

Webb County – City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)
Board of Directors Special Meeting
Tuesday, January 29, 2019
2:00PM

Minutes

The Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a telephone meeting at 2:03 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 7917 McPherson Rd. Suite 203 Laredo, Texas 78045.

Minutes are as follows:

On the Call: Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Jesus Romero, Arturo Dominguez, Jose Murillo, Oscar Lopez, and Douglas Howland.

Absent: Alfonso Mendiola

Others: Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr., (note taker)
J. Cruz & Associates, LLC
Antonio Rodríguez, HNTB
Richard Ridings, HNTB
Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord, LLP
Mike Graham, TxDOT

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 2.03 p.m. He then announced the following Board Members were present at 7917 McPherson Rd. Ste 203, Laredo, Texas or would participate in the meeting through a telephone conference call, as authorized by Sec. 370.262, Texas Transportation Code and Article XI of the WC-CL RMA Bylaws: Jesus Romero, Arturo Dominguez, & Jose Murillo. Oscar Lopez and Douglas Howland. He notified everyone present that a notice of the meeting had been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks—Ruben Soto (RMA Presiding Officer)

Chairman Soto then welcomed all parties to the call and announce that the phone conference was being recorded.

3. Chairman's Report

A. Other updates—Regarding Compliance Reporting, Project Financing & Project Development.

Chairman Soto then announced that a new Board member Appointee—George Beckelhymer, has been appointed by Webb County Commissioner John Galo.

4. Action Item (Resolution 19-06): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve a Financial Commitment for an Application for the U.S. Department of Transportation INFRA Grant Program.

Chairman Soto informed the Board that at the last MPO meeting on Jan. 22, he asked the Policy committee what project they would prefer the RMA to apply for an INFRA grant.

He notified the MPO that the RMA's recommendation was for the Loop 20 project from Intl Blvd. to University Blvd., overpasses and access roads. With much discussion, the MPO unanimously approved that this project be the one that the RMA apply for on behalf of the City of Laredo.

Chairman Soto then asked Tony Rodriguez from HNTB, our GEC, to explain to the the board the INFRA Grant. Mr. Rodriguez then continued:

- a) The INFRA Grant is the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America Program that is a competitive discretionary grant program administered by the US DOT. Originally, the grant program was called the FAST Grant. The RMA in a previous year submitted a FAST Grant Application in 2016 for the Loop 20 overpass at Jacaman Rd.
- b) For this round, we will be submitting on acquiring funding for the upgrade of Loop 20 to Interstate Standards.
 - The limits of the project request for Loop 20 will be from International Blvd. to University Blvd which constitutes approximately 4 miles of roadway.
 - The total construction cost is approximately **\$132-133M**.
 - On hand, the community has **\$79.6M** (Category 2 Funding) for the proposed overpasses at Shiloh Road (\$27.4M), Del Mar (\$30.7M) and University Blvd (\$21.5M). This amount represents the State Local Match.
 - The RMA would like to pledge **\$10M** for the project as part of the local funding match (\$8.95M from TxDOT RMA matching funds and the \$1.05 from RMA funds).
 - The RMA will work with the City and County to pledge an additional **\$10M** for the local match.

- The results in a grant request of approximately **\$33M**. This amount in conjunction with the \$20M of local match from the WCCL RMA, City of Laredo and Webb County will be utilized for the frontage road construction to go along with the proposed overpasses.
 - The ROW acquisition of the project is currently ongoing by TxDOT staff.
 - It should also be noted that the design of the project is currently ongoing by the TxDOT Laredo District with their consultants from International Blvd. to SH59, however the grant application covers from International Blvd. to University Blvd. due to ROW issues at the other two overpasses (Jacaman and Airport).
- c) For the INFRA Grant, we will be providing the Grant Application Services as an agency for the City of Laredo.
- The City of Laredo will be the main sponsor of the grant.
 - In support of the grant, TxDOT Laredo District will provide us with an updated construction cost for the corridor to account for the limits we have described and any updated traffic data they may have for the Benefit Cost Analysis.

Chairman Soto mentioned that since funds are already allocated to the three overpasses (Shiloh, Del Mar and University) this application is highly leveraged with local participation dollars and hopefully has a good chance.

Chairman Soto then asked the RMA board if there was a motion to commit \$10 million from the RMA for the INFRA Grant application. On a motion by Jesus Romero and a second by Douglas Howland motion was unanimously passed.

5. Action Item (Resolution 19-07): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 9.0 with HNTB for Preparation of an Application for the U.S. Department of Transportation INFRA Grant Program.

Chairman Soto asked Tony Rodriguez to supply the board the cost of preparing the application for the INFRA Grant. Mr. Rodriguez replied that the application work authorization is for \$62,058.

In support of the grant, TxDOT Laredo District will provide us with an updated construction cost for the corridor to account for the limits we have described and any updated traffic data they may have for the Benefit Cost Analysis.

The application is due via grants.gov on 3/4/19 by 7 pm. We will be submitting the application to the City of Laredo, the sponsor of the application, no later than 3/1/19 COB.

Chairman Soto then asked the RMA board if there was a motion to approve Work Authorization No. 9.0 with HNTB for preparation of an application for the U.S. Department of Transportation INFRA Grant Program.

On a motion by Jose Murillo and a second by Arturo Dominguez motion was unanimously passed.

6. General Engineering Consultant Report

Antonio Rodriguez continued with the GEC report.

- a) Regarding the ILA Agreements for Los Presidentes and Killam Turn Lanes, the City of Laredo Legal Department is reviewing and will provide their comments. We anticipate having to schedule a meeting to review their comments and resolve their questions.
- b) Regarding the Vallecillo Road, TxDOT is awaiting concurrence from their Debt Finance Group regarding the City of Laredo and whether entering into an agreement to pledge their \$5M contribution as part of the Vallecillo Pass Through Finance Application is sufficient for the financial plan of the project.
- c) We are still awaiting notification from the City of Laredo regarding presenting to City Council the results of the Cuatro Vientos Loop 20 South TRZ Study that we completed last year.

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

Chairman Soto will notify board as soon as the next board meeting is warranted and location to be announced.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Soto asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion made by Oscar Lopez and a second by Jose Murillo, meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY – CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS PHONE CONFERENCE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 29th, 2019 WERE APPROVED ON THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.

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