

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Of April 19, 2024

Call to Order: TPB Vice-Chair Cesar Blanco called the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting to order at 9:30 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. Cary Westin	City Manager, City of El Paso	Anthony Turner	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX
3. Cesar Blanco (Vice-Chair)	TX State Senator	Eddie Morales	TX State Representative – 74 th District
4. Aaron Chavarria	District Engineer, NMDOT	Willie Madrid	NM State Representative District 53
5. Walter Miller	Alderman 1, Town of Horizon City	Mo Moabed	County Commissioner, Doña Ana County
6. Tomas Trevino	District Engineer, TXDOT El Paso District	Oscar Leeser (Chair)	Mayor, City of El Paso
7. Diana Murillo	Mayor, Anthony, NM	Ramon Cano	Mayor, Town of Clint
8. Rudy Cruz	City of Socorro, District 3 Representative	Iliana Holguin	El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3
9. Claudia Ordaz	TX State Representative – 76 th District	Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78 th District
10. Norma Palacios	Assistant Public Works Director, El Paso County	Isela Reyes	Mayor, City of San Elizario, TX
11. Rachel Quintana	Mayor, Village of Vinton	Sam Rodriguez	Director of Aviation, El Paso International Airport
12. Cassandra Hernandez	City of El Paso Representative – District 3	Mary E. Gonzalez	TX State Representative – 75 th District
13. Isabel Salcido	City of El Paso Representative - District 5		
14. Chris Canales	City of El Paso Representative – District 8		
15. Lina Ortega	TX State Representative – 77 th District	MPO STAFF	
16. Javier Perea	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM	Sergio Estrada	MPO/TPB Attorney
17. Ellen Smyth	Chief Transit & Field Operations Officer (COEP)	Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
18. Yvette Hernandez	City Engineer, COEP		
19.		Salvador Gonzalez-Ayala	Transportation Research and Development Manager
20.		Gerardo Fierro	Associate Regional Transportation Analyst
21.		Sonia Perez	Regional Transportation Planner
22.		Anne Guayante	Regional Transportation Manager
23.		Marisol Enriquez	Administrative Secretary
24.		Gabriela Lopez	Transportation Financial Analyst
25.			
26.			

(Meeting began with 16 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 March 22, 2024 TPB meeting.

Presenter: TPB Chair

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2024, EPMPO TPB meeting made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute the following agreements related to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program:

- a. An interlocal agreement with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) to provide up to \$150,000.00 to cover the 20% non-federal match for the development of the SS4A Action Plan as part of the \$750,000.00 federal grant awarded to the El Paso MPO (total of \$750,000.00). El Paso County approved the use of vehicle registration fees as the source of the funding for the non-federal match.
- b. Agreement under the FY 2022 SS4A program with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for a grant in the amount of \$750,000.00, which includes a non-federal share of \$150,000.00

Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute the following agreements related to the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program:

- c. An interlocal agreement with the Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) to provide up to \$150,000.00 to cover the 20% non-federal match for the development of the SS4A Action Plan as part of the \$750,000.00 federal grant awarded to the El Paso MPO (total of \$750,000.00). El Paso County approved the use of vehicle registration fees as the source of the funding for the non-federal match.
- d. Agreement under the FY 2022 SS4A program with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for a grant in the amount of \$750,000.00, which includes a non-federal share of \$150,000.00

made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Chris Canales. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Grant with a maximum authorized reimbursement of \$158,634.00

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

- Lina Ortega commented
- Ellen Smyth commented

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the Rider 7 PM 2.5 Local Air Quality Planning Grant with a maximum authorized reimbursement of \$158,634.00 made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Representative Cassandra Hernandez. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider and approve designating Eduardo Calvo as the authorized representative of the El Paso MPO for the purpose of executing the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Certifications and Assurances

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to approve designating Eduardo Calvo as the authorized representative of the El Paso MPO for the purpose of executing the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Certifications and Assurances made by Mayor Javier Perea and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Consider and ratify an agreement with NMDOT to award a grant to the El Paso MPO in the amount of \$545,000.00 from the NMDOT State Planning and Research (SPR) program

Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to ratify an agreement with NMDOT to award a grant to the El Paso MPO in the amount of \$545,000.00 from the NMDOT State Planning and Research (SPR) program made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Consider approval of an amendment to the EPMPO FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add \$545,000.00 in NMDOT SPR funds.

