

**Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2015
9:00 AM**

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:02 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015 at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Office in the Laredo District Meeting Room, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

Minutes are as follows:

Present: Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer; Albert Muller, Sr., Jose Murillo, Alfonso Mendiola and Arturo Dominguez.

Absent: Paul Saenz, Steve LaMantia, Oscar Lopez and Board Member for Precinct 1 (Unassigned)

Others: Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator
Pedro Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer
Mike Graham, Environmental Coordinator, TxDOT Laredo District
Marissa Montoya, Office Technician, TxDOT Laredo District (Note taker)
Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr. (Note taker)
Richard Ridings, HNTB
Brian Cassidy, Locke Lord, LLP (Legal Counsel)
Juan Cruz, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC (Legal Counsel)

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present; Jose Murillo, Albert Muller, Sr., Alfonso Mendiola, Arturo Dominguez and himself, Ruben Soto, Jr. He notified everyone present that the meeting was posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, then asked everyone to stand for the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Welcome and Opening Remarks - Ruben Soto (WC-CL RMA Presiding Officer)

Chairman Soto informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and thanked TxDOT for hosting. He thanked Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT Laredo District Administrator, Mike Graham, Marissa Montoya and Araceli Rangel for assisting with the minutes and preparations for the meeting.

3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of September 16, 2015 WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been supplied a copy of the September 16, 2015 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 September 16, 2015, as presented.

Albert Muller, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo to approve the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Action Item (Resolution 15-08): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Authorize an Agreement with Commerce Bank to Provide Bank Depository Services

Chairman Soto stated that as a result of the last meeting's board actions, the RMA was to issue an RFP for bank services with a response deadline of September 24th. There were no responses received. Therefore, following legal advice, it was up to the RMA to make a selection. The Executive Committee unanimously selected Commerce Bank to serve as their depository bank. Commerce Bank has been contacted and they have asked for several documents to start the process. Mr. Soto asked for a motion to authorize Resolution 15-08 for Commerce Bank to provide bank depository services.

Albert Muller, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Alfonso Mendiola to authorize an agreement with Commerce Bank for bank depository services. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 15-08 for additional information.

5. Action Item (Resolution 15-09): Discussion, Consideration And Possible Action To Approve an Agreement for Financial Advisory Services with Estrada Hinojosa & Company

Chairman Soto stated that the committee met with legal counsel on September 24th to review Estrada Hinojosa & Company's proposed agreement. After the discussion, legal counsel was instructed to issue a revised draft and provide it to them. After several negotiations, an agreement has not been made due to comments not submitted timely to legal counsel.

6. Closed Session: Board adjourned into closed session at 9:07 a.m. pursuant to the following section of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

A. **551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney.** The Board consulted with attorneys Juan J. Cruz and Brian Cassidy regarding the financial advisory contract.

7. Open Session Reconvened at 9:17 a.m. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to approve an agreement for financial advisory services with Estrada Hinojosa and Company.

Chairman Soto asked for a motion to postpone the action to approve the agreement for financial advisory services.

Jose Murillo made a motion, seconded by Albert Muller, Sr. to postpone the action to approve the agreement for financial advisory services. Arturo Dominguez then stated that the next time they meet the process would be faster. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached document for additional information.

8. Action Item (Resolution 15-10): Discussion, Consideration And Possible Action To Approve Work Authorization No. 1 with HNTB for Phase 1 of the Development of the Vallecillo Road Project

Chairman Soto said that HNTB has submitted a proposed work authorization No. 1 for the Board's review. He then asked if any board members had any questions in regards to the proposal. None responded. Mr. Soto then stated that he has been in constant communication with HNTB's project manager, Richard Ridings, and he (Mr. Soto) had a question regarding the financial plan. As he understood it, the financial plan is basically universal to this and future projects. Mr. Soto asked them if they could scale it down and just relate it to the Vallecillo project. Mr. Soto then asked Mr. Ridings to address the board. Mr. Ridings then stated that they put together the overall work authorization to deal with the financial plan and the strategic plan of all the projects that the RMA may be involved in in the future, however, in discussion with the Chairman, it would be advisable to only look at Vallecillo at this time. HNTB's request is for everything to remain the same, look at Vallecillo only and it be reduced to \$30,000. It will cover only Vallecillo and the preliminary environmental scoping work to assure that Vallecillo doesn't have any significant environmental issues as they move forward. He stated that they were going to separate that, do only Vallecillo and get that done prior to the next board meeting. As a part of the next project, they will move some of the financial analysis strategic plan back into that activity as they move forward. For now its Vallecillo only and they will wrap up the financial analysis with two or three financing alternatives to discuss with the Board and move forward with that project, if they approve a financing alternative. Then they will move the remaining financial plan activity into the Loop 20 work authorization and they will request approval to amend work authorization No. 1 to address only the Vallecillo financial plan and environmental for \$30,000. Mr. Soto asked the Board if they had any questions for Mr. Ridings and there were none.

