

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD  
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES  
Of January 22, 2021**

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Vice-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 <sup>th</sup> District
5. Cissy Lizarraga	City Representative, District 8	Trent Doolittle	District Engineer, NMDOT
6. Javier Perea	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM		
7. Art Fierro	TX State Representative – 79 <sup>th</sup> District		
8. Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> District		
13. Tommy Gonzalez	City Manager, City of El Paso		
14. Norma Palacios	Public Works Director, County of El Paso	<b>MPO STAFF</b>	
15. Henry Rivera	City Representative – District 7	Sergio Estrada	MPO/TPB Attorney
16. Benjamin Romero	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX	Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
17. Claudia Ordaz-Perez	Texas State Representative – 76 <sup>th</sup> 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		
<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>		<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>	
Adriana Rodriguez - TXDOT	Desiree Castro	Marty Boyd - TXDOT	Scott White -VELO El Paso
Angela Roberson – Sun Metro	Don Flores – HNTB	Sean McAtee-Cambridge	Maya Sanchez – City of San Elizario
Art Estrada – TXDOT	Dominic Loya	Michel Sexton - Half Associates	Serena Harper
Bertina Olivares – Rep. Hernandez	Eddie Valtier- TXDOT	Nichollette Ruiz	Sito Negron – Rep. Jose R.
Blanca Serrano- TXDOT	Estrella Escobar	Priscilla Contreras- Rep. Rivera	Thelma Ramirez – TXDOT
Bob Storch	Evaristo Cruz –	Rafael Aldrete- TTI	Teresa Quezada – CRMA
Chris Canales	Javier Paz	Raul Ortega- CoEP	
Cassandra Urrutia – Rep. Ortega	Greg McNicol- UTEP	Raymond Sanchez- TXDOT	
David Coronado – CoEP	Jennifer Wright - TXDOT	Raymond Telles - CRRMA	
David Cantu – City of San Elizario	Jose Landeros- El Paso County	Richard Dayoub - El Paso Chamber of Commerce	

(Meeting began with 25 members)

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

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

- Approve the minutes of the December 11, 2020 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting.  
**Motion to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2020 Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting made by Henry Rivera and seconded by Judge Ricardo Samaniego. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

2. Amend Article VI. Officers of the MPO Bylaws to change the election month of the TPB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the yearly July TPB meeting to the yearly January TPB meeting, or the first TPB Meeting following the month of January.

**Motion to amend Article VI. Officers of the MPO Bylaws to change the election month of the TPB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the yearly July TPB meeting to the yearly January TPB meeting, or the first TPB Meeting following the month of January, made by Mayor Oscar Leeser and seconded by Representative Cissy Lizarraga. Motion passed unanimously.**

Vice-Chair Lina Ortega Explained the reason for the proposed bylaw amendments.  
Walter Miller, Alderman City of Horizon commented.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

3. Nominate and Elect Chairperson of the TPB.

**Motion to nominate and Elect Lina Ortega as Chairperson of the TPB made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Cissy Lizarraga. Motion passed unanimously.**

Judge Ricardo Samaniego commented.

4. Nominate and Elect Vice-Chairperson of the TPB.

**Motion to nominate and Elect Alderman Walter Miller as Vice-Chairperson of the TPB made by Representative Mary Gonzalez and seconded by Judge Ricardo Samaniego. Motion passed unanimously**

Representative Mary Gonzalez commented

Judge Ricardo Samaniego commented

Mayor Oscar Leeser Commented

5. Appoint members to Executive Committee.

**Motion to appoint Mayor Oscar Leeser, County Judge Ricardo Samaniego, Tomas Trevino, Trent Doolittle, Ellen Smyth to join Chairperson Lina Ortega and Vice-Chairperson Walter Miller as members to Executive Committee, made by Representative Cissy Lizarraga and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously**

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

6. 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:

- a) Amend the N. Darrington project to add the Engineering Phase, CAT 3 Local Contribution (State Funded) and reduce the Surface Transportation Program – Metro Mobility (STP-MM) funding to the project.
- b) Amend the Rojas Dr. Widening project to add the Engineering Phase and CAT 3 Local Contribution to the project.
- c) Program the PDN Trail – Magoffin Shared Use Path 2023 using Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) and Category 3 Local Contribution in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.
- d) Program the Playa Drain Shared Use Path (Padilla to Zaragoza) 2024 using TASA and Category 3 Local Contribution in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.
- e) Program FTA Section 5310 El Paso Urbanized Area Grant 2020 - Project Amistad DBA Amistad project, for the purchase of ADA- compliant vehicles and operational funding using FTA 5310 program funds in FY 2021.
- f) Program FTA Section 5310 El Paso Urbanized Area Grant 2021 - Project Amistad DBA Amistad project, for the purchase of ADA - compliant vehicles and operational funding using FTA 5310 program funds in 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:**

