

Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2017,
9:00AM

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:05 a.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017 at TxDOT - Laredo District Meeting Room, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

Minutes are as follows:

Present: Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Jose Murrillo, Jesus Romero, Arturo Dominguez, and Douglas Howland.

Absent: Steve LaMantia, Albert Muller, Oscar Lopez, and Alfonso Mendiola

Others: Albert Ramirez, 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)
Juan Cruz, Cruz & Associates LLC
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB
Brad Peele, 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 9:06 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Jose Murrillo, Arturo Dominguez, Jesus Romero 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, Albert Ramirez and Melisa Montemayor 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.

3A. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of August 21, 2017 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the August 21, 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 August 21, 2017 as presented. Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Douglas Howland, to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

3B. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of October 26, 2017 Workshop Minutes.

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the October 26, 2017 Workshop Minutes for review. He then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA workshop minutes to be accepted as presented. Jesus Romero made a motion, seconded by Arturo Dominguez, to accept the workshop minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

4A. Chairman's Report-Financial Report

Chairman Soto informed the board that a payment from Webb County on vehicle registration fees had been received on November 2, 2017 in the amount of \$770,060.00. We currently have a balance of \$4,606,131.58 and Certificates of Deposit totaling \$2,000,000.00. Last funds disbursed were to HNTB on work authorizations 1, 4 and 6 for a total of \$126,750.99, Locke Lord LLP for \$3,527.56, and Estrada Hinojosa & Co. for \$11,483.39

4B. Surety Bond Renewals

- Chairman Soto informed the board that the following directors had paid their public official bond for the last fiscal year: Arturo Dominguez, Douglas Howland, Alfonso Mendiola, Oscar Lopez, Jose Murillo, and Ruben Soto, Jr.
- Chairman Soto asked if any director had renewed their bond, to please email him the date and amount of payment so it could be recorded on the books.
- For this fiscal year Chairman Soto had no record as of anyone renewing yet, except for Joe Murillo and himself.

4C. Other Updates

Chairman Soto also informed the board that several reports will be due soon:

- eminent domain report to State Comptroller report due 2/1/18- Brian O'Reilly will assist us
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- Annual report to TxDOT is due 12/31/17- HNTB will assist
- Annual audit due to City and County due 1/28/18 – due to funding issues, this audit may be delayed.

Chairman Soto updated the board with what transpired since the last meeting:

- 8/28/17 Presented request for funding to Commissioners Court (Tony, Brian,)
- 9/13/17 Met with Mayor, City Manager, Councilman Altgelt and City Planning Director Nathan Bratton:
 - Discussed the RMA offer to assist in Hachar Project,
 - Widening of IH 35 to HWY 59 TRZ to 3 miles for including future El Metro operations center site for possible funding,
 - swapping of lane miles with Vallecillo and San Bernardo for funding opportunities,
 - expanded TRZ at North Webb County Region
 - and preliminary discussion of Workshop items
- 9/18/17 Met with Councilman Vidal Rodriguez re: TRZ from HWY 59 to HWY 83
- 9/18/17 City Council passed a motion to proceed with TRZ from HWY 59 to HWY 83
- 10/26/17 Workshop update.
- 10/27/17 Met with Councilwoman Vielma to discuss workshop items related to her district as well as Bartlett St.
- 11/2/17 Met with County Judge and Lalo Uribe re: clarification of workshop message
- 11/2/17 Met with LMT reporter Julia Wallace regarding article

5. Action Item (Resolution 17-14): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 7.0 with HNTB for the Development of a Transportation Reinvestment Zone Feasibility Study for the Loop 20 Project from US 59 to US 83.

Chairman Soto informed the board that in a prior City council meeting, Councilman Vidal Rodriguez initiated that the City look into the viability of forming a TRZ from HWY 59 to HWY 83. Chairman continued; this is great news and the city has taken a step in the right direction towards progressing projects. I have previously supplied the board with a draft of this work authorization for your review.

Chairman Soto then called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from GEC firm, HNTB to explain this work authorization to the board.

This request, explained Mr. Rodriguez, is to determine the financial performance of a 2-Mile Wide Transportation Reinvestment Zone along Loop 20 from US 59 to US 83. This

study is a follow-up to the City Council action taken in September for a possible TRZ in this same area. Councilman Vidal Rodriguez of District II whom we met on September 18, 2017 to discuss this item favored this resolution, and he received majority support from Council. The effort will be a five-month effort from NTP for a total cost of approximately \$45K.

