



Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority 2015 RMA Status and Project Report

December 16, 2015



The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA) petition was jointly submitted to TxDOT in late 2013 by the Webb County Commissioners Court and the Laredo City Council. This WC-CL RMA petition was approved by the Texas Transportation Commission at its February 27, 2014 meeting in Laredo. The WC-CL RMA petition identified several projects to be undertaken with the WC-CL 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.

At the time of this report, the WC-CL 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
- Mr. Oscar Lopez – Vice-Chairman
- (One Board Member to be Named At A Later Date)

City of Laredo Appointees:

- Mr. Jose Murillo - Secretary
- Mr. Alfonso Mendiola
- Mr. Paul Saenz
- Mr. Arturo Dominguez

The WC-CL RMA Board has met on a monthly basis in 2015 with the exception of January. Actions of particular note taken by the Board in 2015 include:

- The adoption of by-laws, policy code and drafting of the WC-CL RMA strategic plan.
- The selection of legal firms – J. Cruz & Associates, LLC and Locke Lord LLP.
- The selection of a General Engineering Consultant (GEC) – HNTB Corp.
- The selection of a financial advisory firm – Estrada-Hinojosa & Company.
- The completion of the inter-local agreement with Webb County for the transference of the \$10/vehicle registration fees that the County has been collecting since January 2014.
- The selection of a banking institution for RMA's depository –Commerce Bank.

- The development and implementation of the WC-CL RMA website (<http://www.webbrma.com/>). All official postings and WC-CL RMA information are now being placed on this website.
- The board approval for the Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds, approximately \$40 Million that were identified in the approved 2014 WC-CL RMA Petition for use by the WC-CL RMA, to be used by TxDOT for the construction of the US 59/Loop 20 Mainlanes over IH 35 and the Union-Pacific Railroad line in northern Laredo. This project would be a segment of the US 59/Loop 20 upgrade to interstate design standards that was the primary project identified in the 2014 WC-CL RMA Petition and would complete the upgrade of another 2.2-mile of the US 59/Loop 20 corridor to I-69W design standards. This project is currently scheduled to go out for construction bidding in August 2016. Currently, approximately 1.7-miles of the US 59 Loop is officially designated as I-69W.
- The identification of a new-location project, Vallecillo Road in northern Laredo, for preliminary engineering and environmental analysis by the GEC. Discussions with the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) are underway on determining the project funding options that would best utilize the WC-CL RMA's currently available funds.
- Instructing the GEC (HNTB) to begin work on the US 59/Loop 20/ Future I-69W project from International Blvd. to US 59 in the near future but after the preliminary design and potential funding information that the TxDOT – Laredo District is currently finalizing. More detailed work by the GEC is anticipated to be underway in December 2015 or early January 2016.
- This past year, the Board held several educational programs by actively bringing experienced presenters in to provide information on topics such as RMA operations and requirements; State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) Loans; Design-Build projects; Laredo roadway infrastructure studies; and views and input from other RMA executive directors and staff with established and successful programs.

The WC-CL RMA has not expended any expenses or sponsored work on any projects in 2015.

Ruben Soto, Jr., CPA
Presiding Office
Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority