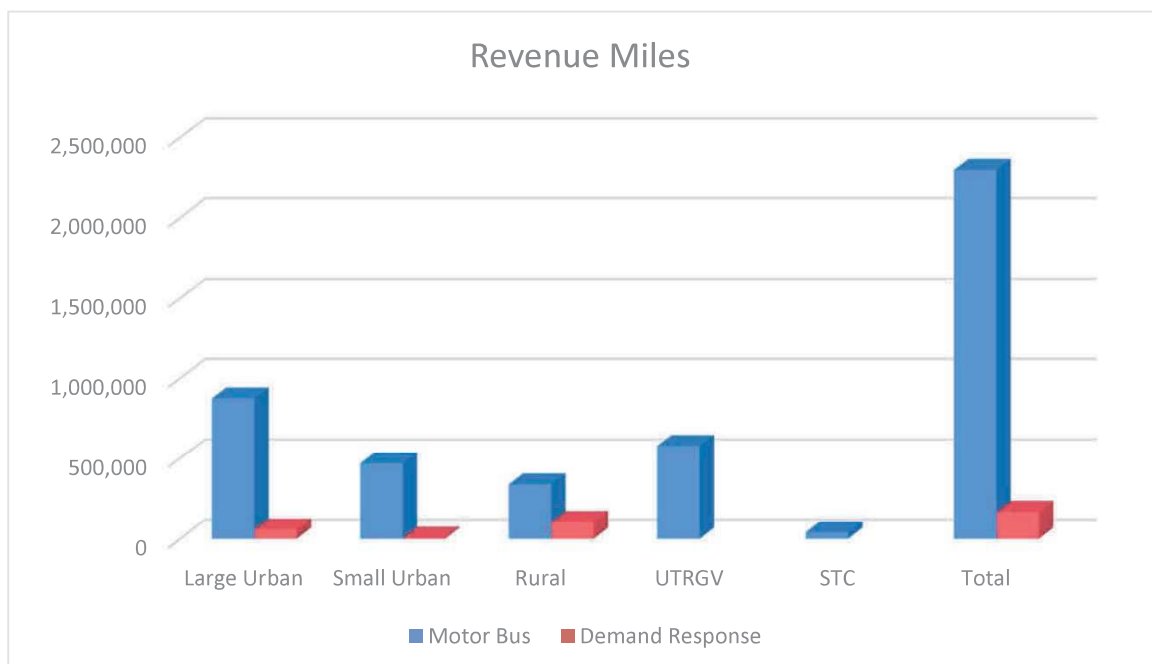
	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	38412	20889	15640	22429	2426	99,796
Demand Response	3074	530	5177		-	8780.76



Year to Date 2022-2023

Distribution of Revenue Miles

	Large Urban	Small Urban	Rural	UTRGV	STC	Total
Motor Bus	875,188	467,765	337,752	578,410	39,251	2,298,366
Demand Response	57,534	5785	104,340			167,659



