

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ANNUAL ELECTIONS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12:00PM Wednesday June 24, 2026

HELD IN-PERSON AND BROADCAST VIA YOUTUBE VIDEO CONFERENCE.
INITIATED AND CHAIRED FROM LRGVDC MAIN CAMPUS
301 W. RAILROAD STREET, WESLACO, TEXAS BUILDING B,
KEN JONES EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM

PRESIDING: Judge Aurelio Guerra

Judge Aurelio Guerra called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Roll Call was taken, and as of 12:10 p.m. quorum was attained.

Present: Judge Aurelio Guerra

Commissioner Nurieth Galonsky, City of Brownsville
Mayor Omar Ochoa, City of Edinburg
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, City of Mission
Mayor Pro Tem Pete Garcia, City of Weslaco
Commissioner Ellie Torres, Hidalgo County
Mayor Pro-Tem Rene Pena, City of Sullivan City
Councilwoman Aarin Hartwell City of South Padre Island
Commissioner Pepe Cabeza de Vaca, City of McAllen
Commissioner Edward Gonzales, City of Raymondville
Mayor Pete Galvan, City of San Benito
Ms. Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV
Mr. Luke Lucio, TSTC
Mr. Troy Allen, Delta Lake
Mr. Ernesto Cavazos, Willacy Co, Navigation District
Mr. Jim Darling, Member-at-Large
Mr. Andres Chavez, Member-at-Large
Ms. Lupita Sanchez Martinez, Grassroots Org

Absent:

Mayor Norma Sepulveda, City of Harlingen
Commissioner Joey Lopez, Cameron County
Mayor Pablo Morales, City of Lyford
Mayor David Moreno, City of Donna
Mayor Oscar Montoya, City of Mercedes
Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez City of Pharr
Commissioner Marco Villegas, City of San Juan
Mr. Paul Hernandez, South Texas College
Mr. Oscar Garcia, Member-at-Large

Judge Aurelio Guerra moved on to Item#2

Item #2 Consideration and ACTION to approve meeting Minutes May 27, 2026. ***Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza made a motion to approve the May 27, 2026, meeting minutes. Mayor Sylvia Castillo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Item #3: Public Comment – Judge Aurelio Guerra shared a few brief remarks, expressing how pleased he was to see everyone in attendance. He also emphasized the importance of continuing to keep the organization strong and moving forward.

Item #4: Administration

4.A.1 – Presentation Recycling Right in the RGV, Partnerships, Sustainability and Education. Mr. Cruz introduced Rose Timmer with Healthy Communities. Representatives from Redfish Recycling presented an overview of their residential curbside recycling program, which expanded to the City of Brownsville in January 2026 after beginning with commercial recycling operations in 2013. The program utilizes a single-stream recycling system, allowing residents to place recyclable materials in one container for biweekly collection. All materials are processed at Redfish's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Brownsville, where they are sorted and prepared for reuse. The presenters reported that the program currently serves approximately 48,000 households, processes an average of 720 tons of recyclable materials each month, and has achieved a participation rate of approximately 70%, significantly exceeding the national average. They also noted a contamination rate of approximately 19%, which is addressed through ongoing resident education and outreach.

Redfish highlighted the affordability of the program, with an estimated cost of approximately \$0.87 per household per month, and emphasized its environmental benefits, including reducing landfill waste and promoting sustainability. The company also provides bilingual customer service, educational programs, and community outreach, and expressed its readiness to partner with additional Rio Grande Valley municipalities interested in implementing similar curbside recycling services.

