

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
Of February 19, 2021**

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairperson Lina Ortega called the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting to order at 9:30 am at the El Paso MPO Office, 211 N. Florence, Boardroom Suite 103, and El Paso, TX 79901, conducted 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. Ellen Smyth	Director, Mass Transit-Sun Metro	Antonio Araujo	Mayor City of San Elizario
4. César Blanco	TX State Senator	Raymundo Lara	NM State Representative – 34 th District
5. Cissy Lizarraga	City Representative, District 8	Benjamin Romero	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX
6. Javier Perea	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM		
7. Art Fierro	TX State Representative – 79 th District		
8. Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78 th District		
9. Ricardo Samaniego	Judge, El Paso County		
10. Yvette Hernandez	Grant Funded Program Director, COEP		
11. Cassandra Hernandez	City Representative – District 3		
12. Mary E. Gonzalez	TX State Representative – 75 th District		
13. Tommy Gonzalez	City Manager, City of El Paso		
14. Norma Palacios	Public Works Director, County of El Paso	MPO STAFF	
15. Henry Rivera	City Representative – District 7	Sergio Estrada	MPO/TPB Attorney
16. Trent Doolittle	District Engineer, NMDOT	Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
17. Claudia Ordaz-Perez	Texas State Representative – 76 th District	Harrison Plourde	Assistant Executive Director
18. Chuck McMahon	Doña Ana County Assist. Manager of Operations	Gabriela Lopez	Associate Regional Transportation Analyst
19. Tomas Trevino	District Engineer, TXDOT – El Paso	Marisol Enriquez	Admin. Secretary / TPB Recording Sec
20. Manuel Leos	Mayor, Village of Vinton	Bryan Miskimen	Transportation Financial Analyst
21. Diana Trujillo	Mayor Anthony, NM	Lizeth Peña	Administrative Specialist
22. Sam Rodriguez	Director of Aviation, EP International Airport	Salvador Gonzalez Ayala	Transportation Manager
23. Ivy Avalos	Mayor, City of Socorro	Sonia Perez	Regional Transportation Planner
24. Oscar Leeser	Mayor, City of El Paso	Claudia Valles	Transportation Planner
25. Iliana Holguin	El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3		
OTHERS PRESENT		OTHERS PRESENT	
Art Estrada - TXDOT	David Coronado – COEP	Loretta Brown	Raymond Telles - CRRMA
Chris Canales – Rep. Lizarraga	David Gerome – EP Chamber	Nicolette Ruiz – EP County	Thelma Ramirez- TXDOT
Carolynne Mays – TXDOT	David Zapata	Raul Ortega- TXDOT	Ralph Noriega – Rep. Fierro
Cecilia Levine - MFI	Estrella Escobar – Mayor Leeser	Eddie Valtier - TXDOT	Desiree Castro – TX Senate
Priscilla Contreras – Rep. H. Rivera	Evaristo Cruz – Ysleta del Sur	Ruth Hugs – Secretary of State	Jennifer Wright – TXDOT
Cassandra Urrutia - Rep. L. Ortega	Giacomo Yaquinto - TXDOT	Stephen Chang	David Coronado – City Of El Paso
Michael Sexton – Half Associates	Teresa Farfan – Ass. Secretary of State		

(Meeting began with 24 members)

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

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

1. Approve the minutes of the January 22, 2021 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes for the January 22, 2021 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting made by Henry Rivera, and seconded by Judge Ricardo Samaniego. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Designate Eduardo Calvo as the authorized representative of the El Paso MPO for the purpose of executing the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2021 Certifications and Assurances.

Motion to designate Eduardo Calvo as the authorized representative of the El Paso MPO for the purpose of executing the Federal Transit Administration's FY 2021 Certifications and Assurances made by Representative Henry Rivera, and seconded by Representative Cissy Lizarraga. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to move up item 8 made by Judge Ricardo Samaniego, and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

8. Border Transportation Master Plan Update
Status report provided by Secretary of State – Ruth Hughs.
Status report provided by TXDOT – Caroline Mays.

