

Webb County - City of Laredo  
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, January 22, 2019  
9:00AM

**Minutes**

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:06 a.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at TxDOT's Laredo District STRATIS Meeting Room, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

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Minutes are as follows:

**Present:** Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Jose Murillo, Jesus Romero, Oscar Lopez, Arturo Dominguez, Alfonso Mendiola, and Douglas Howland.

**Absent:** No one was absent.

**Others:** David Salazar, TxDOT, Laredo District Engineer  
Melissa Montemayor, TxDOT Laredo District Administrator  
Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr., (note taker)  
Mike Graham, TxDOT  
Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Janece Marquez, TxDOT  
Steve Trautmann, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC  
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB  
Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord LLP

**1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum**

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members were present: Jose Murillo, Arturo Dominguez, Jesus Romero, Oscar Lopez, and Alfonso Mendiola. He notified everyone present that a notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, and then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Welcome and Introduction of Board Members - Ruben Soto, Jr. (WC-CL RMA Presiding Officer)**

Chairman Soto informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and thanked TxDOT for hosting and videotaping the meeting.

**3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of June 11, 2018 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the September 28, 2018 meeting minutes for review. He then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA meeting that took place on September 28, 2018 as presented. Jose Murillo made a motion and a second made by Jesus Romero to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Chairman's Report**

**A. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chairman Soto informed the board that the last payment of Vehicle Registration Fees of \$1,031,720 from Webb County was received on November 29, 2018. He added, currently we have a checking account balance of \$2,111,736.01 as of 1/22/19. The checking account balance decreased due to opening a \$6 million 3-month CD at an interest rate of .0085.

Funds disbursed since the last meeting were to:

HNTB Corp \$71,149.62 (WA #4)  
Locke Lord LLP \$20,154.25  
J Cruz & Associates LLC \$2,053.00

**B. Surety Bond**

Chairman Soto continued by letting the directors know that if they hadn't secured their bond insurance, to please do so, the RMA will reimburse each board member for their bond directly.

**C. Board Resignation**

Chairman Soto informed the board that Mr. Steve LaMantia had submitted his resignation Effective 12/31/18.

**D. Other Updates**

**Compliance Reporting, Project Financing, and Project Development**

Chairman Soto informed the board that HNTB had completed and submitted the Compliance Report on 12/31/18. He continued to inform the board that the Eminent Domain Report due to the State Comptroller will be due January 31, 2019 and that he would ask Brian O'Reilly from Locke Lord LLP to assist in the preparation of the report. He further stated that the Compliance Report to TxDOT will be due February 27, 2019 and he will again ask HNTB to help with the compilation of the report.

Chairman Soto notified the Board that the Audit was underway and that the auditor would be Laredo on February 6, 2019.

Chairman Soto informed the Board that The Build Grant that the city had applied for was not awarded. The Build Grant was for the widening of I69 from World Trade Bridge to I35. He did inform the Board that an infra grant application was due on March 4, 2019 and more discussion on this would be at a later agenda.

**5. Action Item (Resolution 19-01): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on Election of Officers (Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer).**

Chairman Soto informed the Board it was time to elect new officers and if there were any nominations for the current year. Mr. Arturo Dominguez nominated Oscar Lopez to the office of treasurer; Jose Murillo nominated Douglas Howland to the office of Vice Chair; Oscar Lopez nominated Arturo Dominguez to the office of secretary. The motions were seconded by Jesus Romero and same were unanimously approved.

**6. Action Item (Resolution 19-02): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding with Webb County Regarding Vehicle Registration Fees.**

Chairman Soto informed the board that last year, Webb County had proposed to amend the MOU with the RMA to change payment of VRFs frequency from monthly to quarterly. The amended MOU was previously presented to the board for review and a request for a motion to approve was made by Alfonso Mendiola and a second by Arturo Dominguez, the motion was unanimously passed.

**7. Action Item (Resolution 19-03): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the WC-CL RMA FYE September 30, 2019 Budget.**

Chairman Soto informed the Board that previously they had been supplied with a copy of the proposed FYE 9/30/19 Operations and Capital Budgets for review. Mr. Soto went over the budget briefly.

Mr. Soto then asked if there was a motion to approve the fiscal year end 9/30/19 Budgets as presented. On a motion made by Alfonso Mendiola and a second by Oscar Lopez, same was approved unanimously.

**8. Action Item (Resolution 19-04): Discussion and Possible Action to Adopt TxDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.**

Chairman Soto introduced Brian O'Reilly, attorney from Locke Lord, to explain why we need to adopt TxDOT's federally approved DBE program. After further discussion the item was put to a vote. On a motion made by Oscar Lopez and a second by Jose Murrillo same was unanimously approved.

