

# TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

Of March 22, 2024

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

(Meeting began with 19 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 February 23, 2024 TPB meeting.

**Presenter: TPB Chair**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2024, EPMPO TPB meeting made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a Letter of Support for the City of El Paso Mass Transit Department, Sun Metro, for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 FTA Low or No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program

**Presenter: Jerry DeMuro (Sun Metro)**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Letter of Support for the City of El Paso Mass Transit Department, Sun Metro, for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 FTA Low or No Emission and Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program made by Ellen Smyth and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #1 with the El Paso MPO General Planning Consultant for Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update schedule & work plan development, and on-call general transportation support services, for an amount not to exceed \$99,631.07

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

- Yvette Hernandez commented
- Chris Canales commented

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #1 with the El Paso MPO General Planning Consultant for Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update schedule & work plan development, and on-call general transportation support services, for an amount not to exceed \$99,631.07 made by Representative Lina Ortega and seconded by Alderman Walter Miller. Motion passed with Representative Chris Canales opposed.**

4. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #2 with the El Paso MPO General Planning Consultant for development of the Travel Demand Model and International Travel Demand Model for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000

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

- Cassandra Hernandez commented
- Chris Canales commented
- Rudy Cruz commented
- Mary Gonzalez commented
- Ellen Smyth commented

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #2 with the El Paso MPO General Planning Consultant for development of the Travel Demand Model and International Travel Demand Model for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider approval of amendments to the Category 9 Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) grouped project list to:
  - a. Program the *TA23 Alamo Alto Segment of the PDN Trail (Alameda SUP – Phase III)* project using \$10,116,919 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2026\*
  - b. Program the *TA23 Homestead Meadows SUP* project using \$5,438,171 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2026\*
  - c. Program the *TA23 Connected Bike Lanes* project using \$1,859,256 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2025\*
  - d. Program the *TA23 Paso del Norte Trail – Socorro Active Transportation Network* project using \$16,174,505 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2026\*

**Presenter: Adriana Rodriguez (TXDOT)**

**Motion to approve of amendments to the Category 9 Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) grouped project list to:**

- a. Program the *TA23 Alamo Alto Segment of the PDN Trail (Alameda SUP – Phase III)* project using \$10,116,919 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2026\*
- b. Program the *TA23 Homestead Meadows SUP* project using \$5,438,171 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2026\*
- c. Program the *TA23 Connected Bike Lanes* project using \$1,859,256 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2025\*
- d. Program the *TA23 Paso del Norte Trail – Socorro Active Transportation Network* project using \$16,174,505 of Category 9 Statewide TASA funds in FY 2026\*

**made by Representative Cassandra Hernandez and seconded by Commissioner Iliana Holguin. Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign Amendment #3 to the contract between El Paso MPO and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to increase the maximum authorized reimbursement amount by \$575,822.00 using FY 24/25 Texas Rider 7 grant funding

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

- **Chris Canales commented**

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign Amendment #3 to the contract between El Paso MPO and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to increase the maximum authorized reimbursement amount by \$575,822.00 using FY 24/25 Texas Rider 7 grant funding made by Representative Chris Canales and seconded by Representative Cassandra Hernandez. Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a contract between the El Paso MPO and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to perform air quality planning activities to reduce fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) emissions using FY 24/25 Texas Rider 7 grant funding with a maximum authorized reimbursement amount of \$158,634

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

**Motion to delete item 7 made by Alderman Walter Miller and seconded by Representative Chris Canales. Motion passed 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**

**No. action taken**

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

**Presenter: MPO Executive Committee Chair**

**Motion to extend Executive Director agree for 90 days made by Representative Mary Gonzalez and seconded by Mayor Diana Murillo. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:**

8. TxDOT Travel Survey Program  
**Presenter: Sonya Solinsky (TXDOT)**

- **Walter Miller commented**
- **Ellen Smyth commented**

9. TXDOT's Truck Parking Action Plan  
**Presenter: Kale Driemeier (TXDOT) and Brian Comer (HNTB)**

- **Mary Gonzalez commented**
- **Walter Miller commented**
- **Chris Canales commented**

10. Quarterly Reports  
a. MPO Administrative Amendments Report  
**Presenter: Anne Guayante (MPO)**

- b. Project Completion Report
- c. Project Readiness Report
- d. RMS 2020 Report

**Presenter: Gerardo Fierro (MPO)**

11. Executive Director's Report  
a. New Mexico Statewide Planning & Research Grant  
**Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO)**

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:00 a.m.** on **April 19, 2024**, at the at Blue Flame Building, Floor 17 (Center for Community Engagement), 304 Texas Ave, El Paso, TX 79901

12. Adjournment.

**Adjournment at 11:14 a.m.**

Approved as to content:

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