

TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Of January 23, 2026

Call to Order: Senator César J. Blanco called the Transportation Policy Board (TPB) meeting to order at 9:33 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. César J. Blanco (Chair)	TX State Senator	Joseph Cervantes	NM State Senator, District 31
2. Javier Perea (Vice-Chair)	Mayor, Sunland Park, NM	Sarah Silva	NM State Representative District 53
3. John Andoh	Executive Director, ETA	Eddie Morales	TX State Representative – 74 th District
4. Tomas Trevino	District Engineer, TXDOT El Paso District	Ramon Cano	Mayor, Town of Clint
5. Martin Lerma	Mayor, Town of Anthony, TX	Claudia Ordaz	TX State Representative – 76 th District
6. Alejandra Chavez	City of El Paso Representative - District 1	Miguel Chacon	Mayor, City of San Elizario, TX
7. Josh Acevedo	City of El Paso Representative – District 2		
8. Iliana Holguin	El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 3		
9. Gloria Gameros	County Commissioner, Doña Ana County		
10. Andres Renteria	Mayor, Town of Horizon City		
11. Aaron Chavarria	District Engineer, NMDOT		
12. Rudy Cruz	City of Socorro, District 3 Representative		
13. Art Fierro	City of El Paso Representative – District 6		
14. Anthony Dekeyzer	Director, Sun Metro (COEP)		
15. Gabriel Holguin	Mayor, Anthony, NM	MPO STAFF	
16. Yvette Hernandez	City Engineer, COEP	Nicklaus Jimenez	MPO/TPB Attorney
17. Rachel Quintana	Mayor, Village of Vinton	Eduardo Calvo	Executive Director
18. Tony Nevarez	Director of Aviation, El Paso International Airport	Nina Rodriguez	Transportation Planner
19. Dionne Mack	City Manager, City of El Paso	Jennifer Moreno	Transportation Planner
20. Joe Moody	TX State Representative – 78 th District	Anne Guayante	Regional Transportation Manager
21. Vince Perez	TX State Representative-77 th District	Marisol Enriquez	Administrative Secretary
22. Ricardo Samaniego	Judge, El Paso County		
23. Renard Johnson	Mayor, City of El Paso		
24. Mary E. Gonzalez	TX State Representative – 75 th District		
25.			

(Meeting began with 22 members)

- Chairperson, Senator César J. Blanco opened Public Comment: No public comment

DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the December 19, 2025 TPB meeting.

Presenter: TPB Chair

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2025 TPB meeting made by Aaron Chavarria and seconded by Mayor Andres Renteria. Motion passed unanimously

2. Consider approval of the process to perform Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation for Year 2025 as recommended by the Executive Committee.
Presenter: TPB Chair

**09:36 am Tomas Trevino arrived (23 members)*

Motion to approve the of the process to perform Executive Director's Annual Performance Evaluation for Year 2025 as recommended by the Executive Committee made by Commissioner Iliana Holguin and seconded by Representative Art Fierro. Motion passed unanimously

The Chair requested that Agenda Item 4 (Election of Vice Chair) be considered prior to Agenda Item 3 (Election of Chair). No formal motion was made to amend the order of the agenda. The Chair noted the requested adjustment was due to anticipated facilitation considerations related to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Hearing no objections from the Board, the agenda order was adjusted to take up Item 4 before Item 3.

4. Nominate and Elect Vice-Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board.
Presenter: TPB Chair

Motion to nominate and elect Judge Ricardo Samaniego as Vice-Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board made by Mayor Renard Johnson.

Amend motion to nominate and elect Commissioner Iliana Holguin as Vice-Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board made by Mayor Rudy Cruz Jr and seconded by Representative Alejandra Chavez. Motion passed unanimously

Judge Ricardo Samaniego withdrew from nomination.

3. Nominate and Elect Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board.
Presenter: TPB Chair

Motion to nominate and elect Javier Perea as Chairperson of the Transportation Policy Board made by Judge Ricardo Samaniego and seconded by Representative Alejandra Chavez. Motion passed unanimously

**09:44 am Rudy Cruz steps out (22 members)*

**09:44 am Renard Johnson leaves (21 members)*

**09:45 am Rudy Cruz returns (22 members)*

5. Appoint members to the Executive Committee of the TPB.
Presenter: TPB Chair

Motion to appoint Mayor Javier Perea, Tomas Trevino, Mayor Rudy Cruz, Aaron Chavarria, Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Vince Perez to the Executive Committee of the TPB made by Mayor Javier Perea and seconded by Representative Art Fierro. Motion passed unanimously

6. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a contract between EPMPPO and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Texas Rider 7 Ozone Local Air Quality Planning Grant funding with a maximum authorized reimbursement of \$539,009.59.
Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to authorizing the Executive Director to sign a contract between EPMPPO and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Texas Rider 7 Ozone Local Air Quality Planning Grant funding with a maximum authorized reimbursement of \$539,009.59 made by Mayor Andres Renteria and seconded by Senator César J. Blanco. Motion passed unanimously

7. Consider exercising the first one-year extension option on the contract between EPMPPO and WSP, Inc. for General Planning Consultant services, beginning on February 5, 2026.

