

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Of July 23, 2021**

Call to Order:

Chairperson Lina Ortega called the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting to order at 9:04 am and conducted the meeting telephonically and by video conference. TPB Member attendance was as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	
TITLES	TITLES	TITLES	TITLES
1. Lina Ortega (Chair)	TX State Representative, 77th District	Joseph Cervantes	NM Senator, District 31
2. Walter Miller (V-Chair)	Alderman 1, Town of Horizon	Esteban Olivas	Alderman, Town Clint
3. Claudia Ordaz-Perez	TX State Representative – 76th District	Ellen Smyth	Director, Mass Transit-Sun Metro
4. Manuel Leos	Mayor, Village of Vinton	Raymundo Lara	NM State Representative – 34th District
5. Cissy Lizarraga	City Representative, District 8	Benjamin Romero	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX
6. Ricardo Samaniego	Judge, El Paso County	Diana Trujillo	Mayor Anthony, NM
7. Yvette Hernandez	Grant Funded Program Director, COEP	Chuck McMahon	Doña Ana County Assist. Manager of Operations
8. Cassandra Hernandez	City Representative – District 3	Trent Doolittle	District Engineer, NMDOT
9. Tommy Gonzalez	City Manager, City of El Paso		
10. Norma Palacios	Public Works Director, County of El Paso		
11. Henry Rivera	City Representative – District 7		
12. Tomas Trevino	District Engineer, TXDOT – El Paso		
13. Iliana Holguin	El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3		
14. Sam Rodriguez	Director of Aviation, EP International Airport		
15. Oscar Leeser	Mayor, City of El Paso	MPO STAFF	
16. Ivy Avalos	Mayor, City of Socorro	Sergio Estrada	MPO/TPB Attorney
17. Antonio Araujo	Mayor City of San Elizario	Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
18. Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78th District	Harrison Plourde	Assistant Director
19. César Blanco	TX State Senator	Jeff Howell	Senior Planner
20. Art Fierro	TX State Representative – 79th District	Gabriela Lopez	Transportation Financial Analyst
21. Mary E. Gonzalez	TX State Representative – 75th District	Marisol Enriquez	Admin. Secretary / TPB Recording Sec
22. Javier Perea	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM	Claudia Valles	Transportation Planner
23.		Lizeth Peña	Administrative Specialist
24.		Sonia Perez	TDM Modeler
25.		Salvador Gonzalez-Ayala	Transportation Planning & Programs Mgr.
		George Inostroza	EPMPO Program Administrator
OTHERS PRESENT		OTHERS PRESENT	
Art Estrada - TXDOT	Estrella Escobar – Mayor Leeser	Thelma Ramirez- TXDOT	Steven Howard
Astrid Bunner- City of El Paso	Fred Evans	Raymond Sanchez – TXDOT	
Cassandra Urrutia – Rep. Ortega	Greg McNicol – TPAC Chair	Raul Ortega – City of El Paso	
David Cantu – City of El Paso	Javier Paz – County Comm. Pct. 3	Scott White – Velo Paso	
David Coronado – Int'l. Bridges	Jose Landeros – TPAC V-Chair	Sito Negron	
Desiree Castillo – Rep. Blanco's	Michael Sexton – Half Associates	Teresa Quezada – Horizon City	
Don Flores - HNTB	Nichollette Ruiz –Judge Samaniego's Office	Priscilla Contreras –Rep. Henry Rivera	

(Meeting began with 19 members)

*Mayor Oscar Leeser commented

*Joe Moody commented.

*Cesar Blanco commented.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

- Approve the minutes of the June 25, 2021 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting.
Motion to approve the minutes for the June 25, 2021 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting, made by Mayor Oscar Leeser, and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.
- Authorize the Executive Director to sign the Public Transportation Master Grant Agreement (MGA) for FY2022 to FY2026 between the EPMPO and Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). The Executive Director is further authorized to take all other actions necessary to execute the MGA.

