

Webb County – City of Laredo  
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 27, 2019  
11:00 AM

**Minutes**

The Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 11:12 A.M, on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at TxDot’s Laredo District Meeting Room Lilac, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

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Minutes are as follows:

**Present:** Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer, Douglas Howland, Jose Murrillo, Alfonso Mendiola, George Becklehymer, Jesus Romero, Oscar O. Lopez, and Arturo Dominguez.

**Absent:** No one was absent.

**Others:** David Salazar Mike Graham, TxDOT Laredo District Engineer  
Mike Graham, TxDot  
Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Juan Cruz, J. Cruz Associates, LLC  
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB  
Araceli S. Rangel, Ruben Soto, Jr., CPA Note taker.

**1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum**

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members were present: Jose Murrillo, Arturo Dominguez, Jesus Romero, Oscar O. Lopez, Alfonso Mendiola, Douglas Howland, and George Beckleheymer. He notified everyone present that a notice of the meeting had been posed in accordance with the Texas Open Meeting Acct, 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 for hosting and videotaping the meeting.

**3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of January 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes.**

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the January 22, 2019 board 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 January 22, 2019 as presented. Douglas Howland made a motion and a second made by Jose Murrillo to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Discussion/Approval of January 29, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the January 29, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes for review. He then asked for a motion to accept the Special Board Meeting Minutes of the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA that took place on January 29, 2019 as presented. Oscar O. Lopez made a motion and a second made by Jesus Dominguez to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion as held. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Chairman's Report**

**A. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chairman Soto informed the board that the last payment of Vehicle Registration fees Of \$1,031,720.00 from Webb County was received on November 29, 2018. He added that we currently have a checking account balance of \$2,046,661.45 as of February 27, 2019. We also have \$6 million in a 3 month CD maturing March 27, 2019 at an interest rate of .0085. Funds disbursed since the last meeting were to:

HNTB Corp \$46,214.82 (WA 4)  
Locke Lord LLP \$2,251.24  
J. Cruz & Associates LLC \$883.50  
TxDOT on AFA \$10,000.00  
PMB Helin Donovan LLP \$5,250.00  
IBC Insurance Agency & Board Members for Bond Insurance \$475.00

**B. Other Updates – Regarding Compliance Reporting, Project Financing & Project Development:**

Mr. Soto thanked Brian O'Reilly from Lock Lord LLC for assisting the RMA in filing the annual Eminent Domain Report to the State Comptroller on January 15, 2019.

Mr. Soto informed the Board that the Compliance Report to TxDOT will be due February 27, 2019. He will be asking HNTB to assist in producing the report.

Mr. Soto proceeded to inform the Board that the Audit was underway. A draft had been supplied and the Chair has responded to with changes.

Mr. Soto also mentioned that the Infra grant application is due March 4, 2019

and Mr. Antonio Rodriguez will discuss the application in more detail later.

Mr. Soto further state that other developments would be discussed in the GEC's update agenda item.

**6. Action Item (Resolution 19-08): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 4.5 with HNTB for Continued Project Development Services.**

Chairman Soto then asked Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB to bring the Board up to explain Work Authorization 4.5. Mr. Rodriguez stated that they needed to have an extension of time on the current services for project development of the General Engineering Consultant Work Authorization from February 28, 2019 and to increase their budget to \$148,061.00 which would be used in the time frame. Since the last update to Work Authorization 4.5, the GEC has assisted the WCCL RMA with the following items that are current efforts:

1. Supported the RMA in executing the Advance Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the funding of the North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study. The funding for the study was procured through the Laredo MPO to use the Corridor Border infrastructure monies for the RMA to lead this study. The study cost is estimated at \$635K.
2. Supported the WCCL RMA throughout the last 6 months to develop and distribute to our various partner agencies draft inter Local Agreements to work to advance 7 projects that the RMA is leading.:
  - Vallecillo Road
  - Los Presidentes from Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills
  - Killam Industrial Blvd. turn lanes at FM 1472
3. Support the Chairman in meetings with members of City Council, Commissioners Court, MPO Meetings, City Council, etc.

