

Lower Rio Grande Valley-Tamaulipas Border Master Plan



Appendix A Charter and Membership Form

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY - TAMAULIPAS BORDER MASTER PLAN



Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group Charter

PREAMBLE

The participating United States and Mexican government agencies, as well as modal stakeholders (e.g., rail, ports, and ferries) whose objectives include border transportation infrastructure planning, programming, construction and/or management:

Recognize the bilateral nature of border transportation issues and that the latter can be most effectively addressed jointly;

Reaffirm that international trade is dependent upon well-coordinated transportation planning processes along the border;

Acknowledge that the United States (U.S.) and Mexican border region transportation assets are experiencing congestion issues that must be addressed to avoid adverse trade and environmental impacts; and

Convinced of the need to better coordinate planning at the federal, state, regional, and local level to improve transportation infrastructure in the border region of their respective countries, including at formal ports of entry (POEs) and the transportation infrastructure serving formal POEs,

Hereby wish to create the Lower Rio Grande Valley - Tamaulipas Border Master Plan's Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group as follows:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

Under the direction of the U.S. / Mexico Joint Working Committee, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) hereby announces the establishment of the Lower Rio Grande Valley - Tamaulipas Border Master Plan Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group.

The government agencies and modal stakeholders will participate in the development of a Border Master Plan – a comprehensive approach for coordinating planning and delivery of POE and transportation infrastructure projects serving POEs in TxDOT's Pharr District and the correspondent Mexican State of Tamaulipas. Ideally, the prioritized projects included in the Border Master Plan would be incorporated into the respective planning and programming processes of the individual participating stakeholders at the federal, state, regional, and local levels in the U.S. and Mexico.

SECTION 2: LINE OF REPORTING

The Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Working Group will cooperate with and provide required information to TxDOT – through its contracted representative – for the development of the Lower Rio Grande Valley - Tamaulipas Border Master Plan. TxDOT, in turn, reports to the U.S. / Mexico Joint Working Committee for this project.

SECTION 3: RESPONSIBILITIES

The Policy Advisory Committee will be responsible for providing direction, approving the study parameters, and reviewing and approving the criteria for the future evaluation of projects. The main objectives of the Policy Advisory Committee are outlined below:

- Establish clear parameters for the Border Master Plan, including defining the “Focused Study Area” and “Area of Influence”, the time horizon for data analysis, and other parameters that may need to be defined.
- Ensure that the Border Master Plan objectives are comprehensive and consistent with stakeholder plans, strategies, and goals.

- Review and approve proposed criteria for prioritizing improvements to existing or new POEs and the transportation infrastructure within the border region connecting to existing or new POEs.
- Attempt to incorporate the Border Master Plan’s findings and priorities into their agencies’/company’s own planning and programming processes, as well as into appropriate transportation and POE planning and funding documents.
- Commit resources and staff to ensure the timely exchange of available information and data needed to successfully develop and complete this Border Master Plan.
- Facilitate the exchange of information for ongoing and future planning and implementation activities.
- Participate in future Border Master Plan updates and/or other study recommendations as approved.

The Technical Working Group will be responsible for collaborating with TxDOT’s contracted representative by providing requested information in a timely manner and by making recommendations to the Policy Advisory Committee. The main objectives of the Technical Working Group are outlined below:

- Assist in the Border Master Plan’s development by providing TxDOT’s contracted representative with data and information in a timely manner.
- Review transportation and POE infrastructure assessments, proposals, and other pertinent information as requested by TxDOT’s contracted representative.
- Assist with the selection of criteria – to be endorsed and adopted by the Policy Advisory Committee - to prioritize improvements to existing or new POEs, as well as transportation infrastructure projects serving those POEs.
- Make recommendations to the Policy Advisory Committee and serve as a resource to TxDOT’s contracted representative to maximize the opportunities to successfully develop and complete this study.

SECTION 4: MEMBERSHIP

Government agencies and modal stakeholders (e.g., rail, ports, and ferries) whose mandate or objectives encompass border transportation infrastructure planning, programming, construction and/or management have been invited through ANNEX I (herein attached) to participate in the Border Master Plan Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group. Each government agency/modal stakeholder will be asked to designate executive level managers to serve on the Policy Advisory Committee. Each government agency/modal stakeholder will also designate senior staff to serve on the Technical Working Group.

Through ANNEX I, additional parties, including Border Partners, are invited to participate in meetings and assist the Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group on specific tasks as work progresses.

SECTION 5: MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

It is anticipated that the Policy Advisory Committee will meet three times. Individual Technical Working Group members will be interviewed and consulted by TxDOT’s contracted representative during the course of the study. In addition, it is anticipated that the Technical Working Group will meet three times. The term of the project is from September 2011 through May 31, 2013. Committee and Group meeting locations will alternate among U.S. border cities.

SECTION 6: DURATION OF EXISTENCE

The Lower Rio Grande Valley - Tamaulipas Border Master Plan Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group will exist until the conclusion of this Border Master Plan and/or its subsequent updates.

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LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY – TAMAULIPAS BORDER MASTER PLAN



ANNEX I to the Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Working Group Charter

** Note: Please submit only one form per stakeholder agency.*

*** In the case of the Transportation and Communications Secretariat, one form per General Direction/IMT will be admitted.*

SECTION 1 Agency Stakeholder Information

Do you represent a:

Government Agency

Transportation Mode

Border Partner

Name of Agency/Organization: _____

SECTION 2 Policy Advisory Committee Member Information

Name: _____

Email address or telephone number: _____

SECTION 3 Technical Working Group Member Information

Name: _____

Email address or telephone number: _____

SECTION 4 Border Partner Contact Information

If you represent a Border Partner who wishes to participate in the development of the Border Master Plan, please provide the name and contact information of a member/official to which invitations should be addressed:

Name: _____

Email address or telephone number: _____