

Webb County - City of Laredo  
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, June 19, 2017  
9:00 AM

## Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 19, 2017 at TxDOT - Laredo District Meeting Room, 1817, Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

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Minutes are as follows:

Present: Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Jesus Romero, Steve LaMantia, Albert Muller, Jose Murrillo, Oscar Lopez, Arturo Dominguez, and Douglas Howland.

Absent: Alfonso Mendiola

Others: Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, Laredo District Engineer  
Melissa Montemayor, TxDOT Laredo District Administrator  
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT Area Engineer  
Albert Ramirez TxDOT Planning and Development Director  
Marissa Montoya, TxDOT (note taker)  
Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr., (note taker)  
Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord LLP  
Juan Cruz, Cruz & Associates LLC  
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB  
Don Gonzales, Estrada Hinojosa & Company

### 1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Jesus Romero, Steve LaMantia, Albert Muller, Jose Murrillo, Oscar Lopez, Arturo Dominguez, and Douglas Howland. 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's, Pete Alvarez and Melisa Montemayor for hosting the meeting. He also thanked TxDOT's Mike Graham for videotaping, Marissa Montoya, and Araceli Rangel for assisting with the minutes and preparation for the meeting.

## **3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of April 24, 2017 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the April 24, 2017 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 April 24, 2017 as presented. Douglas Howland made a motion, seconded by Arturo Dominguez to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4A. Chairman's Report-Financial Report**

Chairman Soto informed the board that the last time vehicle registration fees had been received was on March 2, 2017 in the amount of \$1,229,550.000. On June 14, 2017 he emailed the County requesting the vehicle registration fees be transferred on a monthly basis as per the interlocal agreement. As of yet, there has been no reply. He has requested Mr. Juan Cruz to assist in this matter.

Regarding our bank balance, we currently have \$5,428,301.77 as of today. Last funds disbursed were to HNTB on work authorizations 1, 4 and 6 of \$17,682.63 and Locke Lord LLP for \$4,093.71.

### **4B. Update on Completed and Pending Reports Texas Freight Mobility Plan Input to Texas Freight Advisory Committee:**

Chairman Soto had previously instructed our GEC to assist the RMA in formalizing our comments to the Texas Freight Advisory Committee. He had previously emailed board members a copy of the responses to the Texas Freight Regional Stakeholder questionnaire that addresses our concerns and is included in your notebook.

Last week on June 13, the second workshop on the Texas Freight Mobility Plan took place with a very healthy discussion in the breakout groups regarding which routes should be included in the National Critical Freight Corridor.

Not only were those routes discussed, but also roadways that we envision in the future to alleviate congestion and connectivity.

**5. Action Item (Resolution 17-08): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Laredo and Webb County for the Provision of Operating Funds.**

Chairman Soto informed the board that past efforts to secure funding for our operations from the City and County had not been successful. With the assistance of our legal counsel we now have a proposed interlocal agreement requesting funding, that with the board's blessing will be presented to the city and county.

A copy of the agreement along with a worksheet detailing funds requested for both past and budgeted expenses are included in your notebook.

On a motion made by Mr. Jose Murrillo and a second by Mr. Albert Muller, the board unanimously approved Resolution 17-08.

**6. Action Item (Resolution 17-09): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of the FM 1472 Project from Loop 20 to Hachar Loop.**

Chairman Soto reminded the board that at the last meeting they had discussed this topic and the importance of planning for a direct connector from WTB to FM 1472 as well as the eventual goal of converting FM1472 into a highway system. It was also decided that we would discuss this with TxDOT before going any further.

A consensus was that we should first get the MPO's approval that the RMA take the lead before taking the next steps.

Chairman Soto then asked Mr. Tony Rodriguez from HNTB to please brief the board on this project: Mr. Tony Rodriguez proceeded to inform the board as discussed off-line at the April 2017 MPO meeting, the RMA is prepared to take the lead in project development. Phase 1 is a Feasibility Study (Planning, Environmental Linkages Study); PEL is useful since it essentially starts the NEPA process earlier during the feasibility phase as opposed to during the schematic design phase; WCCL RMA could invest some of its vehicle registration dollars, but would need assistance from the MPO; Possible funds from MPO could be Category 7, Rider IIB or remaining 2010 CBI.

Ms. Melisa Montemayor was then asked to please briefly explain to the board the steps needed to progress on this project should the RMA take the lead. Ms. Montemayor introduced their transportation planning and development director Mr. Albert Ramirez. Mr. Ramirez proceeded to inform the Board that he had put together a flow chart and it could be found in their binders. He explained the process in detail.

