

Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2016
9:00 AM

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo, Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:09 a.m. on Monday, April 25, 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, Jose Murillo, Oscar Lopez, Arturo Dominguez and Alfonso Mendiola.

Absent: Albert Muller, Sr., Steve LaMantia 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)
Richard Ridings, HNTB
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB
Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord, LLP
Juan Cruz, J. Cruz & Associates LLC

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Jose Murillo, Oscar Lopez, Arturo Dominguez, Alfonso Mendiola and himself, Ruben Soto, Jr. He also stated that Steve LaMantia and Albert Muller, Sr. were absent. He notified everyone present that the meeting was 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 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 March 21, 2016 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the March 21, 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 March 21, 2016, as presented.

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

4. Chairman's Report

- A. Update on WC-CL RMA Bank Account**
- B. Financial Report**
- C. Update on Development of the WC-CL RMA Strategic Plan**
- D. Update March 29th TRZ Presentation to Webb County Commissioners Court**
- E. Update on April 13th TRZ Workshop with Webb County and the City of Laredo**

- A. Chairman Soto stated that currently there are still registration fees being held by the county that have not been disbursed since December. He stated he would contact the county auditor and follow up. Mr. Juan Cruz stated that if they don't receive a response, they will place it on the Commissioners Court agenda for the next meeting.
- B. Currently the RMA has a bank balance of \$3,413,363.23. Funds dispersed since the last meeting was to HNTB for \$39,143.38 which included work authorizations one, two and three, and J.A. Cruz and Associates LLC for \$7,163.50.
- C. Brian O'Reilly and Mike Graham are continuing to draft the strategic plan. Mr. Soto invited the Board to participate with any input towards a more detailed, long term game plan.
- D. On March 29th, there was a TRZ presentation to the Webb County Commissioners Court given by Carlos Lopez of HNTB, Travis James of TXP, who conducted the study, and Brian O'Reilly from Locke Lord LLP. No action was taken at that time. The county judge requested a workshop be scheduled to discuss the details. The workshop was scheduled for April 13th.
- E. On April 13th, a workshop was held with the county and the city of Laredo and the attendees included the mayor, county judge, and other local officials. For TxDOT, those

that attended were Melisa Montemayor, Mike Graham and Ana Duncan. Oscar Lopez and Steve LaMantia attended from the RMA

5. Action Item (Resolution 16-16): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Dedication of WC-CL RMA Funds for the Development of the Loop 20 Project.

Chairman Soto stated that at the April 13, 2016 workshop and the following April 18, 2016 MPO meeting, the understanding was that Loop 20 would be the priority project. At the meeting Mr. Soto presented a worksheet with different scenarios regarding funding participation and elimination of different overpasses to make that project feasible. Total estimated cost is \$292 million. These are costs that were previously estimated by another engineering firm. These six overpasses also include the IH35 - Loop 20 overpass. There are two applications for FASTLANE grants, TxDOT authorized HNTB to prepare one for them which has to do with the Loop 20 - IH35 overpass and as well as a direct connectors going from west bound Loop 20 to south bound IH 35 and the RMA hired HNTB to do an application for the Jacaman overpass. Should either grant application be successful, then the current CBI funding of \$39 million allocated to Loop 20/IH 35 overpass can be utilized for the rest of Loop 20's overpasses.

The first scenario presented was to eliminate either the Loop 20/IH 35 overpass or the Shiloh overpass and apply \$39 million CBI funding and utilize a 10% county TRZ participation and a 50% percent city corridor TRZ. The second scenario involved eliminating the Shiloh overpass, apply \$39 million CBI funding and utilize a 5% County TRZ and have City match that amount. The RMA will fund \$8.89 million which is a TxDOT match of 5 years of the annual vehicle registration fee collection. Mrs. Montemayor stated that it was approved at the last TxDOT Commissioners meeting. It is a one-time match and it will be available for use starting September 2016. Under this scenario there would be an estimated balance of \$150 million. Neither of these scenarios account for any right-of-way donation.

Mr. Ridings stated that the TRZ monies have yet to be placed or collected. Mr. Soto stated that since the city and the Killam's are still in negotiation over the TIRZ, it is unknown what that resulting right of way would be given to the Loop 20 project. That amount is instrumental as to what the balance of dollars would be to complete this project. Until that is known, they won't know what the shortfall is. The MPO decided to wait for more concrete numbers before the city and the county could commit to a dollar amount, but at the end of the meeting, they did vote in favor of having the RMA, the city and the county collectively provide one half of the total cost of Loop 20 project not to exceed \$150 million dollars. Funding amounts sourced by each entity will be determined once the right of way contribution was known; thereafter they can take this plan to Austin and ask for the funding. Alfonso Mendiola asked what the timeframe was on the \$150 million, as in how long that price was good. Mr. Soto stated that the longer they wait, the higher it

goes. He is hoping to present this package in the summer and hopefully get some funding. These projections involve the RMA contributing the 5 year match from TxDOT for this project.

Chairman Soto asked for a motion regarding the approval of resolution 16-16 for the dedication of the RMA funds to the development of the Loop 20 project. Alfonso Mendiola made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-16 for additional information.

