

Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, February 20, 2018
9:00AM

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, February 20, 2018 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, Oscar Lopez, Arturo Dominguez, Alfonso Mendiola, Steve La Mantia, and Douglas Howland.

Absent: Albert Muller

Others: David Salazar, TxDOT, Laredo District Engineer
Melissa Montemayor, TxDOT Laredo District Administrator
Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr., (note taker)
David Graham, TX Dot
Marissa Montoya, Tx DOT (note taker)
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 9:00 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present: Jose Murrillo, Alfonso Mendiola, Arturo Dominguez, Jesus Romero, Oscar Lopez, Steve LaMantia, 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, David Salazar 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 Nov. 20, 2017 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the November 20, 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 November 20, 2017 as presented. Douglas Howland made a motion, seconded by Jesus Romero, to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

4A. Chairman's Report-Financial Report

Chairman Soto informed the board that our vehicle reimbursements fees were running a little behind with the change of Webb County Auditor. Therefore, he was going to ask Juan Cruz, our legal counsel, to talk to them. We currently have a balance of \$4,500,404.53 and Certificates of Deposit totaling \$2,000,000.00. Our first Certificate of Deposit will mature later this month and we will renew for another 3 months. Funds disbursed were to HNTB on work authorizations 1, 4, 6 and 7 for a total of \$99,484.38 and Locke Lord LLP for \$6,242.67

4B. Surety Bond Renewals

Chairman Soto reminded the Board of renewing their surety bonds, if they had not already done so. So far, only 4 or 5 had been renewed

4C. Other Updates Regarding Compliance Reporting and Project Financing.

Chairman Soto also informed the board that since their last meeting they had submitted several reports with the assistance of our attorney, Brian O'Reilly and HNTB:

- eminent domain report to State Comptroller was filed January 9, 2018
- Texas Annual Compliance Report filed with the assistance of HNTB and Tony on December 28, 2017

The Chairman then said the annual audit to City and County due 1/28/18 - due to funding issues, this audit will be delayed.

Chairman Soto updated the board on meetings that have taken place and mentioned that Tony would elaborate more.

- On February 8, 2018 met with Eddie Garza of Crane Engineering regarding the extension of Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills

- On February 9, 2018 attended the city of Laredo workshop at the Max and did a short presentation on the RMA's past and future developments.

5. Action Item (Resolution 18-01): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on Election of Officers (Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer).

Chairman Soto asked the Board if there was a motion to nominate members for this year. Mr. Cruz informed the board that they could do all the nominations at one time. It was moved that they keep the same officers by Jose Murillo and seconded by Jesus Romero. With no further discussion same was unanimously passed.

6. Action Item (Resolution 18-02): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Fund Certain WC-CL RMA Expenses with Optional Vehicle Registration Fee Revenues.

Chairman Soto informed the Board that he discussed if the RMA could pay their outstanding bills with the existing vehicle registration fees with the auditor, our legal team, engineering consultants, and financial advisor. On total examination they were all in agreement that we can meet our total outstanding obligations using those funds. Out of courtesy, the county budget office, Lalo Uribe was approached regarding this and he related the same discussion to Judge Tano Tijerina and he said that if the RMA Board okayed it they saw no problem. Chairman Soto then called for a motion to approve funding of certain expenses from vehicle registration fees. On a motion made by Arturo Dominguez and a second by Douglas Howland same was unanimously approved.

7. Action Item (Resolution 18-03): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of Turn Lanes at the Intersection of Killam Industrial Blvd. and FM1472.

Chairman Soto informed the Board that this is located in the Mines Rd. area which of course has grown in leaps and bounds. It's gotten to the point that something has to be done because of the congestion. The MPO, the City, and the County had been approached as to what was the first step to take. A study has to be done before moving forward. If we don't want to wait so long, a study has already been conducted and findings done by TxDOT on solutions for mid-tem solutions for Mines Rd. area. Mr. Soto mentioned that he would defer this to Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from GEC firm, HNTB to explain this further.

Mr. Rodriguez proceeded to explain:

- The improvements were first proposed as part of the TTI Medium Range Strategies for FM 1472 that were commissioned by TxDOT and finalized in February 2016.
- Implementation of the possible improvements were discussed at the December 2017 MPO Policy Committee.

- The strategies proposed the following Improvements:
 - Provide Dual WB to SB Left-Turn Lanes
 - Provide WB to NB Dedicated Right Turn Lane Provide Dual SB to EB Left Turn Lanes
 - Provide Dual SB to EB Left-Turn Lanes
 - Provide SB to WB Dedicated Right Turn Lane
 - Provide EB to NB Dual Left Turn Lanes
 - Provide Dual NB to WB Left Turn Lanes

Chairman Soto then asked if there was a motion to approve the development of Killam Industrial Blvd. turning lanes at intersection with FM 1472.

Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Douglas Howland. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. Action Item (Resolution 18-04): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of the Outer Loop Project.

Chairman Soto proceeded to inform the board that he and Mr. Antonio Rodriguez had attended a city council retreat on February 9, 2018, at The Max Golf Club. One of the items discussed was the possibility of having the RMA participate in the Development of the Outer Loop. Currently, TxDOT has been designated to develop the schematics and environmental studies on the entire corridor.

Mr. Rodriguez added that back in May, Commissioner Galo had asked if the RMA could take a look at the outer loop as well, specifically, with what is called Phase I between SHwy 359 and Hwy 59 because of the high amount of traffic congestion on Hwy359. They were also concerned that in case of an accident they needed an alternate route in case roads were closed and people didn't have to turn around and go back to the nearest city to continue on to their destination.

