

Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, June 20, 2016
9:00 AM

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo, Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:01 a.m. on Monday, June 20, 2016 at the TxDOT Laredo District Office, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

Minutes are as follows:

- Present:** Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Alfonso Mendiola, Arturo Dominguez, Oscar Lopez, Jose Murillo and Steve LaMantia.
- Absent:** Albert Muller, Sr., and Board Member for Precinct 1 (Unassigned)
- Others:** Pete Alvarez, TxDOT Laredo District Engineer
Melisa D. Montemayor TxDOT Laredo District Administrator
Mike Graham, TxDOT Environmental Specialist
Marissa Montoya, Office Technician, TxDOT Laredo District (note taker)
Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr. (note taker)
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB
Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord, LLP
Maria Elena Camarillo, Poznecki Camarillo, Inc.
Donald J. Gonzalez, Estrada Hinojosa

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Alfonso Mendiola, Arturo Dominguez, Oscar Lopez, Jose Murillo, Steve LaMantia and himself, Ruben Soto, Jr.. He also stated that Albert Muller, Sr. was absent. He notified everyone present that the meeting was 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 Mrs. Melisa Montemayor and Mr. Pete Alvarez for hosting the meeting. He also thanked TxDOT's Mike Graham for recording, and Marissa Montoya and Araceli Rangel for assisting with the minutes and preparation for the meeting.

3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of April 25, 2016 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the April 25, 2016 meeting minutes for review. He then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA meeting that took place on April 25, 2016, as presented.

Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Alfonso Mendiola to approve the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

A. Financial Report

B. Report on Surety Bond Requirements for Board Members

C. Update on New Board Appointee

D. Update on Issuance of RFQ for Financial Auditing Services

E. Report on San Antonio to Monterrey High Speed Rail Meeting

- A. Chairman Soto stated that currently there are still vehicle registration fees being held by the county that have not been disbursed. He has been in communication with all parties, one of them being the Chief Deputy Auditor, Mr. Rafael Perez in order to prepare monthly wire transfers.

Currently the RMA has a bank balance of \$3,343,974.41. Funds dispersed since the last meeting in April were \$62,374.95 to HNTB for Work Authorizations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Also disbursed was \$7,013.87 to Locke Lord LLP.

- B. Brian O'Reilly stated that the RMA code, chapter 370, requires that each board member have a surety bond executed in the amount of \$25,000 and that the treasurer and the secretary have a \$50,000 surety bond. The statute also requires the RMA to pay the cost of those bonds.

Mr. Soto stated that he recently contacted an insurance company locally and they gave him an application form. He will be emailing it to RMA Board. Mr. O'Reilly stated that the funds to pay for these bonds will have to come from funds which are not required to be spent only on transportation projects.

- C. Brian O'Reilly stated that the new board appointee serves on the board of directors for several non-profits in the area. Under TxDOT's rules, there is a provision on the conflict of interest regulations that says a board member cannot participate in the management of an organization that receives funds from the County or City. These non-profits receive

funds from the County and/or City, however there is an opportunity for an exception because the appointee received no personal financial gain. The RMA has communicated with the City to request an exception to this prohibition and the RMA has also posted a notice on the RMA website to inform the public of the potential conflict. Mr. Soto stated that the request would be addressed to the local District Administrator and Director of TxDOT with a copy to the RMA, but it has not been received yet. It would then be submitted to the Texas Transportation Commission for approval.

- D. The fiscal year ends in September and the RMA would like to have their auditor in place before that time. Mr. Soto stated that Mr. O'Reilly was in the process of working out the RFQ. Mr. O'Reilly said that it was largely complete and they are ready to issue it.
- E. On June 1st, Mr. Soto said that he attended a conference in San Antonio given by Congressman Henry Cuellar and Commissioner Jeff Austin, which was called the Future of South Texas Transportation, the San Antonio to Monterrey high speed rail. Right now it is in the early stages. They are looking at two routes; one would go through McAllen and the other potential route is through Colombia Laredo. Currently TxDOT is doing a feasibility study to determine which the best route is and whether it's feasible. Mrs. Montemayor stated that TxDOT had a workshop about two years ago on the rail feasibility study. She said she would distribute a copy of the summary of what was being discussed at the time. Public and private partnerships were one of the concepts to finance that rail.

5. Action Item (Resolution 16-20): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 6 with HNTB for Preparation of an Industry Review Meeting for the Loop 20 Project.

Chairman Soto stated that he invited the board to consider scheduling an industry review and meeting the prospective contractors. Mr. Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, stated that this was the first step of procurement that they had discussed before with the MPO. The scope of work includes outreach to specific developers and deciding upon a location to hold the workshop. The post-workshop activities would be the compilation of all the information they would get from the workshop; what kind of interest, or questions were posed and what kind of information it provided. They would compile that into meeting minutes and provide a report to the RMA. It would have a synopsis, recommended conclusions and next steps. That synopsis presentation would be given to the board and the MPO. He stated that if the RMA board passes this resolution, it would take about 3 to 4 weeks for procurement.

Mr. LaMantia asked several questions on the scope of work and the maximum not to exceed amount of the work authorization. Chairman Soto asked for a motion to authorize resolution 16-20, work authorization no. 6, with HNTB for preparation of an industry review meeting for the Loop 20 project. Oscar Lopez made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo. Mr. Lopez questioned whether they should get the financing cleared up first or if they should pass the resolution now, but not start any work on it until they have a clear picture of financing.

Mr. O'Reilly stated that they could authorize the expenditure of the funds now but not authorize them to proceed with work without the written authorization of the executive committee.

Mr. Oscar Lopez stated that he would like to amend his motion to read that they authorize the expenditure to finance the workshop put together by HNTB, but until they have authorization from the executive committee then at that point they can start the work.

Mr. Lopez made a motion to authorize the expenditure of the funds for a workshop to invite potential developers and contractors, and HNTB postpone expenditures on this project until they receive authorization from the executive committee to proceed. That motion was seconded by Steve LaMantia. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-20 for additional information.

6. General Engineering Consultant Report

A. Update on Progress of the Vallecillo Road Project TRZ Feasibility Study Under Supplemental Work Authorization No. 1.2.

Mr. Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, stated that at the last board meeting, the board authorized HNTB to move forward for an assessment for a possible TRZ for Vallecillo Road. The original work authorization no. 1, where they were authorized to develop a financial plan for Vallecillo led to further review of the feasibility of a TRZ

Please view attached power point for additional information.

7. Action Item (Resolution 16-21): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 1.3 with HNTB for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Vallecillo Road Project.

Mr. Soto stated that they would have to depend on federal and state funding in order to move this project quicker. They have to get the project shovel ready, in order to do that they would have to commence with an environmental study. Mr. Soto stated that in order to move forward with Vallecillo and get it shovel ready, they need the environmental assessment. Board members asked questions regarding the scope of work and amount of the fee under the work authorization.

In light of the number of outstanding issues raised from Board member questions, Mr. Rodriguez stated that he would recommend that TxDOT, Mr. Graham review the scoping fee and where it is in regards to other projects and the scale of work. He recommended tabling the resolution for now.

Mr. Soto stated that they would table this agenda item and not vote on it until a later date. Mr. Soto stated that it was important that they move forward with this and get it ready and try to combine it with the Loop 20 project.

Mr. Steve LaMantia made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jose Murillo to table this agenda item for the next meeting. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-21 for additional information.

8. Report: Update from TxDOT on the Status of Projects in the TxDOT Laredo District.

Mrs. Montemayor stated that on 1472, they just finished an overlay that Angel Brothers Construction Company completed between Sombretillo Creek and Colombia Toll road. That same company is also working on US 83, South Zapata Highway between Chacon Creek and Palo Blanco near the HEB. That contract will finish by the end of June. SER Construction is working on Loop 20, the project is Spur 400-Loop 20 overpass project. The work on the east side frontage road is 90% complete. Overall the project is at 32% complete, so it's moving along really well. Once they finish the east side, they are going to start on the west side frontage road. They should be finished by March 2018. The Oscar Renda Construction project which is the KCS grade separation widening of the overpass and the at grade frontage roads over the overpass. That project just started and they are 10% complete. It should be finished around August 2018. North on Loop 20, Anderson Colombia just started on the International grade separation.

Mr. Arturo Dominguez asked if they were cleaning the Loop 20 and I35 area. Mrs. Montemayor stated that they were going to use those dirt piles for International.

He also asked whether that border structure money was going to stay the same. Mrs. Montemayor stated that the Rider 11-B, or CBI money will stay the same. Part of the money is going to the urban area of Eagle Pass on US 277, to widen that section from US 57 to SL 480 to a 5 lane urban section. The rest of the money will go to developing and constructing the super 2 passing lanes, which is between Eagle Pass and Del Rio.

Mr. Pedro Alvarez stated that this week they would be hosting Chairman Lewis. They will give him a tour and show him the things that are ongoing in Laredo. Hopefully they will have a better understanding from the TxDOT Commission perspective of what is going on here. Accompanying him is our Executive Director, James Bass. Hopefully that helps bring more attention to our community.

9. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

None.

10. Report: Date/Time/Location of the Next Regular Board Meeting.

Chairman Soto stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, July 18, 2016, 9 a.m. Location TBD.

11. Adjournment.

Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Alfonso Mendiola to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 10:22 a.m. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY - CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2016 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 18th DAY OF JULY 2016.

Submitted by:
Marissa J. Montoya
Office Technician
TxDOT Laredo Dist.