

**Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Inaugural Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2014
9:00 AM**

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Office in the Laredo District Meeting Room, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX. They discussed the following agenda:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Introduction of Board Members
3. Oath of Office for RMA Board Members
4. Goals and Objectives of the RMA
5. Discussion on the Webb Co.-City of Laredo RMA Petition
6. Review of the RMA Priority Projects
7. Review and Consideration of By-Laws
8. Election of Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer
9. Establishment of Board Committees
10. Mission Statement
11. Legal Responsibilities of the RMA and RMA Board Members
12. Future Services / Facilities Required
13. Public Comments
14. Date/Time/Location of the Next Full Board Meeting
15. RMA Workshop - TxDOT / Texas Transportation Institute
16. Adjournment

Minutes are as follows:

Present: Ruben Soto, Jr., Chairman and Presiding Officer; David Arredondo, Carlos Flores, Viviana Frank, Steve LaMantia, Albert Muller, Sr., Jose Murillo and Enrique S. Valdez

Absent: Board Member for Precinct 3 & 4 (Unassigned)

Others: The Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator
The Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Melisa D. Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator, Laredo District
David Plutowski, Transportation Engineer, TxDOT Austin Planning Division
Kale Driemeir, Planner, TxDOT Austin Planning Division
Baltazar Avila, Transportation Engineer, TxDOT Laredo District (Spanish Translator)
Raul Leal, Public Information Officer, TxDOT Laredo District (Photographer)
Mike Graham, Environmental Coordinator, TxDOT Laredo District
Marissa Montoya, Office Technician, TxDOT Laredo District (Registration, Note taker)
Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr., (Note taker)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, which was given by Joel Jay Villarreal. Mr. Soto requested a few moments of silence for personal reflection and informed all present that the meeting was being recorded.

He proceeded to thank TxDOT for hosting, and for their guidance and assistance in preparation for the meeting. He also thanked the city and county for their input and gracious offers of attention where needed.

Mr. Soto recognized and thanked the officials present; State Senator Judith Zaffirini. He thanked everyone present for attending the inauguration of the first Regional Mobility Authority in the State of Texas jointly formed by both County and City entities. He then commended both entities for their vision and efforts in creating the RMA.

2. Introduction of Board Members

Mr. Soto introduced the board members nominated by the City of Laredo and Webb County.

City: Enrique S. Valdez, David Arredondo and Jose Murillo

(Note: Council members for Precinct 3 & 4 have yet to nominate a board member)

County: Albert Muller, Sr., Steve LaMantia, Viviana Frank and Carlos Flores

He then recognized TxDOT Laredo District Administrator, Melisa Montemayor. He stated Mrs. Montemayor was very instrumental in introducing the RMA concept to Laredo and Webb County back in 2005. Through her vision and knowledge, she was able to educate the city and county about the RMA process. Mr. Soto congratulated and thanked her on her vision, which was instrumental to their achievements today.

3. Oath of Office for RMA Board Members

Mr. Soto asked State Senator Judith Zaffirini to join the board members at the head of the room. Senator Zaffirini administered the Oath of Office to the board members and the Chairman, Mr. Soto.

4. Goals and Objectives of the RMA

Mr. Soto stated that the RMA and the State would each provide funds for the much needed transportation projects.

On April 15, 2013, the City Council of the City of Laredo approved the creation of the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA.

On August 18, 2013, the Webb County Commissioner's Court approved the creation of the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA.

TxDOT reviewed the petition and conducted a public hearing on February 4, 2014. The Texas Transportation Commission approved the RMA petition at their February 27, 2014 meeting in Laredo, TX.

Mr. Soto stated the importance of the Regional Mobility Authority and its impact on transportation infrastructure in our community. In the 2010 census, the population of Webb County was measured to be 250,000 and the population is expected to increase to 418,332 by 2030. He explained that the formation of the Webb-Laredo RMA will allow an entity, under local control and in copulation with TxDOT, to develop road projects and provide support to other transportation improvements in the region, which otherwise might depend solely on the state for federal funding.

