

# Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority

## 2014 RMA Status and Project Report

December 1, 2014

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WCCL-RMA) petition was jointly submitted to TxDOT in late 2013 by the Webb County Commissioners Court and the Laredo City Council. This WCCL-RMA petition was approved by the Texas Transportation Commission at its February 27, 2014 meeting in Laredo. The WCCL-RMA petition identified several projects to be undertaken with the WCCL-RMA priority project being the upgrade of Loop 20 to interstate design standards from US 59 to the entrance into the World Trade International Bridge IV. As a related matter, the Transportation Commission at its February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting re-designated this portion of Loop 20 as US 59 as well as a part of the "Future" I-69 system in order to meet federal protocols for upgrading existing roadways to interstate designations. At this same time, the Transportation Commission also re-designated the urban portion of US 59 from the Loop to IH 35 as Business US 59. Based on these actions and after it was certified as meeting interstate standards by TxDOT, AASHTO and the Texas Transportation Commission, FHWA officially re-designated the portion of US 59 (Loop 20) from west of IH 35 to the World Trade International Bridge entrance as a portion of I-69W on June 17, 2014.

After the approval of the WCCL-RMA Petition and in the Spring and Summer of 2014, the Webb County Commissioners Court and the Laredo City Council nominated seven of the eight WCCL-RMA board members; the Governor named the Presiding Officer in the Fall of 2014. These eight Board Members were sworn in by State Senator Judith Zaffirini at the inaugural November 17, 2014 WCCL-RMA Board Meeting after which the Board began work on the organizational tasks that will be implemented over the next several months that will make the WCCL-RMA fully operational. At this time, the WCCL-RMA Board Members are as follows:

### Governor's Appointee:

- Mr. Ruben Soto, Jr. – Presiding Officer

### Webb County Appointees:

- Mr. Albert Muller, Sr.
- Mr. Steve LaMantia – Treasurer
- Ms. Viviana Frank – Vice Chairman
- Mr. Carlos Flores - Secretary

### City of Laredo Appointees:

- Mr. Enrique S. Valdez
- Mr. David Arredondo
- Mr. Jose Murillo
- (One Board Member to be Named At A Later Date)

Ms. Melisa Montemayor, the TxDOT-Laredo District Administrator, provided a detailed presentation on the projects identified in the WCCL-RMA Petition to the Board. All of these projects identified in the 2014 WCCL-RMA Petition will provide for improvements to the transportation infrastructure on a national, regional and local scale. These currently identified projects include:

- The Upgrade of US 59 (Loop 20) to Interstate (I-69W) Standards – This the WCCL-RMA's Priority Project
- The Construction of the New Location Loop 20 (Cuatro Vientos Road) Southern Extension to US 83 south of Laredo
- The Construction of Interchanges on Southern Loop 20 (Cuatro Vientos Road) at Four Arterial Street Intersections

- The Upgrade of US 59 to Interstate (I-69W) Design Criteria from the Laredo City Limits to the Duval County Line
- The Construction of the New Location Green Ranch Parkway from IH 35 to FM 1472 in Northern Laredo

The WCCL-RMA Board is currently scheduled to meet next on December 15, 2014 to discuss in detail and start the approvals of organizational matters such as adoption of bylaws, standard operating procedures, staffing, facilities, etc. A workshop is also tentatively scheduled at this Board Meeting to provide the Board information on the operational and legal details of RMAs as well as operational details on potential sources of local, state and federal funding that could be used by the WCCL-RMA for transportation projects in Webb County. The details on the mechanisms of local funding initiatives are to be discussed including funds from the vehicle registration surcharge (\$10 per vehicle that is currently being collected), County and City Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZ), and other local funding sources. Also to be discussed at this Board Meeting is a primer on how the planning processes of the WCCL-RMA, the City of Laredo, Webb County, the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization, TxDOT and FHWA will operate and interact.

*R Soto*      *12/1/14*

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Ruben Soto Jr., CPA  
Presiding Officer  
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