

# EDINBURG 2040

**BUILDING FOR TOMORROW'S FUTURE, TODAY!**

## 2040 TRANSPORTATION/ MOBILITY/CONNECTIVITY/ DRAINAGE/BROADBAND COMMITTEE

City Hall-Community Room  
415 West University Dr.  
Edinburg, Texas 78541  
January 12, 2023  
Time: 6:00 P.M.

- I. **Committee Members Present:** Alcinda Pardo, Chuck Salvia, Andres Palma, Victor Gonzalez, Rick Carrera, Marty Meyers, Alicia Carmona, Ruben James De Jesus, Ivan

**Staff Present:** Eddie Velarde, Director of Aviation, Vince Romero, Director of Public Works, Tom Reyna, Assistant City Manager, Mardoqueo Hinojosa, City Engineer, Roberto Hernandez, Graphic Tech 1, Marissa Garza, Director of Grants Administration, Claudia Farias, Grant Manager, Grants Administration, Carlos Garza, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

- II. Meeting was called to order at 6:03 P.M

III. **Discussion:**

Claudia Farias, Grants Manager stated they work on city wide grants. When a grant opportunity comes up they work closely with whatever department will implement the grant. It is a collaborative effort to get all grants submitted within the anticipated deadline. She said currently they have two grants under development from TXDoT they are new programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law approved in November 2022. Ms. Farias stated the great part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure law is that the funding is set up for five years.

Marissa Garza, Director of Grants Administration stated her department is very active and follows through with each grant from start to finish. They work closely with every department, sending reminders making sure every deadline is met. She said the grants process is very strategic and a lot of work.

Marty Meyers stated the city should consider a partnership with UTRGV now that they named a research center and have a collaboration going with Carnegie Melon and IBM.

Vincent Romero, Director of Public Works listed the paving projects completed. They have started prepping for the section on Sprague between Jackson and Sugar Road, and paving should be started mid next week weather permitting. The plan for this project is to continue from Sugar to the Expressway. Mr. Romero stated they were 75% done assessing the subdivisions on the east side, the goal is to work systematically throughout the city. The engineering department is helping them map out the areas. He said the Engineering Department is working on a street inventory and the Public Works Department will incorporate their street assessments. Mr. Romero stated the list will change because they found other streets that were annexed and must be added.

Carlos Garza, Executive Assistant to the City Manager on behalf of IT stated in regards to broadband they are waiting on funds/grants. There is a couple of options they are considering the first would be to come

up with a plan as to where broadband is needed and the type of network to implement. The second possibilities of broadband projects could include computer labs, Wi-Fi at parks and all city facilities. Currently they are deploying Wi-Fi at three parks and the exterior of the library.

Tom Reyna, Assistant City Manager stated the goal is to identify between broadband and Wi-Fi. He said he would like infrastructural broadband that would connect all facilities, all traffic signals and add computer labs. The city would not provide internet service, the goal is to offer free Wi-Fi service in our areas and have an operation center to control all connectivity. Mr. Reyna stated broadband is very important and they need to build their own fiber ring throughout the city.

- IV. Tom Reyna, Assistant City Manager stated he would ask the committee to consider adding an Impact Assessment Fee Study to point out the different needs like drainage, paving, and inspections. This would allow them to have a supplement set aside for projects/needs that most likely would never take priority over public safety. The City of McAllen has this in place and it has really worked for them. He said they were currently doing a utility rate study; stating the City of Edinburg has not had a rate increase in ten years.

Mr. Marty Meyers stated when it came to broadband he would really want a meeting with UTRGV, and discusses a real 20 year plan.

- V. Ivan Garcia, went over the major current and future TxDOT projects list for Hidalgo County. He briefed the committee on current and future City of Edinburg drainage projects. Mardoqueo Hinojosa, City Engineer stated most projects had been completed. Mr. Garcia said major current and future neighboring cities project lists should be reviewed and determine how they will affect the City of Edinburg. He suggested the committee meet with city staff to better understand the needs, meet with stakeholders like the ECISD and go over their bus routes and incorporate any other need. Mr. Garcia listed four recommendations for prioritization of projects and Master Plan. (1.) More shovel ready projects for ease of funding. (2.) Focus more on east and west corridors. (3.) Improve intersections to increase mobility (including ROW acquisition). (4.) Improve signalization to increase mobility.

Mr. Andres Palma asked Tom Reyna, Assistant City Manager if he could repeat what he would like to add to the short term goals. Mr. Reyna stated there were actually four considerations he would like to add a Rate Study, Impact Fee Study, Building assessment Study, and a Building assessment for the all municipal structures to bring them up to par.

- VI. Mr. Andres Palma reminded the committee that the next meeting would be February 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall.

- VII. There being nothing further to discuss the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

By:  \_\_\_\_\_