Chairman Soto then asked, Is there a motion to support the Project Development of FM 1472 from Loop 20 to Hachar Loop contingent upon the MPO's approval? On a motion made by

Albert Muller and a second by Arturo Dominguez, the board unanimously approved Resolution 17-09.

#### **7. Action Item (Resolution 17-10): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of the Outer Loop Project from Hwy 59 to Hwy 359.**

Chairman Soto informed the board that he had met with the County Judge and County Commissioner John Galo. Commissioner Galo had expressed concerns over a lack of connectivity to and from Hwy 59/359 in case of an accident.

Planning for a road between 59/359 where it aligns with future outer loop will provide relief for such accidents. Mr. Steve LaMantia had a phone conversation with Mr. Clifford Hurd regarding this project and he sounded receptive, but wanted to see the possible alignment as shown in the Long-Range Thoroughfare Plan. HNTB will develop an exhibit with proposed alignment as shown in the MPO Long Range Thoroughfare Plan to be used for future discussions.

Mr. Steve LaMantia asked who decides where the outer loop goes and how far it goes? Chairman Soto asked Ms. Melisa Montemayor to address this question. Ms. Montemayor explained that about 10 to 12 years ago they hired a firm named Quantum from Australia. They looked for a very logical alignment for projects like the outer loop. Things looked at included geometry, the proximity to the community, environmental issues, different types of constraints whether they be environmental or buildings or drainages. As you know, when you go through a drainage area you try to look for the narrowest part because bridge structures are very costly. They take all these criteria into consideration and they entered all this criteria into a database that resulted in various alignments. Where the band of alignments is tightest, you see all these little bands of alignments make one single line and that is where they recommend as a proposed line to the outer loop because of all the constraints that are out there as far as proximity to the city. When they look at this alignment on their program the outer loop ended up being approximately six miles to the east of the existing Loop 20.

Chairman Soto put this item on the agenda to see how the board viewed the project and if it should be pursued with the MPO's approval.

Is there a motion to support the MPO in the Project Development of Outer Loop from Hwy 59 to Hwy 359? On a motion made by Albert Muller and a second by Jose Murrillo, Resolution 17-10 was unanimously approved.

#### **8. General Engineering Consultant Report.**

Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB updated the board on work authorizations and other projects including Vallecillo Road new location roadway that will span from FM 1472 to IH 35 SBFR. The proposed roadway will have a 150' ROW. The field work has been completed and they anticipate receiving a draft from EA for internal review in the next couple of months. The Laredo MPO has received all needed information for the project to be included in the MTP; a formal response to the Freight Mobility Workshop questionnaire sponsored by TxDOT from the WC-CL RMA has been developed; attended May meeting for the Laredo MPO Policy Committee; attended the Texas Freight Mobility Workshop; will be developing a Program Schedule for all projects to be

developed by the RMA; will be developing a System Map that shows traffic impacts by the implementation of the RMA projects; ad hoc work authorizations for any tasks or requests; updated the construction cost for Loop 20 and incorporated the cost needed for Cuatro Vientos. Full construction cost (excluding Jacaman and Airport) is \$260M; met with the County Judge and Commissioner Galo; met with Mayor Pete Saenz; met with City Councilman Algelt; coordinating scheduling Councilman San Miguel and Councilwoman Vielma over the next two weeks.

#### **9. Legislative Update.**

Mr. Brian O'Reilly from Locke Lord, LLP updated the board of legislative developments and provided an memo detailing relevant legislation adopted during the 85th Legislative Session.

#### **10. Update from TxDOT on the Status of Projects in the TxDOT Laredo District.**

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez stated that the SER project was 73% complete with estimated completion in January 2018. The Oscar Renda project is 42% complete with estimated completion in Fall 2018. On the International Project, we are about 45% complete it will be fully completed by December 2017. The Mines Road project is 45% complete. The concrete addition is partially complete. It should be completed at the end of August 2017.

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

No one signed on for public comments. But Mr. Soto relayed a comment he had received from a police Sargent regarding the accident from the flyover where a little girl died. He was suggesting to TxDOT or whomever is responsible, that warning lights should be installed so that vehicles exiting the direct connector from southbound IH 35 to I69 west can be warned in case traffic stalls ahead of them.

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

Chairman Soto mentioned that next meeting would tentatively be scheduled for July 17, 2017 or August 21, 2017 with location to be announced.

#### **13. Adjournment.**

Albert Muller made a motion, seconded by Jose Murrillo to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 10:20 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 19, 2017 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 21ST DAY OF AUGUST 2017.**

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