4.A.2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the annual renewal of the Microsoft 365 licensing suite utilized by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC). The Microsoft 365 environment provides the Council's enterprise email exchange services and productivity applications necessary to support daily operations across all LRGVDC programs and departments. The total cost of the renewal is \$29,930.76. The software will be purchased through SoftwareOne, utilizing The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS) Cooperative Contract No. 210101. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the annual renewal of the Microsoft 365 licensing suite utilized by the Lower Rio Grande Development council (LRGVDC). The Microsoft 365 environment provides the Council's enterprise email exchange services and productivity applications necessary to support daily operations. Mayor Sylvia Castillo seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4.A.3 Consideration and ACTION to approve the Procurement of services to repair the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system serving the Ken Jones Executive Board Room (KJBR). The item presented was for repairs to the Board Room audiovisual system. The total cost of the repairs is \$36,558.30, utilizing Buy Board Cooperative Contract No. 720-23. Staff recommended approval, noting that the Board Room is used daily by LRGVDC staff, Board members, and numerous partner agencies. Due to the system's age and frequent use, replacement of the equipment is necessary to ensure continued reliable operation. ***Jim Darling made a motion to approve the procurement of Services to repair the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system serving Ken Jones Board Room (KJBR). Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4.A.4 Consideration and ACTION to approve a three-year Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement. Staff presented a preventative maintenance agreement for the generators and backup systems at the LRGVDC main office, the Valley Metro facility in Harlingen, and the Pleasantview office in Weslaco. The maintenance was recommended as part of hurricane season preparedness to ensure all emergency backup systems remain operational. The total cost of the service agreement is \$46,871 and will be procured through Buy Board Cooperative Contract No. 757-24. ***Pepe Cabeza de Vaca made a motion to approve three-year Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement. Staff presented a preventative maintenance agreement for the generators and backup systems at the LRGVDC main office, the Valley Metro facility in Harlingen, and the Pleasantview office in Weslaco. The maintenance was recommended as part of hurricane season preparedness to ensure all emergency backup systems remain operational. The total cost of the service agreement is \$46,871 and will be procured through Buy Board Cooperative Contract No. 757-24. Andres Chavez seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

4.A.5 Consideration and ACTION to approve the LRGVDC to participate in the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program and Authorize for the LRGVDC Executive Director to Execute Annual Agreement. Staff presented the renewal of the agreement with the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). It was noted that the program was temporarily paused due to funding issues last year but has since resumed. Staff requested authorization to execute the agreement, which provides opportunities for eligible retirees and older adults to re-enter the workforce through temporary community service assignments. LRGVDC currently participates in the program and has one participant assigned, with an additional participant expected to join soon. ***Ernesto Cavazos made a motion to approve LRGVDC to participate in the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program and Authorize for the LRGVDC Executive Director to Execute Annual Agreement. Staff presented the renewal of the agreement with the AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Troy Allen seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

B. Executive Director Reports Mr. Cruz welcomed new staff and announced recent personnel updates. Graciela Torres was recognized for her promotion to Payroll Specialist I with Valley Metro after successfully completing the internal application process.

Mr. Cruz also recognized Carolina Rios in advance of her retirement. Although employee service awards are typically presented during the August Board meeting, Ms. Rios was honored at this meeting because she will retire before then. Ms. Rios has served the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council for nearly 18 years, beginning her employment in 2008, and has been an integral member of the Procurement Department, helping ensure compliance with state and federal procurement requirements. In recognition of her dedicated service, she was presented with her 15-Year Service Award. The Board expressed its appreciation for her years of service and wished her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

Updates on regional News, Funding Opportunities, Training and Legislation – Mr. Cruz provided an update on the Rio Grande Valley Water Management Plan Advisory Committee, noting that LRGVDC was invited by the three county judges to participate in the regional planning effort. The committee recently held its inaugural meeting to begin developing a comprehensive water management plan funded by Nada Bank and facilitated by Halff Associates. The plan will focus on evaluating future water demands, population growth, drought risks, water supply gaps, existing and proposed water projects, and opportunities for regional collaboration.

It was noted that the new planning effort will complement the existing Region M Regional Water Plan by providing a more detailed assessment of local and regional water needs while supporting long-term planning and future funding opportunities through the Texas Water Development Board. Board members and regional leaders emphasized the importance of regional cooperation, recognizing the Valley's continued growth, increasing water demands, and the need to ensure sustainable water resources for future development.

During discussion, Ms. Aarin Hartwell inquired about the process for adding new municipal water projects to the Region M Regional Water Plan. The Executive Director explained that projects are incorporated through coordination with the consultant responsible for updating the plan during its five-year revision cycle. If a project is proposed after the plan has been adopted, additional costs may be incurred to amend the plan. He noted that project submissions require supporting documentation, including engineering studies, environmental information, and other technical data, before they can be evaluated for inclusion and future funding eligibility.

