

CORPUS CHRISTI



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

April 7, 2022

The Honorable Pete M. Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Secretary Buttigieg:

Hon. David R. Krebs - Chair
San Patricio County Judge

The Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization **supports** the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the ***Yorktown Boulevard Complete Streets Project (Project)*** submitted by the City of Corpus Christi. The **Project** is located in the City of Corpus Christi and is designed to increase capacity and resiliency of the infrastructure while improving personal safety for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling along the corridor.

Charles W. Zahn, Jr. - Vice Chair
Port of Corpus Christi
Commission Chairman

Hon. Paulette Guajardo
City of Corpus Christi Mayor

Hon. Cathy Skurow
City of Portland Mayor

Hon. Barbara Canales
Nueces County Judge

Dan Leynedecker
Corpus Christi Regional
Transportation Authority
Board Chairman

The **Project** will reconstruct Yorktown Boulevard from Rodd Field Road in the Southside Community to the Oso Creek Bridge to the east. Our regional demographic analysis determined that the **Project** serves the historically disadvantaged area of the Flour Bluff Neighborhood. Expanding the corridor from two (2) lanes to four (4) lanes with a landscaped median, separated bike facilities, and ADA-compliant sidewalks on both sides of the road provides for a safe and reliable multimodal facility serving all users.

Valente Olivarez, Jr., P.E.
Texas Department of
Transportation - Corpus Christi
District Engineer

The Corpus Christi MPO has allocated approximately \$40 million for this Yorktown Corridor in our fiscally constrain list of projects as part of the Regional Transportation Plan. The proposed improvements to the Yorktown corridor will enhance mobility and accessibility in a corridor critical to local, regional, and state interests. Recent residential growth in this part of the region is focused in this area and has placed significant travel demands on the existing, narrow 2-lane roadway that lacks accommodation of either transit or non-motorized travel. This project will create opportunity for motorists, users of public transportation, and non-motorized users to more easily and safely access destinations along this corridor. The only other corridor that provides emergency evacuation from the Flour Bluff area requires a 5-mile detour in a high-risk flood and hurricane zone.

602 N. Staples St., Suite 300
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Telephone: 361.884.0687
Email: ccmpo@cctxmpo.us
www.corpuschristi-mpo.org

The RAISE grant would accelerate the project to completion and deliver the operational and safety improvements for all users of the corridor in a more timely manner.

Yorktown Boulevard is south of Texas State Highway (SH) 358 and runs parallel to SH 358 between the Flour Bluff and Southside areas, which are both experiencing population growth and expanding development. Without adequate emergency evacuation routes, the extreme weather conditions resulting from climate change are leaving residents within the Southside and Flour Bluff areas susceptible to storm impacts. For emergency evacuations, the City includes two designated emergency evacuation routes to direct traffic movement inland from Flour Bluff including Yorktown Boulevard and SH 358. SH 358 is a limited access freeway that crosses Oso Bay and the only connection to Padre Island. Yorktown Boulevard is the only alternative evacuation route to SH 358 because it also crosses the Oso Bay.

The **Project** is the next step in the City's effort to improve community resilience by improving east-west safety and operational capacity for the area's only other evacuation route. The **Project** will also improve community connectivity and provide critical safety improvements for residents and visitors to the area through multimodal facilities and access management. This section of Yorktown Road is the only road that connects to both the US Navy's Waldron Landing Field (NWL) and to Cabaniss Landing Field.

Also, Del Mar College recently broke ground for their new Oso Creek Campus at Rodd Field Road and Yorktown Boulevard. This campus is vital to meeting the educational needs and workforce training challenges facing the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Region. The **Project** will improve safety and provide access to essential economic and educational activity throughout the southern portion of the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Area.

The Yorktown Boulevard corridor is vital to the local economy and those traditionally underserved communities in the Southside and Flour Bluff areas. For the Corpus Christi MPO, the **Project** will deliver one of our regional priorities in our Metropolitan Transportation Plan that has been selected through a performance-based process including local elected and appointed officials, technical experts, and the public.

The Corpus Christi MPO fully supports this RAISE grant to deliver the **Yorktown Boulevard Complete Streets Project** and strongly recommends the award of funding for this **Project**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert MacDonald".

Robert MacDonald, MPA, P.E.
Transportation Planning Director