Motion to Authorize the Executive Director to sign the Public Transportation Master Grant Agreement (MGA) for FY2022 to FY2026 between the EPMPO and Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), the Executive Director is further authorized to take all other actions necessary to execute the MGA; made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Authorize the Executive Director to sign Task Orders No. 5 and No. 6 pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Interlocal MPO Cooperation Agreement entered into between the EPMPO and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) on July 22, 2020. The Executive Director is further authorized to take all other actions necessary to execute Task Orders No. 5 and No. 6.
 - a) Pursuant to Task Order No. 5, UTEP will provide the EPMPO with personnel to assist in the performance of several tasks, such as to conduct regional transportation modeling and air quality Conformity activities, related to the Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP), in an amount not to exceed \$106,000.00 in FY2022.
 - b) Pursuant to Task Order No. 6, UTEP will provide the EPMPO with data collection and analysis services related to the Congestion Management Process (CMP), in an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00 in FY2022.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign Task Orders No. 5 and No. 6 pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Interlocal MPO Cooperation Agreement entered into between the EPMPO and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) on July 22, 2020, and the Executive Director is further authorized to take all other actions necessary to execute Task Orders No. 5 and No. 6.

a) Pursuant to Task Order No. 5, UTEP will provide the EPMPO with personnel to assist in the performance of several tasks, such as to conduct regional transportation modeling and air quality Conformity activities, related to the Unified Planning Work Plan (UPWP), in an amount not to exceed \$106,000.00 in FY2022 made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

b) Pursuant to Task Order No. 6, UTEP will provide the EPMPO with data collection and analysis services related to the Congestion Management Process (CMP), in an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00 in FY2022, made by Commissioner Iliana Holguin and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

4. Authorize the Executive Director and TPB Chair to submit a response to the Texas Transportation Commission and TxDOT's request for comment regarding the Downtown I-10 Project (Project) in El Paso during the Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Transportation Plan public comment period. The response should include support for Option 1 and a rejection of TxDOT's proposal of additional funding for the project from Categories 4U, 11 and 12. The response should include a commitment from the El Paso MPO to explore alternative funding sources for the project, including a reallocation of \$101,000,000.00 from other existing projects and funding sources.

Motion to authorize the Executive Director and TPB Chair to submit a response to the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) during TxDOT's Fiscal Year 2022 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) public comment period regarding the Downtown I-10 Project in El Paso to include support for the proposed funding totaling \$61.9M and a commitment from the El Paso MPO to work with TxDOT and the TTC to develop a reasonable alternative plan to fill the funding gap for the project in the Fiscal Year 2023 UTP, made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez and seconded by Representative Cissy Lizarraga, Commissioner Iliana Holguin opposed, Norma Palacios abstained. Motion passed.

*Cesar Blanco commented

*Tomas Trevino commented

*Oscar Leaser commented

*Ricardo Samaniego commented

*Cassandra Hernandez commented

*Henry Rivera commented

*Fred Evans commented

*Sito Negrón commented

*Scott White commented

*Robert Stoudt commented

DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO:

5. Amend the Destino 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Amended Destino 2045 MTP, Destino 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Destino 2021-2024 TIP to amend the Bicycle Infrastructure Citywide project to move from Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to FY 2022.*

Motion to amend the Destino 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Amended Destino 2045 MTP, Destino 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Destino 2021-2024 TIP to amend the Bicycle Infrastructure Citywide project to move from Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to FY 2022,* made by Representative Henry Rivera, and seconded Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

6. Administrative amendment to the Destino 2045 MTP, Amended Destino 2045 MTP, Destino 2019-2023 TIP and Destino 2021-2024 TIP to amend the Border Highway West Hike and Bike Trail project to change the project name to Border Highway West Shared Use Path in FY 2024.
Status report provided by EPMPPO – Eduardo Calvo
7. New Mexico CMAQ and TAP FY 2023+ call for projects
Status report provided by EPMPPO – Gabriela Lopez
8. Public Participation Plan amendment and 45-day public comment period
Status report provided by EPMPPO – Jeff Howell
9. RMS 2050 Travel Demand Model Status Report
Status report provided by EPMPPO – Salvador Gonzales-Ayala
10. Regional Mobility Strategy (RMS) 2020 Project Development Status Report
Status report provided by EPMPPO – Eduardo Calvo
11. Executive Director's Report
Status report provided by EPMPPO – Eduardo Calvo

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:00 a.m.** on **August 23, 2021** at the El Paso MPO Office located at 211 N. Florence Street, Suite 103 (MPO Boardroom on 1st Floor), El Paso, TX 79901.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

*The Transportation Policy Board may retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Transportation Policy Board may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.) The Transportation Policy Board will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward any of the following items for public discussion, as appropriate.*

The TPB did not retire into Executive Session.

12. Adjournment.
Motion to adjourn at 10:39 a.m. made by Mayor Oscar Leeser, seconded by Mayor Diana Trujillo. Motion carried unanimously.

**These projects met the seven-day public comment requirement of the El Paso MPO's Public Participation Plan.*

Approved as to content:



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