

Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
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 Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at L&F Distributors, 410 Crossroads Loop, Laredo, TX.

Minutes are as follows:

Present: Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Steve LaMantia, Alberto Muller, Alfonso

Mendiola, Jesus Romero, Jose Murillo, Arturo Dominguez, Jesus Romero, and Oscar Lopez.

Absent: Douglas Howland

Others: Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, Laredo District Engineer
Melissa Montemayor, TxDOT Laredo District Administrator
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT Area Engineer
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
Dan 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 9:01 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Steve LaMantia, Albert Muller, Jesus Romero, Jose Murrillo, Arturo Dominguez, and Oscar Lopez. 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 L&G Distributor's Steve La Mantia for hosting the meeting. He also thanked TxDOT's Mike Graham for videotaping, and Araceli Rangel for assisting with the minutes and preparation for the meeting.

3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of December 19, 2016 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the December 19, 2016 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 December 19, 2016 as presented. Albert Muller 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 asked Mr. Juan Cruz if there was any update on the vehicle registration fees. Mr. Cruz informed the board that there was no update. Steve LaMantia then asked if there was a formal correspondence to document communications between the County and Mr. Cruz and Mr. Cruz affirmed there was a paper trail. It just a matter of putting it on the commissioner's agenda. It was asked how many months were they behind. The response was since July of last year. It's about a million dollars sitting there where it should be a monthly transfer.

Regarding our bank balance, we currently have \$4,242,176.94 as of today. Last funds disbursed were to HNTB on work authorizations 4 and 6 of \$47,237.52 and Locke Lord LLC for \$1,996.50.

4B. Chairman's Report-Surety Bond Requirements for Board Members

Chairman Soto again reminded Board members of the option of paying for their own public official bond and having the RMA reimburse them once funds are available for that purpose.

4C. Chairman's Report-Update on Auditing Firm

The audit is still on going. We hope to have a draft soon. Hopefully, it will be completed in March. Once completed and presented to City and County, we hope to ask the both for reimbursement for expenses we have incurred in the past such as attorneys and financial advisor's fees.

4D. Personal Financial Statements Filing Deadline

Chairman Soto mentioned that in board member's packet you will see a handout from Locke Lord, LLP. It specifies you must file a personal financial statement through the Texas Ethics Commissions online filing system by no later than 5:00 p.m. May 1, 2017. You may request a 60-day extension of the filing deadline provided that a request in advance has been made before the regular deadline.

4E. Report on TxDOT Freight Mobility Plan Stakeholders 1-31-17 Meeting

TxDOT in partnership with Texas Freight Advisory Committees, federal, state, local, regional, private and public stakeholders are leading efforts to update the Texas freight mobility plan. Compliant with the 2015 federal transportation legislation which is fixing America surface transportation act, The FAST Act.

The update will help ensure that the transportation systems moves goods safely and efficiently throughout the state and continues to support Texas economic growth. Workshops are being held across the state and the first one was held on January 31, 2017 here in Laredo. TxDOT is looking for input from businesses, freight and logistic industries, along the state, regional and local government, economic development agencies, chambers of commerce, trade associations, residents and other interested parties in ways to improve the state's transportation. The workshop was well attended. TxDOT got an ear full of comments of those that were in attendance. Mr. Soto then asked Melisa Montemayor and Mr. Arturo Dominguez who were also present at workshop to comment.

Ms. Montemayor added: The freight mobility plan is a very important plan to the state of Texas. It recognizes projects on freight corridors that are vital to the economy of Texas. This freight corridor is like a clearing house for projects on the freight corridor such that should freight money or money toward these projects should become available can be looked at and brought forward for funding. The meetings being held statewide are there to receive input not only on what you feel are important but it's also to be able to reveal criteria that you feel are important along the freight corridors of Texas. So if you feel the volume of freight traffic, the value of freight traffic or the volume of capacity to lane miles are important, then those are the type of criteria the freight committee and TxDOT would like to hear from you.

Mr. Arturo Dominguez further stated that the working groups pitched in what criteria should be considered. Being that our population was so small and we need some other types of formulas to consider for funding. But we gave them some feedback. There was also a private consultant that did a survey that was important to them and we would all vote. They are coming back for round two. Impressed with the attendance I have instructed the GEC to be put on record.