Some of the initiatives that they will continue to assist the RMA advance with the extension are the following:

1. Support the RMA in executing the draft inter Local Agreements that have been discussed.

Chairman Soto then asked if there was a motion to approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 4.5 with HNTB for continued Project Development Services? On a motion by Jose Murrillo and a second by Alfonso Mendiola, same was unanimously approved.

**7. Action Item (Resolution 19-09): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action for the WE-CL RMA to Follow the City's Comprehensive Plan in Project Development.**

Chairman Soto informed the Board that on September 18, 2017, the Laredo City Council adopted the City of Laredo Comprehensive Master Plan ("*Viva Laredo*") to provide the basis for public policy in Laredo regarding physical and economic development.

A goal of *Viva Laredo* is to align its land use policies and infrastructure recommendations with the City of Laredo's capital improvement, Long-range utility, and transportation plans.

Chairman Soto encouraged the Board of the WC-CL RMA support the *Viva Laredo* and direct our consultants to follow the land use policies and infrastructure recommendations in *Viva Laredo* during project planning activities, to the extent such recommendations are consistent with the goals and objectives of the WC-CL RMA.

Chairman Soto then asked if there as a motion for the RMA to follow the City of Laredo's Comprehensive Master Plan in Project Development? On a motion made by Douglas Howland and a second from Jesus Romero, same was unanimously approved.

**8. Action Item (Resolution 19-10): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of the River Bend Road Project.**

Chairman Soto continued that last year we were given a presentation by Mr. Jose Medina, manager of Emerald River View Development Ltd., on the River Bend Road Project. This proposed road would run from Aquero Blvd. to AF Muller Memorial and on to Pico Rd. and eventually connect to FM 1472.

This proposed road is included in the City of Laredo's Long Range Thoroughfare Plan and vitally important for mobility of residents in the area and has widespread support.

Since the RMA is dedicated to improving mobility in the South Texas region and getting projects shovel ready, the development of the Project is consistent with our goal and we should support the development of the Project.

Chairman Soto asked the Board of Directors to authorize him to work with the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization, other necessary governmental entities and stakeholders to support the development of this Project.

No funds would be expended to support the development of the Project without further authorization by the Board of Directors.

Chairman Soto then asked if there was a motion to support the development of the River Bend Road Project up to Muller Boulevard and further to FM 1472 should the Long-Range Thoroughfare Plan be updated so that the RMA can participate? On a motion by Arturo Dominguez and a second by Oscar O. Lopez, same was unanimously approved.

**9. General Engineering Consultant Report**

Antonio Rodriguez, GEC Deputy Project Manager reported the following:

- 1) WA 09—INFA Grant Application: The Application is nearing completion and anticipate submittal on March 1, 2019. The City of Laredo will be performing the

upload. The WCCL RMA GEC will be providing guidance to the City of Laredo staff to perform the upload.

2) WA 04 – GEC:

- Supported the RMA Executive Committee in providing an orientation to new City Councilman Mercurio Martinez on February 5, 2019.
- Supported the RMA at the TxDOT Transportation Plan 2050 Long Range Planning Stakeholder meeting on February 5, 2019.

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

Chairman Soto then introduced Mr. Carlos Rodriguez from TxDOT to bring the Board up to date on what was happening with TxDOT projects.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Oscar Renda project of \$25.5 million, was 90% complete. They are doing a little bit of a milling and then the final overlay completion in maybe two months. The other minor little things that are missing is the electrical and the second handrail for pedestrian bridge. On IH35 and Loop 20, the SER Project is 65% complete it and will be completed late December 2019. Utilization of precast elements are helping speed it up. There is another project from HWY 359 & Loop 20, 4.8 miles out to the Webb Duval County line to improve the surface and in some areas do travel lanes. HWY 359 project is projected for 2020 completion.

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

No comments were made.

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

Chairman Soto mentioned to the Board that he will announce the next meeting and location when warranted.

**13. Adjournment**

Chairman Soto then asked if there was a motion to adjourn. On a motion date by Douglas Howland and a second by George Beckleheymer, same was adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY – CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 WERE APPROVED ON THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2019.

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