Presenter: Harrison Plourde (MPO)

Motion to approve an amendment to the EPMPO FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add \$545,000.00 in NMDOT SPR funds made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider adoption of the RMS 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)

Motion to adopt the RMS 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) made by Ellen Smyth and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Consider approval of amendments to the RMS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and RMS 2023-2026 TIP to:
- Amend the John Hayes (Darrington/Berryville) (Construction Phase 2) project to replace \$2,800,000 of CAT 7 STP funds with \$2,800,000 CAT 10 CRP funds in FY 2025
 - Amend the Railroad Dr. Widening and Reconstruction project to remove PE Phase using \$3,500,000 of CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2026
 - Program the PE Phase Railroad Dr. Widening and Reconstruction project using \$3,500,000 of CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2024

Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)

Motion to approve amendments to the RMS 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and RMS 2023-2026 TIP to:

- Amend the John Hayes (Darrington/Berryville) (Construction Phase 2) project to replace \$2,800,000 of CAT 7 STP funds with \$2,800,000 CAT 10 CRP funds in FY 2025**
- Amend the Railroad Dr. Widening and Reconstruction project to remove PE Phase using \$3,500,000 of CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2026**
- Program the PE Phase Railroad Dr. Widening and Reconstruction project using \$3,500,000 of CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2024**

made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider approval of amendments to Appendix D (Environmental Clearance Project List) of the RMS 2023-2026 TIP to:
- Remove the Tierra Este (Arterial 1) -Phase I project
 - Remove the Tierra Este (Arterial 1) -Phase II project
 - Add the Tierra Este (Arterial 1) project

Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)

Motion to approval of amendments to Appendix D (Environmental Clearance Project List) of the RMS 2023-2026 TIP to:

- Remove the Tierra Este (Arterial 1) -Phase I project**
- Remove the Tierra Este (Arterial 1) -Phase II project**
- Add the Tierra Este (Arterial 1) project**

made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Isabel Salcido. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Consider supporting New Mexico Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 project applications
Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)

Motion to approve supporting New Mexico Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 project applications made by Judge Ricardo Samaniego and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Consider approval of the TxDOT- El Paso District Mobility Projects funding proposal for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Transportation Program.

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

- *Vice-Chairperson, Cesar Blanco opened Public Comment:*
- 1. *Scott White commented.*
- *Vice-Chairperson, Cesar Blanco, closed Public Comment*

- **Cassandra Hernandez commented**
- **Chris Canales commented**

Motion to approve of the TxDOT- El Paso District Mobility Projects funding proposal for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Transportation Program made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Representative Claudia Ordaz. **Voted present Representative Chris Canales. Motion Passed.**

12. Consider and approve the submittal of a grant application to the MEGA federal program for the *Downtown 10 Executive Center to SL478 Copia* project and to approve a resolution of support for the project.

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to approve the submittal of a grant application to the MEGA federal program for the *Downtown 10 Executive Center to SL478 Copia* project and to approve a resolution of support for the project made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Representative Claudia Ordaz. **Vote against Chris Canales. Motion Passed**

- Vice-Chairperson, Cesar Blanco opened Public Comment:
 1. Bob Storch commented.
- Vice-Chairperson, Cesar Blanco, closed Public Comment

1st Motion: Motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:30 am with nineteen (19) members to review EX item 1 and Ex Item 2 made by Alderman Walter Miller by and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion carried unanimously.

EX. Item No. 1 Executive Director's Annual Performance Assessment for Year 2023, including review and discussion of the Executive Director's Self-Performance Assessment for Year 2023.

Presenter: MPO Executive Committee Chair

EX. Item No. 2 Executive Director's Employment Agreement

Presenter: MPO Executive Committee Chair

2nd Motion: Motion to exit from Executive Session made by made Alderman Walter Miller by and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair, Cesar Blanco reconvened meeting at 10:50am with nineteen (19) members.

EX. Item No. 1 No action taken.

EX. Item No. 2 No action taken.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

13. Presentation on the TxDOT State Infrastructure Bank

Presenter: Dallas Teston (TXDOT SIB Program)

- **Alderman Walter Miller commented**

14. Review of current EPMPO contracts and agreements for entities providing assistance in planning activities described in the EPMPO FY 2024-2025 UPWP

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

- **Cassandra Hernandez commented**
- **Yvette Hernandez commented**
- **Ellen Smyth commented**

15. Executive Director's Report

- a. Border Trade Advisory Committee (BTAC) meeting in Brownsville, TX (April 15th and 16th)
- b. Border Highway East project stakeholders meeting
- c. TEMPO meeting (March 21st and 22nd)

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)

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

16. Adjournment.

Adjournment at 11:29 a.m.

Approved as to content:

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