5. Action Item(Resolution 17-01): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Amend the WC-CL RMA Policy Manual

Our policy code manual has been continuously updated with new policies. The revision before the Board has to do with an ethics and compliance policy. Mr. Soto then asked Brian O'Reilly to explain the new policy. TxDOT requires all RMAs to have in place an Ethics and Compliance Policy. Albert Muller made a motion seconded by Jesus Romero. Motion unanimously passed.

6. Action Item (Resolution 17-02): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Inclusion of the Vallecillo/IH35 Overpass Project in the Laredo MPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Mr. Soto asked Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB regarding the process to add to the MTP and explain to the board what that is. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the MPT is the long term blue print of

a region's transportation system. The last update was in 2015 when it was implemented to go to 2040 and the metropolitan transportation plan which is updated by the MPO. It can be revised at any time the policy board decides for any changes in projects or priorities. Ms. Montemayor expanded on the explanation: It's a 25-year plan of projects that the city of Laredo considers a priority for the community. There are short range, mid and long range projects in that long-term plan. The projects that are further out on years are not funded for construction but they are either on the long-term thoroughfare plan or they are called illustrative projects and those are wish list projects. Projects that don't have identified funding. The MTP basically holds again like the UTP that TxDOT has, but a longer range of data base projects should funding become available. They are prioritized based on criteria. Criteria is based on public meetings that the MPO and their consultant have pulled from the public in various meeting in developing the MTP. Also, available funding comes into play as well.

Mr. Rodriguez continued: The Vallecillo Road overpass is a long-term range project. The overpass at Vallecillo Rd and IH 35 is a very important project for the people here in Laredo. What the resolution calls for is that the chairman of the board to start working with the MPO staff to get the project on the tentative committee for consideration by the policy committee. Once it goes to the policy committee there is a 21-day comment period and if there are no comments from the public for or against that project then it goes for a vote to the MTP. It's a very straight forward process. It would be wise to put it on the table. Albert Muller made a motion and a second by Arturo Dominguez. All voted in favor.

7. General Engineering Consultant Report.

Mr. Soto then asked Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB Engineering to give an update to the board. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned the work authorizations going on right now: WA#1 Vallecillo Rd. and WA#6 Loop 20 Industry Review. Rodriguez proceeded with his report. For WA No.1, Mr. Rodriguez informed the Board that permission to begin the field work has been granted, and the team was finalizing execution of the Right of Entry documents. Anticipates commencement of the field work over the next month. For WA No. 4, Mr. Rodriguez noted that the GEC assisted the RMA in describing the 2017 RMA plans to the Laredo Morning Times and attended a Webinar on behalf of the RMA that covered a study of the first round of the FASTLANE Grant Act. Mr. Rodriguez provided a synopsis of the findings of the study. For WA No. 6, Mr. Rodriguez noted that the RMA had received the Opinion of Probable ROW cost for Loop 20 and outstanding items to be completed were the updated financial plan and commencement of the stakeholder outreach to members of City Council and Commissioners Court. Mr. Rodriguez noted that these tasks would commence over the next month.

8. Report from TxDOT on Unified Transportation Program Projects.

Melisa Montemayor explained that the UTP is a 10-year plan of projects. The difference between the MTP and UTP is that projects in the UTP are fiscally constrained or are funded and ready to go at their scheduled time. There is a strong possibility that the UTP will be enhanced by TxDOT with initiative project funding for Airport Overpass, Jacaman Overpass, Shiloh/RR improvements, direct connector 5 and Uniroyal overpass improvement. Pete Alvarez also mentioned that it important to have various entities work together and leverage dollars for projects to advance. He

also emphasized to continue to develop the next project so as to have project ready for future funding.

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

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez from TxDOT then gave a report on the status of Mines Rd., and Spur 400, Tex-Mex Railway, and International overpasses.

10. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

No one signed on for comments.

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

Chairman Soto mentioned that next meeting would tentatively be scheduled for March 20, 2017 with location to be announced.

12. Adjournment.

Jose Murillo made a motion, seconded by Alfonso Mendiola to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 10:11 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 February 21, 2017 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL 2017.

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