## **9. Action Item (Resolution 19-05): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the Development of the North Laredo-Webb County Transportation Planning Study.**

Chairman Soto then asked Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB to inform the board of the timeline and reasons for this AFA. Mr. Rodriguez informed the Board that this had been in play since March 2017. It involves a study of what improvements are needed in northern Laredo from Loop 20 to I35 to SH255 with the river bordering the west side. It looks at the traffic flow and the improvements and looks at what will be needed in the next 20 to 40 years. The RMA previously made a presentation to the MPO requesting Tx DOTs support to possibly fund the study with remaining CBI funds and the RMA funding a portion as well. Janece Marquez, from Tx Dot informed that Board that it was ready to be signed by the RMA Board and explained the process going forward.

Chairman Soto then asked for a motion to approve the AFA with TxDOT. A motion was made by Arturo Dominguez and a second by Alfonso Mendiola, same was unanimously approved.

## **10. General Engineering Consultant Report**

Chairman Soto then asked Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB GEC, to give the board an update on ongoing activities. Mr. Rodriguez reported on the following:

- PM Richard Ridings and DPM Antonio Rodriguez supported Chairman Ruben Soto in a meeting with representatives of the Killam Company to discuss the Inter Local Agreement for Vallecillo Road on 10/10/18.
- PM Richard Ridings and DPM Antonio Rodriguez supported Chairman Ruben Soto in discussing with the City Manager the forthcoming Inter Local Agreements for Vallecillo Road, Los Presidentes and the Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes on 10/12/18.
- DPM Antonio Rodriguez coordinated with Locke Lorde on the draft Inter Local Agreements for Los Presidentes, Killam Turn Lanes and the Vallecillo Road Pass Through Finance from 11/19/18 to 11/20/18. Mr. Rodriguez then asked Brian O'Reilly, legal counsel for the RMA, the status on the Vallecillo agreement. Mr. O'Reilly stated that TxDOT is reviewing agreement and since it is unclear how strong the assurance from the City is on their financial commitment before continuing on with agreements with all parties. Melisa Montemayor added that the Debt Finance Management Finance Division of TxDOT wants to make sure all aspects comply with what's necessary for submittal of the formal application.
- PM Richard Ridings and DPM Antonio Rodriguez supported Chairman Soto in a discussion with Locke Lorde regarding the development of the draft Interlocal Agreements for Los Presidentes, Killam Turn Lanes and the Vallecillo Road Pass Through Finance on 11/21/18.
- DPM Antonio Rodriguez supported the Chairman in providing write-ups to the City of Laredo for the upcoming Legislative Agenda. We specifically provide write-ups for Vallecillo Road and Loop 20 (IH 69W Corridor) from International Blvd. to Saunders.
- DPM Antonio Rodriguez supported Chairman Soto in developing the 2018 RMA Annual Report for submittal to TxDOT.

- DPM Antonio Rodriguez, prepared for a meeting with City of Laredo City Manager Horacio De Leon to present the Loop 20 South TRZ Planning Study on 10/11/18.
- PM Richard Ridings and DPM Antonio Rodriguez supported Chairman Ruben Soto in presenting the Loop 20 South TRZ Planning Study.
- PM Antonio Rodriguez then discussed the upcoming round of INFRA Grant Awards and the history thereof and the possibility of the RMA to assist the City in applying for an INFRA Grant. This topic will be brought before the MPO meeting later this afternoon.

#### **11. Report: Update from TxDOT on the Status of Projects in the TxDOT Laredo District.**

Chairman Soto then introduced Mr. Carlos Rodriguez from TxDOT to bring us up to date on what was happening with TxDOT projects.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that on the Kansas City Railroad project, the main lanes north, south bound and north bound frontage road were opened. Next is on South bound frontage lanes and pedestrian bridge and completions is at 87% complete. He expects that to be completed weather permitting by late April 2019. The main lanes over IH35 on Loop 20 project is 55% complete. He expects that project to be completed by December 2019. After that work will be let on direct connector#5 going west bound on Loop 20 to south bound IH 35. At the same time work will be let on the Shiloh railway bridge overpass.

#### **12. Open Public Forum/Comment Period**

No comments were made.

#### **13. Report: Date/Time/Location of the Next Regular Board Meeting**

Chairman Soto mentioned to the Board that he will announce the next meeting and location when warranted. However, he will soon call for a telephone conference for the board to act on a work authorization for the Infra Grant.

#### **14. Adjournment.**

On a motion made by Arturo Dominguez and a second by Jose Murillo meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

**MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY - CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 22nd, 2019 WERE APPROVED ON THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.**

Submitted by:  
Araceli Rangel, Adm. Assistant to  
Ruben Soto, Jr. CPA

