



Far West Texas El Paso Regional Transportation Coordination Committee (WTEP)

Minutes

WTEP Meeting (Zoom)

December 2, 2021

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3pm by Chairperson Sal Alonzo. Introduction of members followed, and it was determined that a quorum existed to conduct business.
- II. WTEP board officers and steering committee members who participated at the meeting were: Chairperson Sal Alonzo, Vice Chairperson Victor Reta, Immediate Past Chairperson Yvette Lugo, and Mary Nunez, Steering Committee Member.
- III. Minutes for the September 23, 2021, WTEP meeting had been sent by email to the members. There were no changes or additions to the minutes. A Motion (and a Second to the Motion) was presented to approve the minutes. The Motion was approved unanimously.
- IV. Mr. Alonzo announced that he was appointing a nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers and steering committee members for 2022. He reported that, per the bylaws, officers can only serve two years in an officer position, and the terms of the current officers were expiring this year. The persons appointed to the nominating committee included: Yvette Lugo, Luis Enrique Chew, and Mary Nunez. Mr. Alonzo will also participate in this committee. Furthermore, Xavier Bañales will provide staff support. A proposed slate of officers and steering committee members will be presented at the first WTEP meeting in 2022.
- V. 2022 – 2026 Regional Plan. Xavier Bañales, Regional Plan Coordinator reported that the plan was complete, and after today's meeting (and the board's approval) it will be sent to TxDOT as its due date is December 31, 2021.

He reported that the process to complete the regional plan began in late 2020 when Amistad, the lead agency, was seeking a consultant to coordinate the completion of the

Regional Plan. In January 2021, Amistad announced the selection of Alliance Transportation Group (ATG) to develop the plan. In March 2021, Amistad selected X. Bañales to be the liaison between it and ATG.

During the following nine months, client surveys were conducted, extensive research was done regarding transportation and social service gaps in services, planning meetings were held twice monthly, sixteen interviews of policy makers was completed, two day-long working sessions were held (June and September), other plans and comprehensive reports throughout the region were reviewed and findings incorporated into WTEP's regional plan, an inventory of transportation agencies and the condition of their fleet was completed, and a performance matrix was developed to be used as an evaluative tool.

The final draft was completed in November and distributed to member agencies who were asked to review the plan and provide feedback as to its contents. Feedback received was incorporated into the final draft.

At the December 3rd meeting, the final draft was presented to the members. In reviewing the draft, the presentation focused on Chapter VI that included the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives. The twenty-eight objectives were presented individually by Yvette Lugo and Xavier Bañales. Following a Q&A session and final discussion, a Motion was presented (and Seconded): "That the 2022 – 2026 Regional Plan for the West Texas / El Paso Regional Transportation Coordination Committee be approved." The Motion passed unanimously.

- VI. Funding Opportunities. A representative from the MPO reported that the next window to release requests for funding is scheduled for late 2022. Successful responses will receive funding under Section 5310 (serving older adults and persons with disabilities). Details will be released in mid-2022.
- VII. TxDOT announced that a Coordinated Call for Projects (eGrants) opportunities was open for agencies wishing to submit applications. The application instruction will be available on TxDOT's website <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/public-transportation/local-assistance.html>.

Categories for funding include Planning, RTAP, Rural Discretionary, Intercity Bus, and Urban Fleet Replacement

Applications will be due in eGrants by 5:00PM CST on February 4, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25pm.

Prepared: Xavier Bañales