Brian Cassidy stated that the resolution 15-10 refers to the budget amount not to exceed \$79,275.55 as part of the motion, if they are going to approve, they need to amend that resolution. Mr. Soto stated that they should amend it to \$30,000. Mr. Soto then asked for a motion to approve work authorization number 1 with HNTB for phase 1 in the development of the Vallecillo Road project not to exceed \$30,000.

Albert Muller, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Arturo Dominguez. Mr. Mendiola asked if it was going to be amended. Mr. Cassidy stated that it is going to be amended and the exhibit will be conformed to just be Vallecillo. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached Resolution 15-10 for additional information.

9. Report: Update on Vallecillo Road Project

Chairman Soto stated since they passed the agreement, HNTB can go forward with Vallecillo project. Mr. Soto asked Mr. Ridings to discuss the steps they will take from this point on. Mr. Ridings stated that a key part is the environmental constraints mapping. They have met and gathered information from TxDOT and the land owners, and they think it's necessary to move forward with the Vallecillo financial plan, however from an environmental sensitivity standpoint, they want to move forward with the environmental constraints. That will involve visiting with TxDOT staff and landowners, and making sure that there's not going to be an environmental problem as they move forward with financing and constructing the project. He stated that this was going to be a fast track process and as authorized under the statues they didn't want any surprises with environmental issues. They do that with every project, they make sure that they identify the constraints or limitations that may exist from the standpoint of the right of way, endangered species or any other environmental issues. Secondly, the next step is assess the financial needs and right of way needs for the Vallecillo project. They had discussions with the land owners about the project and about the potential right of way needs and what may be necessary from that standpoint. They will try to gather that information and finalize it as part of the financial plan. Hopefully, by the next meeting they will have a recommendation on how to proceed with the construction for the Vallecillo Road project. He stated that it appears from everyone that they've talked to about the project that there is a lot of support to move forward. This project is very similar to what they are doing with another RMA in Travis County. Based on their recommendation, they decided to move forward with that project and use a fast track method. They will continue to inform the RMA if there are any issues with Vallecillo and keep everyone in the loop. He stated that as of now, it looks promising. Mr. Dominguez asked, realistically, how long it would take to finish. Mr. Ridings stated that its 2.9 miles. They will need to look at those two intersections (Mines Rd. and IH 35) and work hand in hand with TxDOT on those issues. It is about 18 to 24 months from the time they start construction to the time the project is completed. Sometimes it can move faster but it would cost more perhaps, sometimes it doesn't. Mr. Muller asked if it would be asphalt or concrete. Mr. Ridings said that it would probably be concrete. It would minimize the maintenance. He would anticipate on the cross roadways to use concrete or a good asphalt design. They would want to put a roadway that would encourage development, truck routes to expand and create more jobs.

10. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration And Possible Action to Direct HNTB to Prepare Work Authorization Related to Development of the Loop 20/I69 Project

Chairman Soto stated, within the realm of the RMA, is the extension of the I69 corridor from IH 35 to Highway 59 and one of their priority projects that they can undertake. In order to get moving on that, except for lack of funding, the RMA would like HNTB to start working on the work authorization of Loop 20 and eventually work concurrently with the Vallecillo road project. Mr. Soto then asked for a motion to authorize HNTB to prepare a work authorization related to development of the Loop 20/I69 project.