- 90% of the work will be performed by our subconsultants, Prime Strategies and TXP. They have performed similar work for us before in the past with the Webb Countywide TRZ Study and the Vallecillo Road TRZ Study.
- From a high level, the steps of the work will include the following:
 1. Work with Webb County Appraisal District to establish a baseline of historical tax revenue produced to date.
 2. The trends this baseline establishes will be projected out over a 30-year period. This will be the basis of the most conservative performance of the TRZ.
 3. TXP will determine what new developments are currently planned in the corridor by working with the City of Laredo.
 4. TXP will also interview major landowners along the Corridor to determine any long-term development plans that any may have over the 10 to 15 years.
 5. TXP will also look at any possible major improvements along the area that could spur economic development apart from the improvements of Loop 20.
- We will be providing monthly updates of progress of the study as it continues.
- The first draft submittal is anticipated to be presented during the March WCCL RMA Board Meeting.

When the study is completed, we will provide a presentation to Board of Directors and the Laredo MPO Policy Committee that has a synopsis in performance.

Chairman Soto then asked if there was a motion to approve WA 7 with HNTB?

Douglas Howland made a motion, seconded by Jesus Dominguez. Mr. Arturo Dominguez opposed the motion. Motion passed.

6. Action Item (Resolution 17-15): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize Estrada Hinojosa & Company, Inc. to Perform an Analysis of Leveraging WC-CL RMA Funds for the Development of Transportation Projects.

The Board had previously approved a budget for this fiscal year and included projected fees of \$7,500 to Estrada Hinojosa and Co.

This action item serves to authorize Mr. Don Gonzales and his firm to perform any analysis called upon by the board and related work not to exceed \$7,500. At one of our previous meetings it was

discussed to have Mr. Gonzales perform an analysis of RMA bonding of TRZ revenues compared to the City bonding instead.

Any work in the future that would exceed this threshold would require board approval.

Therefore, Chairman Soto called on Mr. Don Gonzales from Estrada Hinojosa and company to explain what the analysis would entail.

On motion made by Douglas Howland and a second by Arturo Dominguez, it was unanimously approved for Estrada Hinojosa & Company, Inc. to perform an analysis of leveraging WC-CL RMA funds for the development of transportation projects.

7. General Engineering Consultant

Chairman Soto again called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB for an update.

Mr. Rodriguez reported as follows:

- a) WA 01 - Vallecillo Road - New location roadway that will span from FM 1472 to IH 35 SBFR. Proposed roadway will have a 150' ROW
 - Environmental Operations have gone as far as possible without the project being financially constrained. To that end, only 20% of our subconsultant's budget was expended. With the budget expended they cleared the following items:
 - Cultural
 - Bio
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Archaeological
 - etc.
 - Also, we are almost complete with the schematic. We will be providing two schematics to you next month.
 - One schematic shows a simple tie-in to the IH 35 SBFR.
 - Another schematic shows an approach to allow for deceleration from the IH 35 SBFR to Vallecillo Road and an approach to merge into the frontage road. It also, shows a geometric accommodation for the future overpass at IH 35.
- b) WA 04 - GEC - Work Authorization is primarily used for adhoc requests from the Board to attend meetings, perform research, provide support and/ or develop technical memorandums.
 - We supported Chairman Ruben Soto at the Webb County Commissioners Court Meeting on 8/28/17 to discuss with the County the need for funds in covering the RMA overhead expenses which cannot be paid for with the VR monies.
 - We represented the WCCL RMA at the TxDOT IH 35 Consultant Contracts Kick-off Meeting on 9/12/17.
 - We supported Chairman Ruben Soto at a joint meeting with Webb County, the City of Laredo, TxDOT Laredo District, and the Hachar Trust to discuss and provide

