

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

Of June 21, 2024

**Call to Order:** TPB Vice-Chair Cesar Blanco called the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. at the Blue Flame Building, 17th Floor (Center for Community Engagement), 304 Texas Avenue, El Paso, TX 79901, and also conducted the meeting telephonically and by video conference. TPB Member attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT	TITLES	MEMBERS ABSENT	TITLES
1. Ricardo Samaniego	Judge, El Paso County	Joseph Cervantes	NM State Senator, District 31
2. Cesar Blanco (Vice-Chair)	TX State Senator	Anthony Turner	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX
3. Aaron Chavarria	District Engineer, NMDOT	Eddie Morales	TX State Representative – 74 <sup>th</sup> District
4. Walter Miller	Alderman 1, Town of Horizon City	Willie Madrid	NM State Representative District 53
5. Tomas Trevino	District Engineer, TXDOT El Paso District	Mo Moabed	County Commissioner, Doña Ana County
6. Iliana Holguin	El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3	Oscar Leeser (Chair)	Mayor, City of El Paso
7. Rudy Cruz	City of Socorro, District 3 Representative	Ramon Cano	Mayor, Town of Clint
8. Claudia Ordaz	TX State Representative – 76 <sup>th</sup> District	Cary Westin	City Manager, City of El Paso
9. Norma Palacios	Assistant Public Works Director, El Paso County	Diana Murillo	Mayor, Anthony, NM
10. Rachel Quintana	Mayor, Village of Vinton	Javier Perea	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM
11. Cassandra Hernandez	City of El Paso Representative – District 3	Mary E. Gonzalez	TX State Representative – 75 <sup>th</sup> District
12. Chris Canales	City of El Paso Representative – District 8	Isabel Salcido	City of El Paso Representative - District 5
13. Lina Ortega	TX State Representative – 77 <sup>th</sup> District		
14. Ellen Smyth	Chief Transit & Field Operations Officer (COEP)		
15. Yvette Hernandez	City Engineer, COEP	<b>MPO STAFF</b>	
16. Tony Nevarez	Director of Aviation, El Paso International Airport	Sergio Estrada	MPO/TPB Attorney
17. Miguel Chacon	Mayor, City of San Elizario, TX	Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
18. Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78 <sup>th</sup> District	Claudia Valles	Transportation Planner
19.		Salvador Gonzalez-Ayala	Transportation Research and Development Manager
20.		Gerardo Fierro	Associate Regional Transportation Analyst
21.		Harrison Plourde	Assistant Director
22.		Anne Guayante	Regional Transportation Manager
23.		Marisol Enriquez	Administrative Secretary

(Meeting began with 17 members)

- *No Public Comment: No member of the public signed up for Initial Public Comment*

#### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the May 17, 2024 TPB meeting.

**Presenter: TPB Chair**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2024, TPB meeting with corrections made by Commissioner Iliana Holguin and seconded by Mayor Rachel Quintana. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign the following Letters of Support for the:
  - a. City of Sunland Park, for the Federal Highway Administration Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grant for the Sunland Park Rio Grande Trail Phase III

**Presenter: Mario Juarez-Infante (City of Sunland Park)**

- b. City of El Paso for the Federal Highway Administration Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants program application for the El Paso Downtown International Ports ITS Design and Regional Integration Project

**Presenter: Omar Martinez (City of El Paso)**

- Lina Ortega commented

**Motion to authorize Executive Director to sign the following Letters of Support for the City of Sunland Park, for the Federal Highway Administration Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) Grant for the Sunland Park Rio Grande Trail Phase III made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to authorize Executive Director to sign the following Letters of Support for the City of El Paso for the Federal Highway Administration Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants program application for the El Paso Downtown International Ports ITS Design and Regional Integration Project made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously**

3. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #4 with the El Paso MPO General Planning Consultant for Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) development, for an amount not to exceed \$998,636.47.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

- Iliana Holguin, Cassandra Hernandez, and Cesar Blanco commented

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #4 with the El Paso MPO General Planning Consultant for Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) development, for an amount not to exceed \$998,636.47 made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passes, with Representative Cassandra Hernandez voting against.**

4. Consideration of documents associated with the Rider 7 Local Air Quality Statement of Work under Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Contract (Grant) #582-20-11979:

- a. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a Lending Agreement with El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) for vehicle counting cameras (equipment to be acquired by TTI under Task Order #2)
  - b. Consider authorizing the Executive Director, to execute a Consulting Services Agreement and a Master Subscription Agreement with UrbanSim, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$170,000, for the purchase of three software licenses for a one-year period, technical support, and consulting services that will enable the MPO to complete Task 3 – Impact of transborder urban growth policies and patterns on ozone concentration in the El Paso-Juarez binational region. It is also requested that after review by the MPO's legal counsel, that the Executive Director, be authorized to execute any related contract documents or agreements as long as the total amount of the agreements does not exceed \$170,000.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Lending Agreement with El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF) for vehicle counting cameras (equipment to be acquired by TTI under Task Order #2), subject to final review and approval by legal counsel, made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Judge Ricardo Samaniego. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Consulting Services Agreement and a Master Subscription Agreement with UrbanSim, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$170,000, for the purchase of three software licenses for a one-year period, technical support, and consulting services that will enable the MPO to complete Task 3 – Impact of transborder urban growth policies and patterns on ozone concentration in the El Paso-Juarez binational region, and that after review by the MPO's legal counsel, that the Executive Director, be authorized to execute any related contract documents or agreements as long as the total amount of the agreements does not exceed \$170,000 made by Ellen Smyth and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider approval of the Rider 7 Local Air Quality Statement of Work under Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Contract (Grant) # 582-24-01394 to perform air quality planning activities to reduce fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) emissions:

- a. Consider approval of Task Order #4 between EPMPPO and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for the project Monitoring of PM2.5 Exposure from Traffic Congestion at International Border Crossings.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)**

- **Walter Miller and Ellen Smyth commented**

**Motion to approve Task Order #4 between EPMP and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for the project Monitoring of PM2.5 Exposure from Traffic Congestion at International Border Crossings made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Consider adoption of the Amended RMS 2050 MTP and Amended RMS 2050 Transportation Conformity Report.  
**Presenter: Harrison Plourde (MPO)**

- **Chris Canales, Walter Miller and Tomas Trevino commented**

**Motion to adopt the Amended RMS 2050 MTP and Amended RMS 2050 Transportation Conformity Report made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Judge Ricardo Samaniego. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider approval of amendments to Appendix D (Environmental Clearance Project list) of the RMS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and RMS 2025-2028 TIP to change project description of the Downtown 10 Executive Center to SL478 Copia project  
**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**

**Motion to approve amendments to Appendix D (Environmental Clearance Project list) of the RMS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and RMS 2025-2028 TIP to change project description of the Downtown 10 Executive Center to SL478 Copia project made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Consider approval of amendments to the RMS 2050 MTP, Amended RMS 2050 MTP, RMS 2023-2026 TIP, and RMS 2025-2028 TIP to:
  - a. Amend the *NM 213/NM 404 Interchange improvements* (MPO ID B608X / CN E100322) project to increase total project cost from \$47,641,652 to \$76,038,782, and add \$45,000,000 of State Severance Tax Bond Proceeds funds, add \$3,435,374 of STPF (Surface Transportation Program - Flex) funds, reduce NHPP - National Highway Performance Program funds from \$20,606,833 to \$8,916,029, reduce SBSI - Border State Infrastructure funds from \$5,145,788 to \$2,772,894, increase NHPP (Freight) funds from \$13,641,652 to \$13,914,485 to increase total funding from \$41,667,106 to \$76,038,782 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025
  - b. Amend the *NM 213 Widening* (MPO ID P621X-CAP / CN E100321) project to increase total project cost from \$26,000,000 to \$43,096,137, and add \$8,737,378 of NHPP funds, add \$5,585,865 of STPF funds, and \$2,772,894 of SBSI funds to increase total funding from \$26,000,000 to \$43,096,137 in FY 2025

**Presenter: Gerardo Fierro (MPO executive Director)**

**Motion to approve amendments to the RMS 2050 MTP, Amended RMS 2050 MTP, RMS 2023-2026 TIP, and RMS 2025-2028 TIP to:**

- a. **Amend the *NM 213/NM 404 Interchange improvements* (MPO ID B608X / CN E100322) project to increase total project cost from \$47,641,652 to \$76,038,782, and add \$45,000,000 of State Severance Tax Bond Proceeds funds, add \$3,435,374 of STPF (Surface Transportation Program - Flex) funds, reduce NHPP - National Highway Performance Program funds from \$20,606,833 to \$8,916,029, reduce SBSI - Border State Infrastructure funds from \$5,145,788 to \$2,772,894, increase NHPP (Freight) funds from \$13,641,652 to \$13,914,485 to increase total funding from \$41,667,106 to \$76,038,782 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025**
- b. **Amend the *NM 213 Widening* (MPO ID P621X-CAP / CN E100321) project to increase total project cost from \$26,000,000 to \$43,096,137, and add \$8,737,378 of NHPP funds, add \$5,585,865 of STPF funds, and \$2,772,894 of SBSI funds to increase total funding from \$26,000,000 to \$43,096,137 in FY 2025 made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Ellen Smyth. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:**

9. Update on New Mexico unobligated funds TPAC Ad Hoc Committee  
**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**
10. El Paso MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) 2024 Update: Public Comment Period and Public Meetings announcement  
**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**
11. Quarterly Reports
  - a. MPO Administrative Amendments Report**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**
  - b. Project Completion Report
  - c. Project Readiness Report
  - d. RMS 2020 Projects Report

**Presenter: Gerardo Fierro (MPO)**

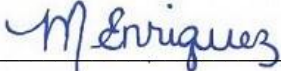
12. Executive Director's Report
  - a. National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI) Phase 2
  - b. Texas-Mexico Border Connectivity Plan Workshop
  - c. Texas Transportation Committee meetings – May 23, 2024 and June 27, 2024

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)**

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:00 a.m.** on **July 19, 2024**, at the at Blue Flame Building, Floor 17 (Center for Community Engagement), 304 Texas Ave, El Paso, TX 79901

13. Adjournment.  
**Adjournment at 10:49 a.m.**

Approved as to content:



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Marisol Enriquez, Recording Secretary of the  
Transportation Policy Board for the El Paso MPO Study Area