



Letter of Commitment

Between

Hidalgo County

And

The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization



This Letter of Commitment sets forth the terms and understanding between Hidalgo County and the Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) to define their participation in the Areas of Persistent Poverty Grant.

Background

The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization is applying for an Area of Persistent Poverty Grant (AoPP) under the Federal Transit Administration. The RGVMPO is seeking funds for the Rio Grande Valley Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study (RGV RTA Feasibility Study) to conduct a study which will assess the potential for transit improvements in areas of persistent poverty and analyze the financial structure(s) of existing transit agencies and highlight the potential benefits of a regional transit agency for the larger Rio Grande Valley area. As part of a larger strategy to improve regional transportation systems, the RGVMPO has actively been pursuing new federal funding opportunities and recently secured a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) to develop a regional comprehensive safety action plan. Additionally, the RGVMPO is pending notification of a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program application for the Business 83 Corridor Plan, and the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation application for the Stage 1 RGV Smart Plan. To ensure alignment of these efforts, the RGVMPO will assemble an infrastructure Bill Grants Subcommittee to consist of RGVMPO's planning partners and stakeholders. The purpose of the Subcommittee is to ensure these plans go hand-in-hand with each other to improve transportation safety and provide more access to safer transportation alternatives.

Purpose and Tasks

This letter of commitment is directed to ensure the participation of Hidalgo County as one of three sources of the Ten percent (10%) or \$50,000 local match required for the RGVMPO to submit their application. With the assistance from Hidalgo County, the RGVMPO will:

- Invite city or county staff to form the Infrastructure Bill Grant's Subcommittee
- Develop a Rio Grande Valley Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study that covers the Metropolitan Area Boundary over Hidalgo, Cameron, and Starr Counties.
- Share the completed plan with Hidalgo County
- Utilize this Rio Grande Valley Regional Transit Authority Feasibility Study to demonstrate the economic and equitable impacts a Regional Transit Authority can have on the Rio Grande Valley

Funding

The AoPP funding opportunity requires a match of Ten percent (10%) of the total project cost, or \$50,000 for the \$500,000 estimate to fund the RGV RTA Feasibility Study. Without the ability to contribute the local match, the RGVMPO is requesting the local match be provided by Hidalgo, Cameron, and Starr Counties by population. Utilizing the April 2020 US Census data, the RGVMPO has tallied the total of the combined population of Hidalgo, Cameron, and Starr Counties as 1,357,718. With Hidalgo County comprising Sixty-four percent (64%) or 870,781. Cameron County comprising Thirty-one percent (31%) or 65,920 and Starr County comprising Five percent (5%) or 65,920. For that reason, the RGVMPO is asking from Hidalgo County Sixty-four percent (64%) of the \$50,000 local match, which would be \$32,000; if awarded the \$500,000 RGV RTA Feasibility Study.

Honorable Judge Richard Cortez
The County of Hidalgo Texas

Andrew A. Canon
RGVMPO Executive Director