Chairman Soto commented that it was a good thing that they were thinking of now instead of later. With that, he asked if there was a motion to support the development of the outer loop project with no financial obligation at this point in time; it's more in concept and good spirit to support the project. Alfonso Mendiola made the motion and Oscar Lopez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Action Item (Resolution 18-05): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of the International Bridge No. 5 Project.

Chairman Soto informed the board that this item was in line with a previous agenda item and there would be no expenditure of funds.

Mr. Soto called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB to proceed.

- During the City Council Retreat on 2-9-15, the GEMCO Group presented the work done to date on the Bridge 4/5 Project.
- Various members of City Council were supportive of the project.
- Overall concern seemed to be the current lack of direct access to the proposed location; thus, the City Council emphasized that the Outer Loop needed to be accelerated in development.
- City Council also requested that a master plan of the overall development be developed for the project.

On a motion made by Douglas Howland and a second by Jose Murillo it was approved. Arturo Dominguez opposed the motion.

10. Action Item (Resolution 18-06): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Support the Development of an Arterial Road to Connect Cuatro Vientos Blvd. to Concord Hills Blvd.

Chairman Soto informed the board that he had been approached by Mr. Edward Garza from Crane Engineering who is part of the Webb County Drainage District if he could make a presentation to the RMA regarding an arterial road from Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills. Mr. Soto also mentioned that there was not enough funding for this project, but he thought it would be interesting to hear Mr. Garza's presentation. Chairman Soto proceeded to introduce Mr. Garza.

Mr. Garza then introduced Fred Martinez and Robert Garza from his firm. He then continued with his power point presentation.

- This is a new location roadway located in South Laredo.
- Proposed project is bounded by Cuatro Vientos and Concord Hills Blvd.
- The project is located approximately 1.5 miles south of SH 359 and Cuatro Vientos Road.
- As a proposed arterial, the roadway provides additional egress and ingress to the Concord Hills Subdivision.
- Currently, the project is being explored by the Webb County Drainage District.
- To date, funding has been secured by the Webb County Drainage District and TxDOT.
- They have met with the Laredo Fire Department and Councilman Vidal Rodriguez for additional support in the project.
- Total Project cost = to \$3.7M
- Funding Gap = \$2.4M

On a motion made by Jose Murillo and a second by Oscar Lopez motion was unanimously passed to support this project with further action needed to commit to any funds if necessary.

11. Action Item (Resolution 18-07): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 4.3- with HNTB for Continued Project Development Services.

Chairman Soto called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez to proceed with this action item.

- This request is a time extension and budget increase for our GEC WA #4. The request is due to the high volume of activities conducted from August 2017 to the end of the year. The current remaining balance for HNTB is \$1,000.00.
- HNTB's budget request is for \$154,672.00 for a six month time frame. The request could extend the WA expiration from 7-31-18 to 8-31-18. Please note that the contract is Cost-Plus; thus there is only one invoice for time and materials. If at 8/31/18, there is still a remaining budget that could carry through the remainder of 2018, they would be asking a time extension at that time.

Mr. Rodriguez then proceeded to list a voluminous list of previous adhoc tasks, reviews, and support that HNTB has performed as our General Engineering Consultant.

On a motion by Jesus Romero and a second by Arturo Dominguez, motion was unanimously approved for WA No. 4.3.

12. General Engineering Consultant Report.

Chairman Soto again called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez to give an update on projects undertaken.

- a) WA 01 - Vallecillo Road - Schematics are at 90% complete. Environmental has concluded until such time as funding is identified for the project to move forward with the next phase for TxDOT review.
- b.) WA 04 - GEC - See above
- c.) WA 7 - Loop20 TRZ Feasibility Study. We have completed all of our data gathering. We are currently doing data projections. Next step is to set up a meeting with the City Manager Horacio Deleon to discuss long range plans for the area.
- d.) Meet with major land owners/developers to discuss long term development plans for the Corridor. Meet with Crane Engineering to discuss development plans.
- e.) Begin developing financial projections.
- f.) Current draft report is expected in late March early April.

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

Mr. David Salazar, District Engineer for the Laredo District introduced himself. He informed the board that he took over Mr. Alvarez's position. Mr. Carlos Rodriguez is not in today, so Ms. Montemayor will be giving the update status. Ms. Montemayor proceeded to inform the board that the Spur 400 project on Loop 20 had been completed at a cost of \$33 million. The International Overpass at Loop 20 was completed in November. The Kansas City Southern

Project overpass is being widened. Right now, they are working on the westbound lane portion of that project. It's 60% complete; it's expected to be completed by December 2018. In July, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the beginning of the construction of the east and west bound main lanes going over IH 35 and the railroad going from World Trade Bridge toward the TAMIU area. This is a \$26.5 million dollar project. Right now, we're a little less than 10% complete. We're working on the retaining walls, drill shafts etc. It's moving rather quickly. The same contractor that worked on Spur 400 is working on the I-35 east and west main roads. The anticipated date for the project to be completed is December 2019.

14. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

No one signed up on the public comments.

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

Chairman Soto mentioned that next meeting would tentatively be scheduled for April 30, 2018 with location to be announced.

16. Adjournment.

Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Jesus Romero, to adjourn the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA meeting at 10:28 a.m. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY - CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 7th DAY OF MAY 2018.

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