



RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

617 W. University Drive, Edinburg, TX. 78541
(956) 969-5778

PLANNING PARTNERS:

JUDGE EDDIE TREVINO JR.
CHAIRMAN
CAMERON COUNTY

DAVID L. FUENTES
VICE CHAIRMAN
HIDALGO COUNTY

CAMERON COUNTY RMA

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

CITY OF EDINBURG

CITY OF HARLINGEN

CITY OF McALLEN

CITY OF MISSION

CITY OF SAN BENITO

CITY OF PHARR

HIDALGO COUNTY RMA

TxDOT (PHARR DISTRICT)

VALLEY METRO

STAFF:
ANDREW A. CANON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LUIS M. DIAZ
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

EX-OFFICIO:
RIO GRANDE VALLEY
PARTNERSHIP

Judge Richard Cortez,

As you may have heard, the RGVMPO was awarded the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan Grant for \$250,000 (\$200,000-Federal & \$50,000-local).

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for your letter of commitment to our application, a copy of which has been provided below.

On Tuesday September 6th, 2022, Hidalgo County Commissioners court approved a letter of commitment for the RGVMPO's Action Plan Grant application not exceeding an amount of \$46,500 in local match contribution.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has over 500 grant pending agreements and have asked us to be patient as they work to draft our formal agreement. Once the RGVMPO receives a draft agreement and further instructions from FHWA, we will reach out to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court.

In the weeks ahead FHWA will be hosting webinars that provide more guidance and insight to the process of this new grant program. The RGVMPO plans to share key information to our partners.

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to working with Hidalgo County on developing the RGV's first comprehensive safety action plan.

Andrew Canon
RGVMPO Executive Director



Letter of Commitment

Between
Hidalgo County
And



The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

This Letter of Commitment sets for the terms and understanding between Hidalgo County and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization to define their participation in the Safe Streets for All Action Plan.

Background

The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is submitting an application for an Action Plan Grant under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Safe Streets for All program. This allows the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop the first region wide comprehensive safety action plan with the goal to increase safety for all roadway users and to get the Rio Grande Valley one step closer to the Texas statewide vision zero goal of zero roadway fatalities by 2050.

Using innovate practices and technology, the RGVMPO plans to assemble an Infrastructure Bill Grants Subcommittee which will consist of the RGVMPO's planning partners to assist in the development of the action plan. This Subcommittee will, in conjunction with the comprehensive safety action plan, assist in the development of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Business 83 Corridor plan. Both plans will go hand in hand with ensuring the safety of travelers while providing safer transportation alternatives.

Purpose and Tasks

This letter of commitment is directed to assure the participation of Hidalgo County included as one of two sources of the Twenty percent (20%) local match required for the RGVMPO to submit their application. With the assistance from Hidalgo County, the RGVMPO will:

- Invite city or county staff which will comprise members of the Infrastructure Bill Grant's Subcommittee
- Develop a comprehensive safety action plan that covers the Metropolitan Area Boundary over both Hidalgo and Starr Counties.
- Share the completed plan with Hidalgo County
- Utilize this comprehensive safety action plan to apply for an implementation grant in a future funding round of the IIJA or Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

Funding

The RGVMPO is applying for \$250,000 and the application requires a Twenty percent (20%) local match. The RGVMPO divided the local match between Hidalgo and Starr Counties by population. An amendment for the notice of funding opportunity made in August of 2022 requires the applicants to use 2019 American Community Survey Five-year estimates for population figures. Per this request, the RGVMPO has tallied the total of the combined population of Hidalgo and Starr Counties as 918,142 with Hidalgo County comprising Ninety-three percent (93%) or 855,176 and Starr County comprising Seven percent (7%) or 62,966. For that reason, the RGVMPO is asking from Hidalgo County Ninety-three percent (93%) of the Twenty percent (20%) local match, which would be \$46,500; if awarded the \$250,000 Action Plan Grant.

Honorable Judge Richard Cortez
The County of Hidalgo Texas

Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO Executive Director