5. Discussion on the Webb Co.-City of Laredo RMA Petition

Mr. Soto stated:

The projects described in the petition are important links to the border infrastructure in the City of Laredo and Webb County. The RMA will benefit the ports of entry, governmental entities, transportation, import and export businesses, and commercial establishments in the community by having increased local control on projects. It will have a direct impact on transportation planning and decisions. The region will also benefit from any surplus revenues generated by the RMA that may be used for other transportation projects in the region. The traveling public will benefit from the improved system of roadways in the region by reducing traffic congestion. The Webb-Laredo RMA, will also enhance safety, air quality, decrease travel time and generally improve the quality of life of citizens in the region.

Approximately two years ago, the petitioners for both the County and the City began comprehensive studies to develop and define a transportation plan to upgrade Loop 20 to interstate standards from US 59 to the entrance of the World Trade International Bridge IV. This section of the loop is now designated by Texas Transportation Commission as US 59 and Future I-69. The petitioners have committed to developing an alternative financing mechanism to bring local construction funds to use for the upgrade of Loop 20 to freeway interstate standards. The City of Laredo has passed a resolution that contemplates the creation of Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZ) along the major travel corridors in Laredo. These TRZ's will be one of the mechanisms for the repayment of bonds that will be sold to pay for the construction of the Loop 20 upgrades. Another source of funding for the RMA arises from the implementation of Section 502.402 of the Texas Transportation Code optional County fee for transportation projects. The Commissioners Court of Webb County has set forth an order to begin collecting a \$10 per vehicle fee in 2014. The Loop 20 - US 59 project is fully supported by Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) under the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and by the Webb County, City of Laredo and TxDOT Laredo District. No opposition or controversy regarding the upgrade of Loop 20 to an expressway configuration was received in the 2006 public outreach conducted by the TxDOT Laredo District. Any previous studies completed by Webb County and TxDOT Laredo District will be provided to the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA at the appropriate times. The current estimate to upgrade Loop 20 from US 59 to west of IH-35, including two direct connectors to and from IH-35, including the right of way, utilities adjustments, preliminary engineering and construction (not adjusted for inflation), estimates to \$501.1 million. Where do we get the funding? Across the board infrastructure fund balance of \$48 million, and the vehicle registration surcharge at \$10 per vehicle registration fee, is going to be estimated over a 5 year accumulation period of \$11 million. Other city sources sum up to \$89 million. In summary, the RMA needs to collect \$352 million.

The petition provided the composition of the board and followed the Texas Transportation Code insuring that appointees adequately represented Webb County and the City of Laredo as a whole.

6. Review of the RMA Priority Projects

Mr. Soto introduced Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator for TxDOT Laredo District, to present the RMA Priority Projects.

Mrs. Montemayor stated that the primary projects were a result of the City, County and TxDOT meetings throughout the year called the Transportation Improvement Project that compiled priorities of the community. As a result of the coordination, they came up with priority projects that were translated into the petition for approval in February.

The majority of the primary projects were mentioned earlier by Mr. Soto. Additional information can be found on the attached PowerPoint.

7. Review and Consideration of By-Laws

Mr. Soto stated the board members will be serving a staggered term. At this time, Mr. Soto opened the floor to volunteers for those interested in a short term. None volunteered. Mr. Soto then announced that the board would draw terms.

The terms drawn are as follows:

Carlos Flores - Long Term
Viviana Frank - Long Term
Albert Muller, Sr. - Short Term
Jose Murillo - Long Term
Steve LaMantia - Short Term
Enrique S. Valdez - Short Term
David Arredondo - Long Term
Pc 3 & 4 (Unassigned) - Short Term

Action: Board members will decide the term limits at the next board meeting.

At this time, Mr. Soto suggested they appoint a By-Laws committee to change, add, or revise a draft of By-Laws that will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Mr. Soto appointed Carlos Flores and Viviana Frank, and then opened the floor for nominations or volunteers interested in serving on the By-Laws committee. Enrique Valdez and David Arredondo volunteered.

The By-Laws Committee is as follows: Carlos Flores, Viviana Frank, Enrique Valdez and David Arredondo

8. Election of Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer

Mr. Soto then presented the following for consideration for the position of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chairman:

Treasurer: Steve LaMantia
Secretary: Carlos Flores
Vice Chairman: Viviana Frank

Jose Murillo made a motion, seconded by Albert Muller, Sr., to accept Mr. Soto's nominations. Motion carried.

9. Establishment of Board Committees

Mr. Soto then mentioned that the Chair, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer would be serving on the Executive Committee.