6. Action Item (Resolution 16-17): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support Approval of Work Under Work Authorization No. 4 with HNTB for an Engineering Review of the Espejo-Gates Project.

Chairman Soto stated that Commissioner John Galo suggested that the RMA participate in the Espejo-Gates Road project. The location is North West, right before the Dimmit county line. It's a 14-18 mile stretch of road. This involves the construction and rehabilitation of the existing Espejo-Gates Road (Highway 83 Frontage Rd. to 5.4 Miles East) under the County Transportation Infrastructure Fund (CTIF) consisting of roadway reconstruction, grading, lime treatment, subgrade, base, Asphalt concrete pavement drainage structures and pavement markings; as per specifications adopted by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). There was a prior meeting with the county engineer and the committee involved to discuss the preliminary plans. Ruben Soto, Oscar Lopez and Steve LaMantia were present at that meeting. To demonstrate the role of the RMA, Mr. Soto stated that they could support the county in doing a basic review on that project. They would ask HNTB to give the project an overview.

Chairman Soto asked for a motion to approve work authorization no. 4 to HNTB, resolution 16-17, for an engineering review of the Espejo-Gates project. Jose Murillo made a motion, seconded by Oscar Lopez. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-17 for additional information.

7. Action Item (Resolution 16-18): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 1.2 with HNTB for Development of a Transportation Reinvestment Zone Feasibility Study for the Vallecillo Road Project.

Mr. Soto stated in order to request local funding from the city and county for the Vallecillo project, it was advisable to conduct this study so they know what money will be generated by the city corridor TRZ. Once accomplished, they can present it to the parties involved.

Mr. Soto asked for a motion regarding the approval of resolution 16-18 for work authorization no. 1.2 with HNTB for the development of a TRZ feasibility study for the Vallecillo Road project. Alfonso Mendiola made a motion, seconded by Oscar Lopez. Mr. Dominguez asked about the

timeframe. Mr. Ridings stated it would take about 30 days. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-18 for additional information.

8. Action Item (Resolution 16-19): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 3.2 with HNTB for Work on the Local Funding Options Study for WC-CL RMA Projects.

Mr. Ridings stated that this was for services performed for the Webb County Commissioners Court meeting and making that presentation on the TRZ feasibility study. They are asking to be reimbursed for the hours and expenses involved with that presentation.

Mr. Soto asked for a motion to approve resolution 16-19 for supplemental work authorization no. 3.2 to HNTB for work on local funding options study for WC-CL RMA projects. Oscar Lopez made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-19 for additional information.

9. General Engineering Consultant Report

A. Update on Progress Under Current Work Authorizations

Mr. Ridings stated that they would bring everyone up to date on everything HNTB has been involved in since they started with work authorization no. 1 for Vallecillo financial plan. The finance process is complete and a financial plan is now part of the RMA's official record. They had a supplemental work authorization no. 1 for a cost estimate for the RMA board's use for the March board meeting. As of now, all deliverables for this work authorization are complete. Since cost will go up about 4 to 6%, the cost estimate for Vallecillo will change due to inflation. They will move forward with the city TRZ study to determine the actual revenue that would be produced on that project. They have already produced the limits and a rough estimate based on work that TxDOT had previously performed. This would complete that activity.

He stated, in regards to Loop 20 financial plan, as they recommended, was to get the project built as quickly as possible, preferably through TRZ funding from the city and the county, RMA funds and any other fund source. That financial plan has been completed. Next issue was the alternative finance sources for Loop 20. Work Authorization No. 4 on Espejo-Gates project should be completed within 30 - 45 days. Work Authorization No. 5 was for grant application services; all deliverables were completed. Mr. Soto submitted the document for review and approval. They will continue to pursue other grant funding sources.

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

Mrs. Montemayor stated that on US 83, South Zapata Highway there is an overlay by the HEB. That overlay is 99% complete. That project is part of the Laredo biking route, the west frontage road on I-35 between Loop 20 and Tres Equis and also between Carrier and Uniroyal. That overlay is 55% complete. The construction at the entrance of the TxDOT office is because of the Spur 400-Loop 20 overpass project. SER construction is working on east side frontage road. They are about 40% complete, once they finish that, they will be moving the traffic over to work on the west side of the frontage road. Just south of Loop 20-Spur 400 project, Oscar Renda is working on the KCS grade separation widening of the overpass and the at grade frontage roads over the overpass. They had a 90 day delay on that project, however they are currently setting up traffic control. They are getting ready to start that project next month. They expect to have that project completed and open to the public by August 2018. North on Loop 20, Anderson Colombia will be starting the International overpass in June. Right next to the McPherson overpass. That project is expected to last about 15 months. On May 18th, TxDOT will be having a groundbreaking ceremony and she anticipates Commissioner Bugg to attend.

Mr. Soto asked Mrs. Montemayor if the overpass on 59 over Saunders was going to turn into a three-lane going both ways. Mrs. Montemayor said it should. They have right of way that they purchased in 2007.

11. Open Public Forum/Comment Period

None.

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

Chairman Soto stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, May 16, 2016, 9 a.m. Location TBD.

13. Adjournment

Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 9:55 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 APRIL 25, 2016 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 20th DAY OF June 2016.

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