Cesar Blanco, Senator commented
Ricardo Samaniego, County Judge commented
David Coronado, commented
Cecilia Levine, commented
David Jerome, commented

DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) TO:

3. Regarding the Kemp Smith LLP Legal Services Agreement, entered into on April 2, 2019
- a) That the Legal Services Agreement be amended to increase the maximum yearly payment amount by an additional amount of \$3,500.00 for the current term and that the Executive Director be allowed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the increase to the Legal Services Agreement.
 - b) That pursuant to the terms of the Legal Services Agreement, the EPMPO exercise its option to extend the term of the Agreement for an additional one-year term from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, with the additional recommendation that the Agreement be amended to increase the maximum yearly payment from \$29,200.00 to \$35,000.00, and that the Executive Director be allowed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the renewal of the Agreement and the amendment to the maximum payable amount.

Motion to approve recommendation from the Executive Committee regarding the Kemp Smith LLP Legal Services Agreement, entered into on April 2, 2019 that the Legal Services Agreement be amended to increase the maximum yearly payment amount by an additional amount of \$3,500.00 for the current term and that the Executive Director be allowed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the increase to the Legal Services Agreement made by Mayor Oscar Leeser, and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Judge Ricardo Samaniego disclosed that his daughter is employed by Kemp Smith LLP and abstained from voting on the Kemp Smith agenda items. Motion passed.

Cissy Lizarraga, City Representative commented

Motion to approve recommendation from the Executive Committee that pursuant to the terms of the Legal Services Agreement, the EPMPO exercise its option to extend the term of the Agreement for an additional one-year term from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, with the additional recommendation that the Agreement be amended to increase the maximum yearly payment from \$29,200.00 to \$35,000.00, and that the Executive Director be allowed to take all actions necessary to effectuate the renewal of the Agreement and the amendment to the maximum payable amount made by Alderman Walter Miller, and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera. Judge Ricardo Samaniego disclosed that his daughter is employed by Kemp Smith LLP and abstained from voting on the Kemp Smith agenda items. Motion passed.

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

4. Amend the Destino 2045 MTP, Amended Destino 2045 MTP, Destino 2019-2023 TIP and Destino 2021-2024 TIP to program the Industrial Avenue Grade Separation project using Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program funds in FY 2021*
Motion to consider Item 4 Alderman Walter Miller, seconded by Cissy Lizarraga.

Motion to amend the Destino 2045 MTP, Amended Destino 2045 MTP, Destino 2019-2023 TIP and Destino 2021-2024 TIP to program the Industrial Avenue Grade Separation project using Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program funds in FY 2021 made by Alderman Walter Miller, and seconded by Representative Cissy Lizarraga. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Amend Destino 2045 MTP, Amended Destino 2045 MTP to amend the Borderland Expressway project to update the limits and project name in FY 2029
Motion to amend Destino 2045 MTP, Amended Destino 2045 MTP to amend the Borderland Expressway project to update the

limits and project name in FY 2029 made by Alderman Walter Miller, and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

Cissy Lizarraga, City Representative commented

6. Adopt the State of Texas and the State of New Mexico Performance Measure 1 - 2021 Safety Targets.

Motion to adopt the State of Texas and the State of New Mexico Performance Measure 1 - 2021 Safety Targets made by Alderman Walter Miller, and seconded by Norma Palacios. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Adopt the Draft Goals and Objectives for RMS 2050 MTP
Motion to adopt the Draft Goals and Objectives for RMS 2050 MTP made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez, and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.

V-Chair Walter Miller, commented

REPORTS:

9. Tracking mechanisms for all MPO funded projects
Status report provided by EPMPPO Executive Director – Eduardo Calvo.
10. Presentation on Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) activities
Motion to table Item 10 Made by Mayor Oscar Leeser, second by Representative Henry Rivera. Motion passed unanimously.
11. FY2022 Unified Transportation Program Preliminary Funding Levels
Status report provided by EPMPPO Executive Director – Eduardo Calvo.
12. RMS 2050 Travel Demand Model Status Report
Status report provided by MPO staff.
13. Regional Mobility Strategy (RMS) 2020 Project Development Status Report
Status report provided by MPO staff.
14. Update Executive Director Report
 - a) Update on Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Conference, January 21-29, 2021.
 - b) Update on TxDOT Transportation Forum February 8-10, 2021.**Status report provided by EPMPPO Executive Director – Eduardo Calvo.**

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:00 a.m.** on **March 26, 2021** at the El Paso MPO Office located at 211 N. Florence Street, Suite 103 (MPO Boardroom on 1st Floor), El Paso, TX 79901.

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

15. Adjournment.
Motion to adjourn at 10:58 a.m. made by Mayor Oscar Leeser, seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

Approved as to content:



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