- solutions for completing the Hachar Project for the community without exceeding the original project development budget on 9/18/17.
- We supported Chairman Ruben Soto at the August, September and October Laredo MPO Policy Committee Meetings.
 - We supported Chairman Ruben Soto at the Laredo City Council Meeting on 9/18/17 to discuss the TIGER Grant Application and the TRZ Study from US 59 to US 83 on 9/18/17.
 - We reviewed the City of Laredo Comprehensive Master Plan and determine areas where the WCCL RMA can focus to provide support in implementation. The GEC forwarded an e-mail to Chairman Ruben Soto on these items on 10/3/17.
 - We developed a technical memorandum for submittal to the Laredo MPO Policy Committee regarding the areas in transit that the WCCL RMA can provide support from an immediate and long-term perspective.
 - We reviewed the Draft Texas Freight Mobility Plan on behalf of the WCCL RMA and provided the comments for distribution by the WCCL RMA on 10/26/17. The comments were forwarded to TxDOT on 10/26/17.
 - We supported Chairman Ruben Soto at a luncheon attended by the County Judge, City Mayor, Congressman Cuellar and others to listen to the Mexican Undersecretary of North America discuss his thoughts on the state of NAFTA. At the luncheon, Deputy Program Manager Antonio Rodriguez met with the County Judge to arrange a follow-up meeting for the Strategic Workshop on 10/27/17.
 - Following the meeting with Councilwoman Vielma, Deputy Program Manager drove the Bartlett Corridor from Bustamante to Jacaman to assess her concerns on the traffic operations on 10/27/17.
 - We supported Chairman Soto in providing a response to the Laredo Morning Times article that covered the Strategic Workshop. The GEC assisted the Chairman in providing context to the quotes in the article that painted a very unflattering picture of the RMA. We also provided a feature article to the reporter from the workshop, Ms. Julia Wallace, to possibly publish in the Times that discusses the history of the RMA and the work done to date. As part of this effort, we supported the Chairman in an impromptu interview with Ms. Wallace.
- c) WA 06 - Loop 20 DB - Stakeholder Outreach and Financial Plan Update
- Met with Mayor Pete Saenz and City Manager Horacio De Leon on 8/28/17 to brief the Manager on the work that the RMA has done to date and discuss the topic of TRZs in the Laredo Community. The City Manager was supportive of the idea of TRZs in undeveloped areas. One area in particular that he supported was for the Outer Loop. The Mayor showed support for a “low impact” TRZ. From this meeting, the Manager requested that the RMA conduct a Strategic Workshop with the County and the City to discuss the community priorities with regards to Transportation.
 - Conducted a preliminary workshop discussion with Mayor Pete Saenz, City Manager Horacio De Leon, Councilman George Altgelt and MPO Executive Director Nathan Bratton on 9/13/17.
 - Met with Councilman Vidal Rodriguez on 9/18/17 to provide a status of the RMA and provide a briefing of the purpose of a TRZ. This helped lead to passage of support for a TRZ in the southern section of Loop 20.
 - We supported Chairman Soto on a conference call with Mayor Pete Saenz and City Manager Horacio De Leon on 10/23/17 to discuss the North Laredo/ Webb County

Transportation Planning Study, a possible TRZ along Mines Road, the TRZ study for Loop 20 from US 59 to US 83, a 3-mile corridor TRZ along Loop 20 from IH 35 to US 59 that could benefit the new Transit Station at Jacaman and Bartlett and the setback ordinance on 10/23/17.

- We supported Chairman Ruben Soto at the WCCL RMA Strategic Workshop on 10/26/17.
- We supported Chairman Soto in a one-on-one meeting with Councilman George Altgelt on 10/26/17 to provide a synopsis of the WCCL RMA Strategic Workshop and
- discuss the technical memorandum regarding Transit that will be distributed to the Laredo MPO Policy Committee on 11/20/17. Brad Peel from HNTB discussed this briefly and handed out outline. See Attached.
- We supported Chairman Ruben Soto on a one-on-one meeting with Councilwoman Nelly Vielma on 10/27/17 to provide a status of the RMA activities and discuss the TRZ on Loop 20 from IH 35 to US 59.
- We supported Chairman Soto in a one-on-one meeting with Judge Tano Tijerina to follow-up on the Strategic Workshop, and emphasize that the RMA exists at the pleasure of the County and the City on 11/2/17. As such, we have and will continue moving forward to perform tasks or investigate issues related to transportation that the MPO Policy Committee wants to investigate. We are the “Tip of the Spear” for transportation in the Community. It is the Laredo MPO Policy Committee that points us in the direction that they want us to take.
- Please note that we are closing out WA06. After discussion with the Chairman, our focus for alternative funding continues on Loop 20, but it is now expanding to FM 1472, the southern leg of Loop 20, the Outer Loop, etc. Also, since we are trying to be attentive to the Policy Makers in focusing on getting projects “shovel ready”, it seems more appropriate to transfer this effort as part of the GEC WA.

Other Items:

- d) Setback Ordinance (Brad Peel)
- e) Transit Support by the RMA (Brad Peel)
- f) North Laredo/ Webb County Transportation Study Presentation for Laredo MPO (Tony Rodriguez/ Brad Peel)
- g) Infrastructure System Project Approach Presentation (Tony Rodriguez)

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

Mr. Carlos Rodriguez stated that the SER project was 99% complete. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on November 17, 2017. There are still some modifications that need to be done. The Oscar Renda project is 55% complete; they are currently working on columns and caps on the frontage road. The International Project is 100% complete; there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on December 4, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. The hot mix has been completed on Hwy 359 so the major work has been done. The work north of the Border Patrol checkpoint will begin next week for the 2 miles remaining. There will be having a ground breaking for a new project on Loop20 & IH35 overpass on November 27, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. The contractor is putting up barriers on McPherson Rd. toward World Trade Bridge over the railroad tracks. Time of completion should be 2 years. The contractor will be the same one we used for SER.

9. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

No one signed up on the public comments.

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

Chairman Soto mentioned that next meeting would tentatively be scheduled for January 2018 with location to be announced.

11. Adjournment.

Jose Murillo made a motion, seconded by Jesus Romero, to adjourn the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA meeting at 10:39 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 NOVEMBER 20, 2017
WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 20TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2018.

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