



May 17, 2010

To: All Members, Transportation Policy Board

From: Sid Martinez

Subject: Director's Report

- 1. Continuing Phase Agreement Agency Approval Status Update** – Last month, the Board took action to approve changes to the MPO Policies (bylaws), which now require changes to the MPO's Continuing Phase Agreement between Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, VIA Metropolitan Transit and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). In order for the changes to that agreement to become effective, all four signatory agencies to the agreement must approve and sign that document. Bexar County is currently scheduled to take that document before the Commissioner's Court at their May 25th meeting. The City of San Antonio is planning to take the document before City Council at their June 10th meeting. Once the document is approved, we can begin circulating the originals for final signature and execution by all four entities.
- 2. Walk and Roll 2010 Wrap-up** – the MPO, along with our partner agencies, hosted the 14th annual Walk and Roll Fest on Saturday, May 15th at HemisFair Park. The Fest highlights healthy and smart transportation alternatives. Close to 400 individuals participated in the event, which included food, a live band and exhibitors distributing information on the benefits of healthier modes of transportation.
- 3. Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Discretionary Grant Program** – the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced its intent to award up to \$600 million through the TIGER discretionary grant program. This is the second round of funding, which will be awarded on a competitive basis. All highway or bridge, public transportation, passenger and freight rail and port infrastructure capital investment projects are eligible for this funding. Pre-applications are due by July 16, 2010 with final applications due on-line no later than August 23, 2010. Unlike the first round of funding which guaranteed 100% of the project cost, these funds will require a 20% local match. All selected projects must be federally obligated by September 30, 2012. The federal notice for this grant program is attached for your information.

4. **Texas Freight and Passenger Rail Visioning Workshops** – The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is asking for help as it develops a comprehensive Rail Plan for Texas. The plan will serve to guide future actions of both the public and private sectors as they work to meet the rail needs of people and goods. TxDOT will be hosting seven visioning workshops throughout the State to gather input for this important plan. The closest workshop for San Antonio will be held in Austin on Friday, May 21, 2010. The meeting will be from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the TxDOT District Office Training Center located at 7901 North IH 35. A workshop announcement including RSVP and meeting details is attached for your information.

5. **Executive Session language as a recurring item on the agenda** – Please note that now that we have hired an attorney to represent the organization, we will be adding standard Executive Session language to every Policy Board meeting agenda. Although we do not expect to adjourn into Executive Session at every meeting, the Board does have a right to speak about the issues listed at its discretion.

6. **Potential cancellation of the June 2010 Transportation Policy Board meeting**
As of today, there are no pending issues that require action at a June TPB meeting, therefore, the meeting may be cancelled. You will be notified with a final decision over the next few weeks.

7. **The MPO Office will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.**