

REAP
Rural Empowerment Advancement Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Celeste Cavazos

Phone: 956-739-4455

Email: REAP.cc1@gmail.com

Connected and Growing
Rio Grande City Strategic Plan
Public Conversations

[Rio Grande City, TX April 9, 2018] The Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation (RGCEDC) has partnered with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB) and Rural Empowerment Advancement Program (REAP) to revisit the “Rio 2020 Strategic Plan” and develop for Rio Grande City a high-level strategic plan, the “Connected and Growing – Rio Grande City Strategic Plan.” This initiative is made possible through the generous support of BBVA Compass.

The “Connected and Growing – Rio Grande City Strategic Plan” will focus on Transportation, Economic Development, Civic Affairs and Water and Utilities. A total of two (2) public workshop sessions scheduled for Saturday, April 21st starting at 9 am till 3 pm. Each session will have a presenter(s) that are subject matter expert(s) on the topic and will provide information that will help stimulate conversation with the audience. The engagement will aid the Rio Grande City community in thinking and planning for the future.

The first public conversation session, “Quality of Life, Skilled Workforce & Identifying Target Industries” will have speakers - Zachary “Zach” Mannheimer, Principal of Creative Placemaking and Frank Almaraz, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions. This session will provide the audience with new and creative ideas for growing communities. It will also provide data, both past and current, regarding skilled workforce and industries that have been identified and/or emerging for our community and region. The second session, “Transportation – Local & Regional, Where Were We, Where Are We and Where Are We Going?” speakers - Pedro “Pete” Alvarez, Pharr District Engineer TxDOT; Jose “Joe” Escamilla, VP, Starr-Camargo Bridge Co. & Border Trade Alliance; and Tom Logan, Transportation Director, Valley Metro. During this session the speakers will also provide data/information that is historical, current and that looks towards the future. The session will begin at 9 am at City Hall, 5332 E. US Hwy 83, Rio Grande City, TX.

Rio Grande City Strategic Plan public conversation sessions are open to all residents of Rio Grande City and we encourage participation from all sectors. We especially would like to see local youth; small business owners and entrepreneurs participate. If you would like additional information on the leadership series sessions please visit Rio Grande City Economic Development Corporation's Facebook page: @rgcedc.org or email Celeste Cavazos.

Rural Empowerment Advancement Program (REAP) is a consulting team comprised of individuals who have worked with 79 rural counties in the South-West Texas Border.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Celeste Cavazos at 956-739-4455, or email REAP.cc1@gmail.com.