Board members emphasized the importance of a coordinated regional approach to water planning, particularly in light of increasing development, including data centers and other large-scale projects that may impact regional water supplies. Staff noted that the advisory committee's purpose is to identify and prioritize regional water projects while exploring additional funding opportunities beyond the Texas Water Development Board. It was also discussed that long-term implementation and oversight of the plan will be critical to ensuring the planning effort results in meaningful projects rather than becoming a report that is not acted upon.

No further questions or comments President then moved on to Item # 5 on agenda.

Item #5 Department Reports

A. Community & Economic Development – Melisa Gonzales-Rosas had one action item on agenda.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve Texas Community Development Block Grant 2027 Regional Project Priorities. ***Troy Allen made a motion to approve Texas Community Development Block Grant 2027 Regional Project Priorities. Mayor Pete Galvan seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Program Status Reports - Several announcements were shared with the board. Ms. Melisa Gonzales reminded the Board that the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Disaster Recovery funding opportunities remain open on a rolling basis until available funds are exhausted. Local governments were encouraged to apply for eligible projects and to coordinate with LRGVDC to obtain letters of regional support to strengthen their applications.

Ms. Gonzales also announced that the Regional Small Cities Coalition Workshop will be held on **August 4** at the Ken Jones Board Room, with presentations focused on water resources and community development. Efforts are also underway to host the USDA National Director for a regional meeting with local communities later in August.

Additional updates included the adoption of the regional tire resolution by Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties, completing countywide support for the initiative. Ms. Gonzales also recognized the City of Alton as the first municipality to formally adopt the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan and encouraged other cities to adopt LRGVDC's regional plans to support coordinated planning and future funding opportunities. She concluded by thanking Redfish Recycling for its presentation and expressed appreciation for the organization's continued partnership in promoting environmental sustainability throughout the region.

No further questions or comments President then moved on to item B. Health & Human Services.

B. Health & Human Services – Margarita Lopez had no action items on the agenda.

Program Status Reports – Ms. Margarita Lopez provided an update on the status of the Older Americans Act (OAA), noting that despite ongoing advocacy efforts since 2024, the Act has not yet been reauthorized and remains in committee. Services continue to be funded through annual appropriations; however, the lack of long-term authorization creates uncertainty and operational challenges. She expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support, which has allowed the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to maintain services despite staffing reductions and funding concerns.

Ms. Lopez highlighted key service accomplishments for May 2026, including the provision of approximately 53,000 meals to older adults, with more than 20,500 home-delivered meals and 32,651 meals served through congregate meal sites. Benefit Counseling staff assisted 140 clients, including many first-time participants, while the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) responded to 307 requests for information and assistance. Senior centers reported 13,680 participant activities during the month.

Additionally, AAA enrolled 97 new care coordination clients and reported that 595 individuals remain on service interest lists awaiting assistance. Ms. Lopez noted that these figures demonstrate both the continued demand for services and the importance of maintaining support for older adults throughout the region. Ms. Lopez reported that the Area Agency on Aging recently received a shipment of fans and portable power banks to distribute to residents in need throughout Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties as part of its ongoing community assistance efforts. Ms. Lopez also reminded the Board that the Older Americans Act has not yet been reauthorized and encouraged continued advocacy to support the program and the services it provides to older adults.

C. Public Safety Mr. Cesar Merlas started off with action items on Agenda.

C.1.A – Emergency Services, Criminal Justice & Homeland Security

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Master Mutual Aid Agreement template to develop Regional Mutual Aid Agreements for all cities and counties within the jurisdictions of Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Texas has a statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement, but we can create more specific regional agreements to better fit our needs. This template will be used to develop mutual aid agreements for all cities and counties in our three-county region and will be distributed in July and August. These agreements help ensure reimbursement eligibility when federal disaster funds are available and clearly outline roles and expectations during emergencies. Our region already works closely together during emergencies, and these agreements will formalize that cooperation. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve Master Mutual Aid Agreement template to develop Regional Mutual Agreements for all cities and counties within the jurisdictions of Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Mr. Cruz stated; I would also like to mention that a Mutual Aid Agreement is already in place. The purpose of this update is to move forward with revisions that reflect the changes that have been made over the years. The current agreement was adopted in 2004 following the events of September 11, 2001. In response to those events, cities and counties across the state came together to develop, approve, and implement a mutual aid framework to strengthen emergency response efforts.