- a) **Amend the N. Darrington project to add the Engineering Phase, CAT 3 Local Contribution (State Funded) and reduce the Surface Transportation Program – Metro Mobility (STP-MM) funding to the project.**
- b) **Amend the Rojas Dr. Widening project to add the Engineering Phase and CAT 3 Local Contribution to the project.**
- c) **Program the PDN Trail – Magoffin Shared Use Path 2023 using Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) and Category 3 Local Contribution in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023.**
- d) **Program the Playa Drain Shared Use Path (Padilla to Zaragoza) 2024 using TASA and Category 3 Local Contribution in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.**
- e) **Program FTA Section 5310 El Paso Urbanized Area Grant 2020 - Project Amistad DBA Amistad project, for the purchase of ADA- compliant vehicles and operational funding using FTA 5310 program funds in FY 2021.**
- f) **Program FTA Section 5310 El Paso Urbanized Area Grant 2021 - Project Amistad DBA Amistad project, for the purchase of ADA - compliant vehicles and operational funding using FTA 5310 program funds in FY 2022.**

made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera. Motion passed unanimously

TPAC Chair Greg McNicol explained the reason for amendments to item 6  
Alderman, Walter Miller commented

**REPORTS:**

7. Funding balances for Category 5 (CMAQ), Category 7 (STP – Metro Mobility) and Category 9 (TASA)
- a) FY 2021 UTP funding allocations
  - b) FY 2020 Reconciliation of Balances

**Status report provided by EPMPO Executive Director Eduardo Calvo.**

Chair Lina Ortega commented  
Representative Henry Rivera commented

10. RMS 2050 Travel Demand Model Status Report  
**Status report provided by Cambridge Systematics Sean McAtee**

*\* Chair Representative Lina Ortega, opened the public comment period for Item 10. The following members of the public provided public comment:*

*1. Scott White*

*\* Chair Representative Lina Ortega, closed the public comment period for item 10.*

Executive Director EPMPO Commented  
Bob Storch commented

8. Administratively amended the Destino 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Amended Destino 2045 MTP, Destino 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Destino 2021-2024 TIP to:
- a) Reduce the CAT 5 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding for the County Transit (YR1) project in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021
  - b) Reduce the CAT 5 CMAQ funding for the Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 1 in FY 2022
  - c) Reduce the CAT 5 CMAQ funding for the Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 2 in FY 2023.
  - d) Increase the CAT 5 CMAQ funding for the County Transit (YR) 3 project in FY 2023.
  - e) Reduce the CAT 5 CMAQ funding for the Traffic Management Center Upgrade Phase 3 in FY 2024
  - f) Reduce the CAT 7 STP-MM funding for the John Hayes (Darrington/Berryville) (Construction Phase I) in FY 2022
  - g) Reduce the CAT 7 STP-MM funding for the Sean Haggerty Dr. Extension in FY 2023
  - h) Increase the CAT 9 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) funding for the Playa Drain Shared Used Path (Whittier to Elvin) 2021 in FY 2021
  - i) Change control number for Rio Grande Trail Phase II in FY 2022

**Status report provided by EPMPO Executive Director Eduardo Calvo.**

Alderman Walter Miller commented

9. TXDOT Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Statewide Call for Projects.  
**Status report provided by TXDOT's Blanca Serrano.**

Chair Lina Ortega commented

11. Regional Mobility Strategy (RMS) 2020 Project Development Status  
**Status report provided by EPMPO Executive Director Eduardo Calvo**

12. Executive Director's Report.
- a) Federal Infrastructure Bill
  - b) Border Transportation Master Plan
- Status report provided by EPMPO Executive Director Eduardo Calvo.**

Chair Lina Ortega commented  
Assistant Executive Director Harrison Plourde introduced himself.

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:00 a.m.** on **February 19, 2021** at the El Paso MPO Office located at 211 N. Florence Street, Suite 103 (MPO Boardroom on 1<sup>st</sup> Floor), El Paso, TX 79901.

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

13. Adjournment.

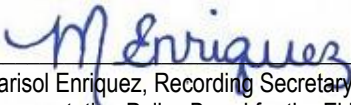
**Motion to adjourn at 10:58 a.m. made by Mayor Oscar Leeser seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion carried unanimously.**

**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:



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