

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

Of December 15, 2023

**Call to Order:** TPB Chair Ricardo Samaniego called the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting to order at 9:45 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 (Chair)	Judge, El Paso County	Joseph Cervantes	NM State Senator, District 31
2. Cary Westin	City Manager, City of El Paso	Claudia Ordaz	TX State Representative – 76th District
3. Oscar Leeser (Vice-Chair)	Mayor, City of El Paso	Iliana Holguin	El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3
4. Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78th District	Mary E. Gonzalez	TX State Representative – 75th District
5. Javier Perea	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM	Anthony Turner	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX
6. Walter Miller	Alderman 1, Town of Horizon City	Ramon Cano	Mayor, Town of Clint
7. Tomas Trevino	District Engineer, TXDOT El Paso District	Mo Moabed	County Commissioner, Doña Ana County
8. Yvette Hernandez	City Engineer, COEP	Eddie Morales	TX State Representative – 74th District
9. Diana Murillo	Mayor, Anthony, NM	Willie Madrid	NM State Representative District 53
10. Ellen Smyth	Director, Mass Transit-Sun Metro	Rudy Cruz	City of Socorro, District 3 Representative
11. Cesar Blanco	TX State Senator	Sam Rodriguez	Director of Aviation, El Paso International Airport
12. Lina Ortega	TX State Representative – 77th District	Chris Canales	City of El Paso Representative – District 8
13. Isela Reyes	Mayor, City of San Elizario, TX	Aaron Chavarria	District Engineer, NMDOT
14. Norma Palacios	Assistant Public Works Director, El Paso County		
15. Rachel Quintana	Mayor, Village of Vinton		
16. Cassandra Hernandez	City of El Paso Representative – District 3	<b>MPO STAFF</b>	
17. Isabel Salcido	City of El Paso Representative - District 5	Sergio Estrada	MPO/TPB Attorney
18.		Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
19.		Harrison Plourde	Assistant Director
20.		Gerardo Fierro	Associate Regional Transportation Analyst
21.		Sonia Perez	Regional Transportation Planner
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 November 17, 2023 TPB meeting.

**Presenter: TPB Chair**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2023, EPMPPO TPB meeting made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consider approval of amendments to the Regional Mobility Strategy (RMS) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and RMS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to:
  - a. Deprogram the *Dyer Street Pedestrian Improvements Construction Project* using CAT5 CMAQ funds in FY 2025
  - b. Program the *Calle Morroco Sidewalk Improvements Construction Project* using Transportation Alternatives Program Large Urban (TAPL) funds in FY 2024
  - c. Program the *PE Phase Playa Drain Hike and Bike Trail (Yarborough to Midway)* project using CAT 5 CMAQ funds in FY 2026
  - d. Program the *PE Phase Sun Valley Gateway North to Kenworthy* project using CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2026
  - e. Program the *PE Phase Sunland Park Hike and Bike Share Use Path* project using CAT 5 CMAQ funds in FY 2025
  - f. Program the *PE Phase Buffalo Soldier Street Improvements* project using CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2025
  - g. Amend the *Dilley Road and Delake St. Construction* project to change project name, project description, project limits, and reduce CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2025
  - h. Amend the *Carolina Street Improvements* project to move from FY 2026 to FY 2030 and deprogram from the RMS 2023-2026 TIP
  - i. Amend the *Buffalo Soldier Street Improvements* project to remove PE phase, increase CAT 7 STP MM funds, move from FY 2026 to FY 2027, and deprogram from the RMS 2023-2026 TIP).

**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**

**Motion to approve Consider approval of amendments to the Regional Mobility Strategy (RMS) 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and RMS 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to:**

- j. Deprogram the *Dyer Street Pedestrian Improvements Construction Project* using CAT5 CMAQ funds in FY 2025
- k. Program the *Calle Morroco Sidewalk Improvements Construction Project* using Transportation Alternatives Program Large Urban (TAPL) funds in FY 2024
- l. Program the *PE Phase Playa Drain Hike and Bike Trail (Yarborough to Midway)* project using CAT 5 CMAQ funds in FY 2026
- m. Program the *PE Phase Sun Valley Gateway North to Kenworthy* project using CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2026
- n. Program the *PE Phase Sunland Park Hike and Bike Share Use Path* project using CAT 5 CMAQ funds in FY 2025
- o. Program the *PE Phase Buffalo Soldier Street Improvements* project using CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2025
- p. Amend the *Dilley Road and Delake St. Construction* project to change project name, project description, project limits, and reduce CAT 7 STP MM funds in FY 2025
- q. Amend the *Carolina Street Improvements* project to move from FY 2026 to FY 2030 and deprogram from the RMS 2023-2026 TIP
- r. Amend the *Buffalo Soldier Street Improvements* project to remove PE phase, increase CAT 7 STP MM funds, move from FY 2026 to FY 2027, and deprogram from the RMS 2023-2026 TIP

**made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign an Interlocal Agreement with Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) allowing EPMPO to utilize CRRMA for procurement services.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion to delete item 3 made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Cassandra Hernandez. Motion passed unanimously**

4. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #1 with a maximum funding amount of \$61,838.00 pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and UTEP, for the development and technical support of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Project Request Form (PRF) web applications, and technical support and enhancement to the El Paso MPO Multimodal Webtool.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #1 with a maximum funding amount of \$61,838.00 pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and UTEP, for the development and technical support of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Project Request Form (PRF) web applications, and technical support and enhancement to the El Paso MPO Multimodal Webtool made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded Mayor Isela Reyes. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #2 with a maximum funding amount of \$78,500.00, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and UTEP. UTEP will provide assistance in Travel Demand Modeling, Air Quality Conformity, and Public Involvement Activities, and Other Activities included in the El Paso MPO's Unified Planning Work Program.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #2 with a maximum funding amount of \$78,500.00, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and UTEP. UTEP will provide assistance in Travel Demand**

**Modeling, Air Quality Conformity, and Public Involvement Activities, and Other Activities included in the El Paso MPO's Unified Planning Work Program made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Representative Isabel Salcido. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #3 with a maximum funding amount of \$45,500.00, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and UTEP, for International Border Crossing traffic and emissions analysis.  
**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #3 with a maximum funding amount of \$45,500.00, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and UTEP, for International Border Crossing traffic and emissions analysis made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #1 with a maximum funding amount of \$25,000.00, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), to provide training to the MPO Transportation Policy Board and Transportation Project Advisory Committee.  
**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #1 with a maximum funding amount of \$25,000.00, pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between El Paso MPO and Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), to provide training to the MPO Transportation Policy Board and Transportation Project Advisory Committee made by Mayor Javier Perea and seconded by Mayor Rachel Quintana. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a self-certification letter for the portion of the MPO planning area in the State of New Mexico.  
**Presenter Harrison Plourde (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a self-certification letter for the portion of the MPO planning area in the State of New Mexico made by Mayor Javier Perea and seconded by Representative Isabel Salcido. Motion passed unanimously.**

9. Consider approval of amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to:
  - a. Revise *Subtask 5.4 International Border Crossings System-wide Improvements Analysis* to include UTEP under subtask.
  - b. Revise document formatting and update to include Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) references.

**Presenter: Harrison Plourde (MPO)**

**Motion to approve amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to:**

**a. Revise Subtask 5.4 International Border Crossings System-wide Improvements Analysis to include UTEP under subtask.**

**b. Revise document formatting and update to include Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) references, made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Lina Ortega. Motion passed unanimously**

10. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to submit a letter of support to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken for keeping Section 6711 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which aims to expedite the presidential permitting process for international border crossings in the U.S.-Mexico border.  
**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo, Executive Director (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter of support by MPO to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken for keeping Section 6711 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which aims to expedite the presidential permitting process for international border crossings in the U.S.-Mexico border made by Mayor Javier Perea and seconded by Mayor Rachel Quintana. Motion passed unanimously.**

11. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a Partnership Agreement for the Use of the Center for Civic Empowerment on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the Blue Flame Building in order to hold MPO Transportation Policy Board meetings in the space.  
**Presenter: Harrison Plourde (MPO)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Partnership Agreement for the Use of the Center for Civic Empowerment on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the Blue Flame Building in order to hold MPO Transportation Policy Board meetings in the space made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez and seconded by Carey Westin. Motion passed unanimously.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Committee (EC) may retire into **EXECUTIVE SESSION (ES)** 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 EC may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act.) The EC 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.

Section 551.071	CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
Section 551.072	DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
Section 551.073	DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS
Section 551.074	PERSONNEL MATTERS
Section 551.076	DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES
Section 551.087	DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

- 11.1 Discuss and take appropriate action regarding *Linda Warren v. El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization et al.*, Cause No. 2023DCV3558.

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

**Motion made to go into Executive Session at 10:36am with seventeen members present for Agenda Items Nos. 11.1 made by Senator Cesar Blanco and seconded by Representative Isabel Salcido. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Executive Committee went into Executive Session pursuant to:**

**EX. Item No. 11.1 Discuss and take appropriate action regarding Linda Warren v. El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization et al., Cause No. 2023DCV3558.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Mayor Oscar Leeser and seconded by Representative Henry Rivera.**

**Chair, Ricardo Samaniego reconvened meeting at 10:50am with twenty (16) members**

**Motion to approve legal counsel respond on behalf of MPO made by Alderman Walter Miller, and seconded by Norma Palacios. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:**

12. Debrief on 2023 TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Call for Projects

**Presenter: Adriana Rodriguez (TxDOT)**

13. Amendment to the RMS 2050 MTP and 2023-2026 TIP and development of a new Transportation Conformity Report

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

14. Quarterly Reports

a. MPO Administrative Amendments Report

**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**

b. Project Completion Report

c. Project Readiness Report

**Presenter: Gabriela Lopez (MPO)**

15. Executive Director's Report

a. Texas Freight Advisory Committee meeting

b. Texas MPOs (TEMPO) meeting

c. Texas Transportation Committee meeting

d. Santa Teresa POE Modernization Study by GSA

**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:30 a.m.** on **January 19, 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: 04 a.m.**

Approved as to content:



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