In the coming months, you will see Mr. Merla presenting this updated agreement before your City Commissions and County Commissioners' Courts for approval. Once adopted, this new agreement will supersede the existing 2004 agreement. As mentioned earlier, it is very important that each jurisdiction approves the updated agreement because it establishes the framework for mutual aid response among first responders during emergencies, disasters, and other incidents. It also helps ensure that jurisdictions have the authority and documentation needed to coordinate assistance and pursue reimbursement when eligible. Following today's meeting, Mr. Merla and our staff will prepare individualized agreements for each jurisdiction.

These will be distributed by both certified mail and email. We will then coordinate with each city and county to have the agreement placed on the agenda for consideration. This will be an ongoing process throughout the months of July and August.

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve the Regional Fire Academy Coordinator Contract Renewal for June 8, 2026 – October 31, 2026. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve the Regional Academy Coordinator Contract renewal for June 8, 2026- October 31, 2026. Luke Lucio seconded the motion.; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.*** The Training Coordinator provides regional continuing education and training for current and experienced firefighter personnel to ensure compliance with the standards established by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. To maintain grant compliance and continue funding for this position, Board approval is required.

A Board member asked whether this item was a renewal. Mr. Cruz confirmed that it is a renewal and explained that the funding is provided through the Homeland Security Grant Program, which supports FEMA-related initiatives. Mr. Cruz noted that this program is similar to the Regional Police Academy in that the grant funds the Training Coordinator position. He explained that the Fire Academy has been in existence for many years. While it was previously funded through another agency, the Academy has been supported through the LRGVDC's Homeland Security Grant application for the past several years, allowing the organization to secure funding and continue the coordinator position.

He further explained that the Fire Academy operates much like the Regional Police Academy. Firefighter cadets receive instruction from fire departments throughout the region, including departments such as Edinburg and Brownsville. This collaborative approach allows participating departments to train and recruit future firefighters while strengthening the regional workforce. Mr. Cruz added that the program has been highly rated at the state level because it directly supports regional emergency preparedness and response capabilities. He emphasized that communities continue to face shortages of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMS personnel. Through programs such as the Fire Academy, the LRGVDC is helping to ensure a steady pipeline of well-trained public safety professionals to meet the region's emergency response needs.

RGV 911 Status Reports - Additionally, the 9-1-1 Division report is included in your meeting packet. The division continues to support all Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) across Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. Staff also continues its public education efforts throughout the region and processes addressing requests for residents in rural jurisdictions.

Mr. Cruz noted that if Board members have any questions regarding the report or the division's activities, they are welcome to contact him, the Public Safety staff, or the Public Education team.

Lastly, although it is not included in today's presentation, Board members were encouraged to pick up the conference flyer available at the meeting. The 2026 RGV Public Safety and Emergency Communications Conference will be held October 14–16, 2026, at the South Padre Island Convention Center. The conference will bring together professionals from fire services, law enforcement, EMS, emergency communications, behavioral health, medical services, and other public safety disciplines. All Board members and interested participants are invited to attend.

C.2 LRGV Police Academy Program Status Reports - Ms. Sarah Casares reported that Mr. Solis was attending training and that she would be providing the department's update in his absence. While there were no action items for consideration, she shared several highlights from the Regional Police Academy.

Ms. Casares reported that the 232nd Basic Peace Officer Academy, hosted by the Mission Police Department, is scheduled to take the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) licensing examination on July 7. The cadets recently completed firearms training, marking the completion of the academy curriculum, and will spend the remaining weeks reviewing and preparing for the state licensing exam. She also provided an update on the 233rd Basic Peace Officer Academy, the Weslaco Part-Time Academy. The cadets recently completed coursework covering sexual assault investigations, family violence, racial profiling, civil process, and health and safety codes. The class is currently preparing for its midterm examination and remains on schedule to graduate in December.