Albert Muller, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo to authorize HNTB to prepare a work authorization related to development of the Loop 20/I69 project. Mr. Mendiola asked if they were going to be working on both. Mr. Soto stated since there is a lot of preliminary planning, environmental studies, and such that needs to be done, he would like to move forward and get that going. While working on one project, they can start on the other one and make progress in planning for it. They are both important projects, but they can't lose focus on their priority project. No further discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

Please view attached work authorization for additional information.

11. Report: Update on the status of projects in the TxDOT Laredo District - Melisa D. Montemayor (TxDOT Laredo District Administrator and Staff)

Chairman Soto asked Melisa Montemayor for an update on the local projects. Mrs. Montemayor stated that the current projects that are under construction right now are the Spur 400 project that was awarded to SER Construction and is underway. She said that they still stand committed to go out to you in terms of town hall meetings as traffic patterns change, just like they did a few months ago at the SAC, where they went and provided information to the public just so they are aware of the changing traffic patterns. As traffic patterns change, perhaps they might close some turning movements onto Clark in the future, they are going to back out to the public and provide that information to the Public with ample time so the Public can be prepared when they drive through that area. The other project that let for bids in August, is the project adjacent to that, the KCS Railroad grade separation and widening along with the construction of brand new frontage roads over the railway, which was awarded to Oscar Renda. They should see some dirt being moved by December 1st. She said they will prepare the public for that project as well. That project is going to relieve the congestion on Loop 20 during peak hours in the morning and in the evening. The other project that will be letting for bids in December is the International Blvd. grade separation in north Laredo on Loop 20, adjacent to the McPherson overpass, which opened up a year ago. The project estimate is \$23 million dollars and another overpass that the taxpayer dollars are bringing into Laredo similar to McPherson where the Public does not have to go to the intersection with all the truck traffic and there will be a nice overpass there. As Mr. Ridings mentioned the Vallecillo Road and Hachar Road projects are upcoming. TxDOT's special projects office is currently working on traffic numbers and hopefully be completed by November 1 so they can provide that information to the RMA and HNTB.

12. Report: Discussion Regarding Laredo MPO meeting of September 21, 2015

Chairman Soto then asked Melisa Montemayor to discuss the Laredo MPO meeting of September 21, 2015. The MPO holds the TIP, the Transportation Improvement Program document, which has 4 years' worth of projects. Action was taken to add part of the Hachar Road to Beltway Parkway connecting to I-35 within a 4 year plan in two phases. Phase I would be the engineering portion of the project and Phase II would be for the construction of the project. Phase I and Phase II would be part of the TIF. The other action taken was to include the Reuthinger extension into what is considered the metropolitan transportation plan, which is a long range plan (20-25 years), with completion in possibly 2025. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a long range document which the metropolitan plan organization

(MPO) holds and projects, projects proposed to be added in the long term to the metropolitan transportation plan.

On October 19, at noon, the MPO will have a comment period that was initiated last month and if the MPO votes to do so, it will be approved officially to be included in the TIP and the MTP.

Mr. Mendiola asked around what mile marker are those projects at, just north of Killiam Industrial. Ms. Montemayor responded by explaining that it was easier to address the projects in terms of landmarks. She then proceeded to explain that Vallecillo Road was the cusp on the northern portion of the Killam Industrial Park (between mile markers 9 and 10). Mr. Mendiola asked if that was south of the Uniroyal. It was further explained that it was and the Reuthinger project is about 6 to 7 miles to the north. Ms. Montemayor used the TX DOT map as a visual and explained the location of the Uniroyal area and across from the Reuthinger extension. Ms. Montemayor continued and asked if anyone had heard of the Majestic Industrial Park which is being proposed by the City of Laredo which will be located on the east side of I-35 which is the area where the Reuthinger leg would punch out more or less. When asked whether the Majestic was the old Uniroyal she replied no, it's to the north. Mr. Dominguez asked if that was the Sombrerito Ranch where the old checkpoint used to be. The response was that it was right across from there. So this would be just a little north. Ms. Montemayor said she was not familiar with Sombrerito Ranch. This concluded Ms. Montemayor's briefing regarding the MPO meeting.

Please view attached maps for additional information.

13. Public Comments

No public comments

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

Chairman Soto stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2015, 9 a.m. Location is to be announced.

15. Adjournment

Arturo Dominguez made a motion, seconded by Alfonso Mendiola to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 9:39 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 OCTOBER 19, 2015 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2015.

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