FY 2022 VALLEY METRO RIDERSHIP REPORT

RIDERSHIP BY CITIES - PICK-UP LOCATION

CITY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo	34	33	38	35	32	3	0	0	0	0	0	32	207
Edinburg	3,803	4,021	3,249	2,767	2,581	4,334	5,258	4,794	4,716	5,231	4,210	6,334	51,298
UTRGV Edinburg	21,078	18,983	16,944	4,825	2,835	26,305	18,433	21,800	6,468	8,024	8,378	14,183	168,256
Pharr	1,014	1,003	931	911	986	909	994	820	847	692	710	844	10,661
Mission	739	781	859	832	766	705	903	748	720	787	720	807	9,367
McAllen	3,276	3,288	3,212	4,004	3,364	3,345	4,357	4,214	4,148	3,870	4,066	3,907	45,051
San Carlos	33	32	29	56	54	44	43	22	28	34	23	20	418
La Blanca	4	6	13	2	2	5	5	11	10	5	5	4	72
Elsa	68	60	49	56	49	53	66	63	47	71	49	34	665
Edcouch	42	53	55	46	9	45	65	39	45	41	23	32	495
La Villa	8	7	32	35	26	40	32	36	38	12	19	28	313
San Juan	478	520	372	418	417	387	479	326	358	367	359	295	4,776
Alamo	278	259	275	277	237	249	345	255	221	195	208	242	3,041
Donna	364	323	397	578	465	426	537	300	265	318	232	259	4,464
Weslaco	809	755	743	598	523	5,915	805	642	491	491	412	547	12,731
Mercedes	182	196	240	314	257	225	258	240	234	244	227	288	2,905
La Feria	109	120	106	183	168	156	210	121	124	138	117	122	1,674
Harlingen	2,303	2,345	1,976	2,237	2,037	1,914	2,686	1,820	1,514	1,778	1,646	2,119	24,375
San Benito	99	104	235	458	420	254	215	138	106	105	97	127	2,358
Brownsville	2,875	3,081	3,561	4,114	3,258	3,478	4,702	4,472	4,376	4,273	3,999	4,054	46,243
Santa Rosa	0	0	0	10	49	34	56	48	42	57	30	45	371
Primera	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	7
Los Fresnos	176	229	121	176	213	315	386	230	196	142	167	250	2,601
Laguna Vista	174	198	175	183	207	252	252	177	158	193	181	222	2,372
Laguna Heights	261	300	195	262	203	201	264	178	135	181	128	209	2,517
Port Isabel	1,549	1,516	1,496	1,562	1,312	1,250	1,566	1,421	1,342	1,291	1,270	1,362	16,937
Rio Grande City	1,372	1,290	1,244	937	842	1,432	1,569	1,192	935	866	957	1,433	14,069
Willacy County	263	341	331	326	265	272	281	222	202	233	209	212	3,157
Starr County	645	555	352	493	537	487	456	350	420	334	285	332	5,246
Zapata County	206	159	32	223	116	93	177	161	128	139	171	224	1,829
Total	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	28,899	38,567	438,476

RIDERSHIP BY SYSTEM

Agency	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
VALLEY METRO	20,844	21,293	20,045	21,983	19,345	21,337	26,707	22,799	21,673	21,990	20,444	24,138	262,598
UTRGV	21,078	18,983	16,944	4,825	2,835	26,305	18,433	21,800	6,468	8,024	8,378	14,183	168,256
STC	256	228	196	50	30	5,417	154	154	63	20	32	146	6,746
TSTC	64	54	77	60	23	69	106	90	110	78	45	100	876
Total	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	28,899	38,567	438,476

RURAL AND URBAN COUNT

AREA	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Rural	6,271	6,167	5,480	5,662	5,022	5,552	6,681	5,570	5,012	4,956	4,804	5,763	66,940
Urban	35,971	34,391	31,782	21,256	17,211	47,576	38,719	39,273	23,302	25,156	24,095	32,804	371,536
Total	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	28,899	38,567	438,476

RIDERSHIP BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	TOTAL
Hidalgo County	32,210	30,320	27,438	15,754	12,603	42,990	32,580	34,310	18,636	20,382	19,641	27,856	314,720
Cameron County	7,546	7,893	7,865	9,185	7,870	7,854	10,337	8,608	7,993	8,158	7,636	8,510	99,455
Willacy County	263	341	331	326	265	272	281	222	202	233	209	212	3,157
Starr County	2,017	1,845	1,596	1,430	1,379	1,919	2,025	1,542	1,355	1,200	1,242	1,765	19,315
Zapata County	206	159	32	223	116	93	177	161	128	139	171	224	1,829
Total	42,242	40,558	37,262	26,918	22,233	53,128	45,400	44,843	28,314	30,112	28,899	38,567	438,476