Ms. Casares reported that the 234th Basic Peace Officer Academy, the full-time academy hosted in Rio Grande City, recently completed instruction on the Texas Penal Code. The cadets have now begun coursework on the Code of Criminal Procedure, including arrest, search, and seizure, and will soon transition into crime scene investigation training. Looking ahead, Ms. Casares announced that recruitment is underway for the 235th Basic Peace Officer Academy, which will also be a full-time academy hosted by the Mission Police Department. Background investigations are currently being conducted, and applicant interviews are scheduled to begin the following week. Due to a high level of interest, the Academy also scheduled an additional entrance examination on Saturday, June 27, to accommodate applicants requesting a weekend testing opportunity. Registration information has been posted on the Regional Police Academy's Facebook page. Ms. Casares also reported that the Academy is partnering with the Child Advocacy Center of Cameron and Willacy Counties to provide TCOLE continuing education credit for law enforcement officers attending the Third Annual "Where the Healing Begins" Conference. Approximately 24 officers are participating in the conference, which focuses on child abuse prevention, victim services, and child advocacy.

Finally, Ms. Casares presented the department's in-service training report. Between the May 27 and June 24 Board meetings, the Academy provided one in-service training course, with 13 officers completing a total of 16 course hours, representing 208 cumulative contact hours.

D. Transportation Valley Metro -

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve updated LRGVDC – Valley Metro Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy. Ms. Sandra Carrizales explained that this revision is based on the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) most recent review, which was conducted the previous week. As part of the review, the agency was required to update its public participation requirements. The public participation requirements were previously contained in two separate policies. The proposed revision consolidates those requirements into a single document for improved clarity and consistency. Staff emphasized that the revision does not establish a new policy; rather, it incorporates the existing public participation requirements directly into the Title VI Policy. ***Commissioner Edward Gonzales made a motion to approve updated LRGVDC- Valley Metro Title VI/LEP/EJ Policy, Mayor Pro-Tem Pete Garcia seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

2. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Valley Metro and the LRGVDC Area Agency on Aging for Office Space at Harlingen Transportation Terminal. Ms. Sandra Carrizales reported that the agreement provides approximately 3,000 square feet of space, including 1,200 square feet of office space, 90 square feet of storage space, and approximately 1,750 square feet of shared common area. ***Ernesto Cavazos made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Valley Metro and the LRGVDC Area Agency and Aging for Office Space at the Harlingen Transportation Terminal. Mayor Sylvia Castill seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

The agreement has a three-year term with a fixed monthly lease payment of \$4,466.58. Staff noted that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has reviewed and approved the agreement for the incidental use of the facility. The Interlocal Agreement (ILA) is included in the Board packet for members' review.

Transportation Valley Metro Program Status Reports - We had approximately 551,000 passengers last year, and this year, we have seen a 43% increase, bringing our ridership to approximately 790,000 passengers. That is a significant improvement from the previous year. We also have an update from KFH, our consultant for the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan. The project has now moved into the public comment, public engagement, and data collection phase. Surveys are currently available, and you may have seen them on our Facebook page as well as the Valley Metro page. The surveys are available in both English and Spanish. Stakeholder outreach is also underway to help identify regional transit needs and opportunities to improve service coordination. Our Regional Transit Advisory Panel, or RTAP, also met this past month. We are continuing efforts to improve regional connectivity among our transit providers and are developing a regional transit guide that will encompass all transit providers throughout the Rio Grande Valley. Finally, our Planning and Mobility team has remained active in the community. This past month, we conducted several travel training sessions and participated in outreach events to educate residents about the transportation services available to them.

RGVMPO - Claudia Salinas started off with a Power Point Presentation that went along with her Action Item. I will provide a brief overview of the Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study included in the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Unified Planning Work Program, an effort focused on improving regional mobility and supporting future transportation investments.

