

Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, July 18, 2016
9:00 AM

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:06 a.m. on Monday, July 18, 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, Alfonso Mendiola, Arturo Dominguez, Oscar Lopez, Albert Muller, Sr. and Jose Murillo.

Absent: Steve LaMantia, and Board Member for Precinct 1 (Unassigned)

Others: Pete Alvarez, TxDOT Laredo District Engineer
Melisa D. Montemayor TxDOT Laredo District Administrator
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT Area Engineer
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)
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 9:06 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Alfonso Mendiola, Arturo Dominguez, Oscar Lopez, Albert Muller, Sr., Jose Murillo and himself, Ruben Soto, Jr.. He also stated that Steve LaMantia was absent. He notified everyone present that the meeting was 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 June 20, 2016 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the June 20, 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 June 20, 2016, as presented.

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

4. Chairman's Report

A. Financial Report

B. Update on Surety Bond Applications

C. Update on New Board Appointee

D. Update on RFQ for Financial Auditing Services

E. Update on Industry Review

A. Chairman Soto stated that currently there are still vehicle registration fees being held by the county that have not been disbursed. He has been in communication with all parties, one of them being the Chief Deputy Auditor, Mr. Rafael Perez in order to prepare monthly wire transfers. They are still unable to get a response. Mr. Soto asked for Mr. Cruz's assistance with the matter. Mr. Cruz agreed.

Currently the RMA has a bank balance of \$3,306,288.06. As of July 18, 2016, funds dispersed since the last meeting were to HNTB for \$37,686.35 for work performed under Work Authorizations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

B. Mr. Soto stated that he provided an application for a surety bond to each board member. He is still pending the application from Steve LaMantia and Arturo Dominguez. The quotes have been low. Mr. O'Reilly stated that the RMA Code specifies that the surety bond is a requirement of the statute that each board member has a \$25,000 coverage and \$50,000 for the treasurer and secretary.

C. Mr. Soto stated that the city has prepared a letter requesting an exception for the new board member appointment and it is currently under review at the city manager's office. Pending that approval, then they would go through TxDOT and the commission.

- D. Mr. Soto stated that he will be posting the RFQ to the website for financial auditing services. The deadline for questions would be August 15th and the response deadline is August 31st. Mr. O'Reilly stated that they would be posting it today, July 18th.
- E. Mr. Soto stated that in the last meeting, they passed a resolution to initiate an industry review on the Loop 20 project. There was a concern that the review should not be done until they had funding sources. Even though there is no funding plan for Loop 20, they believe an industry review will support the fact that there is interest in the Loop 20 project by utilizing the design build finance method. Such interest would indicate healthy competition that will result in competitive bidding and hopefully a lower cost for the project. These results may encourage the city and county to actively seek funding to commit to the project now rather than later. Mr. Antonio Rodriguez stated that the industry review would make the determination on who would be interested in the project, for design build. If the board approves to move forward, then they would be requesting supplementary proposals to see what kind of price tag would be added to this project. The longer they wait, the cost is going to increase and they don't have a solid figure on what the design-build cost would be. This would give them an idea of how much money it would take to implement the project. Mr. Soto said that the executive committee would be discussing it this week.

5. Action Item (Resolution 16-22): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Accept the Vallecillo Road TRZ Feasibility Study.

Chairman Soto stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Rodriguez presented the TRZ feasibility study for Vallecillo, in draft form. It has been finalized and this is a request for a motion regarding the acceptance of the Vallecillo TRZ feasibility study.

Albert Muller, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Arturo Dominguez to authorize the acceptance of the Vallecillo TRZ feasibility study. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-22 for additional information.

6. Action Item (Resolution 16-23): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 1.3 with HNTB for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Vallecillo Road Project.

Mr. Soto stated that at the last meeting, the board decided that TxDOT should review the scope of the environmental assessment work authorization. With the assistance from Mike Graham, TxDOT Environmental Coordinator, his observations were made known to our GEC. As a result there were minor changes made. Mr. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Graham did provide and review the scoping fee regarding the environmental assessment of this project. In his review comments, he had a comment on the scope and the schematic portion. Typically you have to provide what the

footprint is going to be at the project, so you can make a determination and in that process usually you'll provide multiple alternatives for implementation. In their scope, they provided three alternatives; the northern alignment, the preferred alignment and the southern alignment. They removed one of the alternatives, they are going to keep the preferred alternative and the northern or southern alignment will be determined after some more discussions. For engineering, they had about 132 man hours. It only went down 120. Overall, Mr. Graham agreed with the actual effort, he agreed with the scope. He also made a comment with the coordination with TxDOT, with regards to the final tie in over at the southbound frontage road off of I35. They did indicate they would be working with the TP&D Director, Mr. Albert Ramirez, for that final tie in. Mr. Soto thanked Mr. Graham for giving a review on the scope of the project. Mr. Rodriguez recommended that the board utilize TxDOT to review these scoping fees. Mr. Soto recommended that the board move forward with the environmental assessment as to expect future funding through grants, state and/or federal funding. Mr. Soto asked for a motion to approve work authorization 1.3 with HNTB for preparation of environmental assessment for Vallecillo Road project.

Jose Murillo made a motion, seconded by Albert Muller, Sr. to approve work authorization 1.3 with HNTB for preparation of environmental assessment for Vallecillo Road project.