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

**Representative Alejandra Chavez commented.*

Motion to exercise the first one-year extension option on the contract between EPMPPO and WSP, Inc. for General Planning Consultant services, beginning on February 5, 2026 made by Representative Alejandra Chavez and seconded by Mayor Andres Renteria. Motion passed unanimously

8. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for El Paso County's application to the USDOT BUILD grant program for the *Bob Hope Drive Extension* project.

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for El Paso County's application to the USDOT BUILD grant program for the Bob Hope Drive Extension project made by Senator César J. Blanco and seconded by Representative Art Fierro. Motion passed unanimously

9. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign letters of support for Texas A&M Transportation Institute's (TTI) proposals for congressional appropriations for FY 2027 for two projects:

- a. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Detection and Mitigation for Border Security and Trade Efficiency
- b. Cross-Border Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Trade Corridor – Pilot for Transporting High-Value, Low-Weight Cargo.

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign letters of support for Texas A&M Transportation Institute's (TTI) proposals for congressional appropriations for FY 2027 for two projects:

- a. **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Detection and Mitigation for Border Security and Trade Efficiency**
- b. **Cross-Border Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Trade Corridor – Pilot for Transporting High-Value, Low-Weight Cargo**

made by Senator César J. Blanco and seconded by Mayor Rachel Quintana. Motion passed unanimously

10. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for the City of Socorro's application to the FY 2025 TxDOT Off-System Rail Grade Separation Program for rail grade separation improvements at the Union Pacific Railroad Crossing at Horizon Boulevard east of Alameda Avenue.

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

**Mayor Rudy Cruz commented*

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a letter of support for the City of Socorro's application to the FY 2025 TxDOT Off-System Rail Grade Separation Program for rail grade separation improvements at the Union Pacific Railroad Crossing at Horizon Boulevard east of Alameda Avenue made by Mayor Andres Renteria and seconded by Representative Art Fierro. Tomas Trevino abstained

11. Consider authorizing the Executive Director to execute Task Order #9 with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for *Multi-Pollutant Exposure Air Quality Assessment: Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring at U.S.-Mexico Border Crossings* for an amount not to exceed \$278,658.00.

Presenter: Claudia Valles (EPMPPO)

Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Task Order #9 with the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) for *Multi-Pollutant Exposure Air Quality Assessment: Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring at U.S.-Mexico Border Crossings* for an amount not to exceed \$278,658.00 made by Senator César J. Blanco and seconded by Representative Art Fierro. Motion passed unanimously

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

12. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Transportation Research Board Annual meeting – January 11th to 15th
 - b. EPMPPO Vision Zero Committee Kickoff – January 21st
 - c. EPMPPO International Border Crossing Strategic Plan Update
 - d. Texas Transportation Committee Meeting – January 29th

Presenter: Eduardo Calvo (MPO Executive Director)

**09:58 am Mary Gonzalez arrived (23 members)*

**10:05 am Anthony Dekeyser stepped out (22 members)*

**10:07 am Anthony Dekeyser returned (23 members)*

**10:08 am John Andoh arrived (24 members)*

**Yvette Hernandez, Senator César J. Blanco commented*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

10. The Board may go into closed session under the authority of the Government Code, Chapter 551, Texas Open Meetings Act, as follows: Consultation with Attorney – Attorney/Client Privileged Consultations, on Pending or Contemplated Litigation or Settlement Offers (§ 551.071), Deliberations Regarding Real Property (§ 551.072), Deliberations Regarding Personnel Matters (§ 551.074), or Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or a Security Audit (§§ 551.076, 551.0894)

11. Consider and take action on matters discussed in closed session.

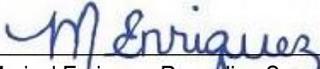
12. Adjournment

The **next meeting** of the TPB is scheduled for **9:30 a.m.** on **February 20, 2026**, at the at Blue Flame Building, Floor 17 (Center for Community Engagement), 304 Texas Ave, El Paso, TX 79901

13. Adjournment.

Adjournment at 10:35 p.m.

Approved as to content:



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