The Unified Planning Work Program, or UPWP, is a federally required two-year document that outlines the MPO's transportation planning activities and identifies the associated funding sources. It covers key areas such as administration, data collection, short- and long-range planning, and special studies, including the one highlighted today. The Fiscal Year 2026–2027 UPWP was adopted on July 21, 2025, and federally approved on September 17, 2025, ensuring compliance with federal requirements and eligibility for funding support.

Subtask 5.4 is the Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study, which will evaluate the potential establishment of a Regional Transit Authority, or RTA, to improve mobility and coordination across the region. This effort aligns with House Bill 2423, which provides a framework for creating regional transit authorities in border areas, including governance and funding options. The study will assess existing transit services, identify service gaps, and evaluate access to essential destinations. It will also examine governance structures, funding opportunities, and planning tools consistent with the provisions of HB 2423, while incorporating input from stakeholders and the public to help guide the study's recommendations.

In closing, this study represents the first step in determining whether a Regional Transit Authority is feasible and would be beneficial for our region. It does not commit the region to implementation, but rather provides the information needed to support informed decision-making and determine the best path forward.

1. Consideration and ACTION to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), as the performing party, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning organization (RGVMPO), as the receiving parties, in the amount of \$328,327.00 to conduct the regional transit Authority feasibility Study (Subtask 5.4) as identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. ***Commissioner Nurith Galonsky made a motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI), as the performing party, and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning organization (RGVMPO), as the receiving parties, in the amount of \$328,327.00 to conduct the regional transit Authority feasibility Study (Subtask 5.4) as identified in the FY 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program. Mayor Norie seconded the motion; upon a vote the motion was carried unanimously.***

Commissioner Nurith asked whether the item needed to be formally approved by the Board of Directors since it had already been approved the previous month by the MPO Policy Board.

Claudia explained that the item was approved by the Transportation Policy Board during its meeting the previous week. She stated that they were presenting it to the Board of Directors because, after approval by the MPO, they were instructed to bring the item before the Board so that everyone would be informed and understand the purpose and scope of the study. Ms. Nurith clarified whether the item was being presented simply for acknowledgement. Mr. Cruz explained that the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council serves as the fiscal agent for the RGVMP. Therefore, while the MPO oversees the project, any contracts that are initiated and any related expenses must be presented to the Board of Directors for visibility and to ensure compliance with the Council's responsibilities as the fiscal agent. He explained that the Board's role is not necessarily to deny or reconsider the MPO's project, but rather to ensure that the appropriate documentation is on record. As the fiscal agent, LRGVDC is responsible for processing and paying invoices associated with the contract. Without the contract being properly presented and documented before the Board, LRGVDC would not be able to process payments.

Mr. Cruz noted that a similar process is followed with the RGV 911 District, for which LRGVDC also serves as the fiscal agent. Any contracts entered into by the district must likewise be brought before the LRGVDC Board of Directors for review and approval.

Ms. Galonsky then asked whether the appropriate procedure would be to make a motion to acknowledge the item or whether it should simply be treated as an informational presentation. Mr. Cruz confirmed that the appropriate action would be to move forward with acknowledging the item.

Willacy County Judge Aurelio Guerra stated that, he understands that Willacy County isn't part of MPO but wanted to look into bylaws. Claudia then stated, The MPO boundaries consist of Starr, Hidalgo, and Cameron Counties. The feasibility study will focus on these three counties, as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement being presented to the Board today for approval.

Regarding the language included in House Bill 2423, the legislation references border counties and allows for consideration of counties that border the initial study area, such as Willacy County. However, those additional counties will not be included in the current Interlocal Agreement or in the feasibility study at this time.

The Regional Transit Authority itself could potentially include additional counties in the future, depending on the provisions of House Bill 2423. Any questions regarding the interpretation of that language can be addressed with legal counsel.

Item #6: New & Unfinished Business – Mr. Cruz mentioned a quick reminder that there was no meeting in July and that next meeting would be on August 26, 2026.

Item #7 Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM.



President Judge Aurelio Guerra

ATTEST :



Liza Alfaro, Recording Secretary