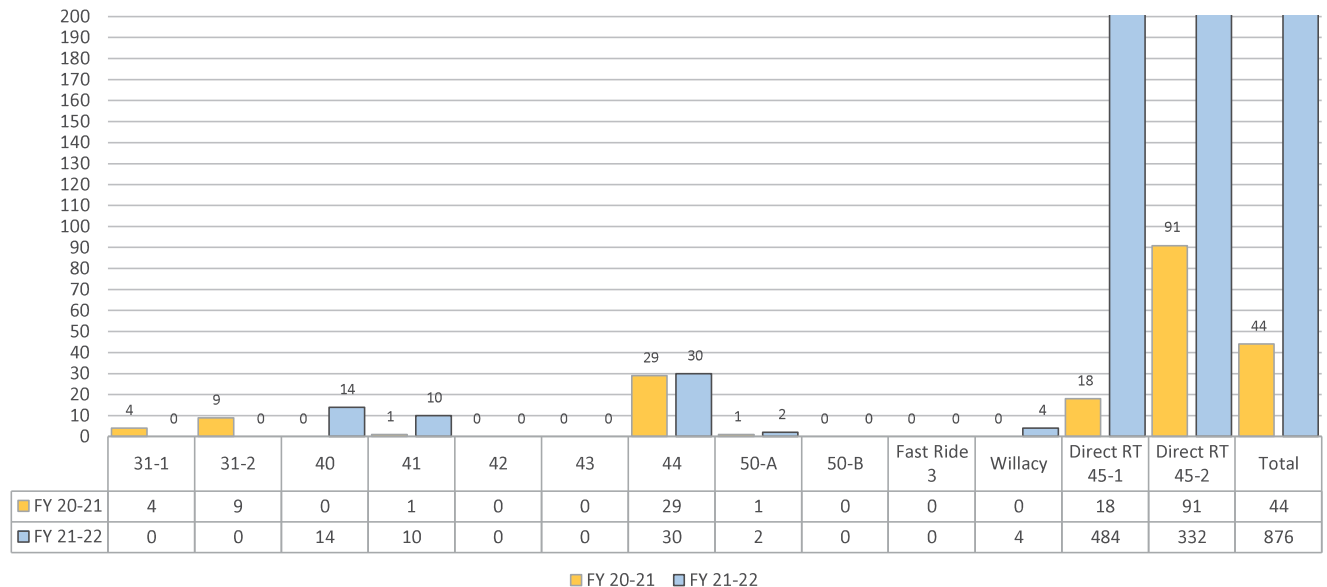
FY 2021-2022 Valley Metro

TSTC MONTHLY PASSENGER COUNT

Routes	31-1	31-2	40	41	42	43	44	50-A	50-B	Fast Ride 3	Willacy	Direct RT 45-1	Direct RT 45-2	Total
September	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	48	64
October	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	46	54
November	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	23	77
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	37	21	60
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22	23
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	23	69
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	82	24	106
April	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	23	90
May	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	72	24	110
June	0	0	1	2	0	0	14	2	0	0	2	36	21	78
July	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	24	45
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	64	33	100
Total	0	0	14	10	0	0	30	2	0	0	4	484	332	876
FY 2020-2021	4	9	0	1	0	0	29	1	0	0	0	18	91	44
Change Over Previous FY	4	9	14	9	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	466	241	832

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug	Total
Direct Routes	57	52	76	58	23	69	106	87	96	57	38	97	719
Indirect Routes	7	2	1	2	0	0	0	3	14	21	7	3	57
Monthly Total	64	54	77	60	23	69	106	90	110	78	45	100	876

2021 - 2022 Valley Metro Routes TSTC Student Passenger Count



Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Item #5: Department Reports

D. Transportation

RGVMPO Status ReportAndrew Canon/Eva
Executive Director

The RGVMPO staff will be presenting on the regional bicycle and pedestrian program. Updates will be given on the RGV Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter Data Program, the RGV Active Transportation Facility Inventory, and the RGVMPO's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) projects. RGVMPO staff continues to review and monitor projects that have been awarded regional TASA funds to ensure the timely development of projects and obligation of those funds.

The RGVMPO Policy Board will also be given the same presentation/updates. RGVMPO staff, and our TxDOT partners, intend to continue to ensure transparency with policymakers and transportation professionals.

This is an informational item; no action is needed.