Mr. Lopez asked if they had an estimate on the environmental. Mr. Soto stated that it was listed in the resolution in the packet. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 16-23 for additional information.

7. General Engineering Consultant Report.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they were authorized 6 different work authorizations by the RMA. Work Authorization no. 1 for Vallecillo Road, WA 1.1 for the financial planner, WA 1.2 for the TRZ feasibility study, WA 1.3 for the environmental assessment for Vallecillo, WA 2 was the Loop 20 financial plan, WA 3.0 dealt with the Webb County line TRZ feasibility study, which is subsequent presentation to the Webb County Commissioners Court in March. WA 4.0 is the GEC work authorization, utilized for any ad hoc request by the board. Any research, polls or studies requested. They only move forward with these requests based on the permission of the board chairman. WA 5.0 was for the fast lane grant. HNTB did provide that service and submitted that application to USDOT on behalf of the RMA for the Jacaman Road overpass. They received notification on the approval of that application, it was denied. There was no project in the state of Texas that was approved for the fast lane grant. It was \$800 million dollars that was going to be awarded, and \$9 billion dollars' worth of applications were submitted. Unfortunately, no grant was provided to the state of Texas. For this reason Mr. Soto stated that it was important to get communities involved with local funding. Laredo submitted three and Texas submitted around ten. It just shows how competitive it is to receive funding. He also stated that he noticed that most of those applications that got approved already had some matching funding in place.

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

Mrs. Montemayor stated that they have been making great progress on Spur 400. The east side frontage roads are nearly constructed. They anticipate that on August 1st they will be able to shift traffic to the east side and start working on the west. That will create a traffic shift and they will have to close the Spur 400 intersection to left turn movements. The public will be traveling a different pattern. In an effort to inform the public, TxDOT is going to make an effort to show the circulation pattern around the businesses nearby. Mr. Carlos Rodriguez stated that the project traffic change was starting August 1st, anyone coming into the TxDOT office will have to continue on Loop 20 all the way to 359 then make the turn around. The project at the railroad bridge is going to continue as it is right now. Northbound, after you pass the railroad bridge with two lanes, one from cuatro vientos and one on the entrance ramp, you will continue on the two lanes and pass in front of the TxDOT office. The left turning lane will no longer be available, the public would have to go to US 59 to the turnaround. That would allow TxDOT and the contractor to work and help expedite the project. School goes into effect on August 23rd, so hopefully that will give the public enough time to adjust. Six to eight weeks down the road, they will have another traffic change for southbound. This would help simplify and expedite the northbound main lanes to be constructed. It is going to help expedite the bridge construction. The projection is March of 2018. He will also be working to expedite the adjacent project with contractor, Oscar Renda. Instead of doing three phases on the bridge, they will be doing two phases to expedite it. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it would be a right in, right out. No one will be able to cross Loop 20. Mr. Oscar Lopez asked if they had considered moving the DPS office temporarily. Mrs. Montemayor stated that they did reconfigure their CDL testing site. They did not consider relocating their office because of the amount of operations that would have to be moved. Mr. Rodriguez stated that right now they are not anticipating any lane closures. Oscar Renda is about 15% complete.

Mrs. Montemayor, in regards to the outer loop, stated that they started working on it around the early 2000s. They were conducting alignment studies, and when they completed the route alignment study, that showed a corridor as to where the proposed outer loop could go. She said the only way to move forward with that project is to have financial construction dollars identified. It was 26 miles to Shiloh and the 11 miles north of Laredo to the Colombia area. Mrs. Montemayor stated that you can also find information on the TxDOT Laredo District on Facebook and Twitter. Mr. Lopez asked if the city considered entering into an agreement with the Killam's on the TRZ. He stated at the last city council meeting a councilman mentioned using prop 1 & 7 money to purchase the right of way in the future. Mr. Lopez stated that he understood that the money from prop 1 & 7 cannot be counted on in terms of the amount and the timing. Mrs. Montemayor stated that voters voted on prop 1 & 7, it does make money available for transportation improvements for Laredo. They are dynamic in the dollars they are going to bring in because of the funding source. Prop 1 is directly related to oil and gas revenue. As it drops, so does that pool of money. Prop 7 is going to fluctuate as well because of the economy. They hope it generates more money in the future. You can't project what the amount will be in the future. Mr. Lopez asked if the money can be used for anything. Mrs. Montemayor stated that category 7 is the MPO

dollars that can be used on off-system roadways, whereas prop 7 is to be used on on-system improvements, i.e. and on-system roadway or a proposed on-system state highway. Mr. Soto asked how much was the last Prop 1 award. Mrs. Montemayor stated that the last amount from prop 1 was 6.3. Mr. Soto stated that they could project that are going to get a third of that. Mr. Antonio Rodriguez asked how the allocation amounts were determined. Mrs. Montemayor stated that they were determined by formula. Some of the criteria that are looked at are the average daily traffic, the percentage of trucks, and they look at level of service. All that is a part of the formula they look at, it has to be traffic related.

9. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

None.

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

Chairman Soto stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, August 15, 2016, 9 a.m. Location TBD.

11. Adjournment.

Oscar Lopez made a motion, seconded by Alfonso Mendiola to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 9:56 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 JULY 18, 2016 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 19th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2016.

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