



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

### Minutes of March 17, 2022

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr. Jerry Blanco, CFO of the Lead Agency (Amistad), introduced himself. He stated that he had been appointed as the staff person to WTEP and that he will be available to provide support to the member agencies any time.

- I. The meeting was Called to Order by Sal Alonzo, WTEP Board Chairperson. A quorum was present to conduct business. Mr. Alonzo introduced Yvette Lugo who presented a report from the nominating committee. Ms. Lugo reported that the committee included Sal Alonzo, Luis E Chew, Mary Nuñez, and herself. She reported that the committee reviewed nominations and was nominating a slate representing persons from transportation and social service agencies. The slate included:

- A. Officers

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Chairperson      | Victor Reta, City of Socorro                    |
| 2. Vice Chair       | Yvette Lugo, Area Agency on Aging               |
| 3. Secretary        | Mary Nuñez, Big Bend Community Action Committee |
| 4. Past chairperson | Sal Alonzo, El Paso County Transit              |

- B. Steering Committee

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Lourdes Torres | New México Family Services              |
| 2. David Armijo   | South Central Regional Transit District |
| 3. Sonia Arceo    | City Representative, Village of Vinton  |
| 4. Astrid Bunner  | El Paso Sun Metro                       |
| 5. Xavier Bañales | Amistad                                 |

Ms. Lugo asked if there were any nominations from the floor..... there were none. She then made a Motion to approve the slate as presented. Since this was a report from a committee, a Second to the Motion was not required. A vote followed and the slate was approved as presented.

- II. Mr. Alonzo, outgoing chairperson turned the meeting over to Mr. Victor Reta, the newly elected chairperson. Welcoming comments were made by Mr. Reta followed by introduction of attendees. The list of attendees is attached to these minutes.

III. Minutes for WTEP meeting 12-3-2021. Mr. Reta asked the members to review the minutes that had been sent via email. After a few minutes, a Motion was presented by Yvette Lugo to approve the minutes as presented. Sal Alonzo Seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved.

#### IV. Business items

A. A report regarding the approval of the 2022 – 2026 Regional Plan was presented by Mr. Bañales and Mr. Blanco.

1. The regional plan was approved by TxDOT in late February 2022. Copies of the plan will be sent electronically to members. Printed copies will be distributed as soon as possible. There were a few minor comments and inquiries made by TxDOT which had been answered. Overall, feedback from TxDOT was positive.

2. Mr. Blanco reported that the funding request to continue to provide support to WTEP for the period March 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, had been submitted to TxDOT and had been approved. A review of the budget was presented.

He further reported that a second funding request would be submitted this summer to fund the period from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023.

3. A review of the Quarterly Progress Index Report followed. This report lists the Operating Objectives to be completed during the period of the five-year plan (March 1, 2022, through August 31, 2026). This report will detail how the regional plan will be implemented. The report will be modified during the five-year period as needed. Mr. Bañales reported that a working session (in-person) will be scheduled in May for the steering committee to begin reviewing and modifying this report as needed. Any member wishing to attend will also be welcomed to attend.

V. Mr. Reta presented a summary of the HAF Program. He reported that the City of Socorro had implemented this program and that it had been well received by persons who qualified for services. Ms. Laura Ponce from Project BRAVO shared additional information and also commented that her agency was also well versed in this program and was providing services as well.

VI. Mr. Bañales reported that renewal of Letters of Participation from member agencies were due for renewal since the bylaws called for them to be renewed every three years. Members will receive a sample letter that can be completed and can be returned via email.

VII. The following announcements were presented: (

A. Mr. Reta: The City of Socorro will have an event on April 16<sup>th</sup> that will include an Easter egg hunt, a 5K fun run, and booths from various community organizations to promote their services.

- B. Yvette Lugo: The Area Agency on Aging will sponsor the Aging to Perfection event at the Civic Center. This event had not been held due to the COVID pandemic but will now be held. She announced that while there is a fee to sponsor a booth, agencies that arrangements can be made for agencies that may need financial assistance.
- C. Sal Alonzo reported that .....
- D. Ellen Smyth reported that the City of El Paso is having an annual Earth Day Celebration on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and invited the members to participate. Information about this event will be sent via email to WTEP members.

VIII. Mr. Reta announced that the next WTEP Meeting is scheduled for June 16 at 2pm.

A Motion to Adjourned was made by Yvette Lugo and Seconded by Laura Ponce. Motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 3:05.

Prepared: Xavier Bañales, Regional Plan Coordinador