He also wanted to consider an Interim Finance Committee, which he stated would be very instrumental in deciding how to raise revenues for projects. Mr. Soto then appointed the following: Steve LaMantia, Carlos Flores, Jose Murillo and Enrique Valdez.

Mr. Soto then opened the floor for volunteers. Albert Muller, Sr. volunteered to be part of the committee.

The Interim Finance Committee is as follows: Steve LaMantia, Carlos Flores, Jose Murillo, Enrique Valdez and Albert Muller, Sr.

Mr. Soto then proposed a Planning Committee, which he stated would be instrumental in the planning process for the upcoming transportation projects. Mr. Soto then appointed the following: David Arredondo, Viviana Frank, Steve LaMantia, Enrique Valdez and Albert Muller, Sr.

Mr. Soto then opened the floor for volunteers. None volunteered.

The Planning Committee is as follows: David Arredondo, Viviana Frank, Steve LaMantia, Enrique Valdez and Albert Muller, Sr.

Mr. Soto then reminded the board to be aware of the public notice requirements. If five or more directors are present, then the RMA will need to post the meeting.

10. Mission Statement

Mr. Soto then asked the board to view samples of mission statements from various RMAs around the state. Examples of mission statements, including a sample of what Mr. Soto is recommending for the Webb-Laredo RMA, were passed out to the board.

A sample of the mission statement is as follows:

The Webb County - City of Laredo RMA exists through a cooperative coalition of State, County, City and Private efforts with its sights on providing alternative solutions for securing

financing resources that will be utilized in improving, facilitating, and constructing transportation and related projects that will improve the flow of traffic, commerce and quality of life for the citizens of Webb County.

Mr. Soto asked all board members to review all the mission statements, so it can be decided upon at the next meeting.

Action: Board members will decide on the RMA Mission Statement at the next board meeting.

11. Legal Responsibilities of the RMA and RMA Board Members

Actions / Requirements are as follows:

- Surety Bonds
- Conflict of Interest Policy forms
- Procurement Policy (Samples will be discussed at the next board meeting. A RMA standard must be used.)
- File an annual Personal Financial Statement
- Training on responsibilities under the Open Meetings Act and Publication Information Act
- Nepotism laws
- Ethics and Compliance Program

12. Future Services / Facilities Required

Mr. Soto stated that the RMA would need the following:

Actions:

- Lease facilities for staff
- Banking services (Finance Committee will need to draw up agreement with county to agree how much the \$10 fee will go to RMA and then set up an account.)
- Legal council
- Financial advisory services
- Accounting and auditing services
- Public informational material
- Branding, web site design & maintenance
- Inter-local Agreements- TRZ, Toll Equity Bonds, Tolling
- Executive Director (job description to be developed and posted when needed with experience in business, management, state policy and TxDOT)
- Staffing (Receptionist, secretary (preferably paralegal), executive director and support staff.)

13. Public Comments

Mr. Soto placed a 3 minute limit on public comments.

Public Comment #1: Mr. Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner - Pct. 4:
Mr. Canales welcomed the RMA committee and stated on behalf of the court that they are available for the RMA and its needs.

Public Comment #2: Mr. Mario Peña, IBC Bank & Chamber of Commerce:
Mr. Peña congratulated the appointees and stated that the private business sector is willing and able to help in the consultation of any future projects. He asked what the short term and long term was and Mr. Soto stated that the board members would decide upon the terms at the next board meeting. The terms will then be placed in the By-Laws.

14. Date/Time/Location of the Next Full Board Meeting

Mr. Soto stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014, at 9 a.m. at the TxDOT facilities.

Mr. Carlos Flores stated that the committee would need a separate meeting to discuss the By-Laws. Mr. Soto stated that the By-Laws committee should meet before the next board meeting and agreed to help set it up.

Melisa Montemayor stated that the TxDOT facilities would be available for use.

15. RMA Workshop - TxDOT / Texas Transportation Institute

An RMA Workshop will be given in conjunction with the next board meeting. The workshop will help the board familiarize themselves with RMAs and TRZs.

16. Adjournment

Albert Muller, Sr. made a motion, seconded by Jose Murillo to adjourn the Webb County - City of Laredo RMA meeting at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried.

**MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY - CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY
AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2014
WERE COMPLETED ON THIS THE 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2014.**

Submitted by:
Marissa J. Montoya
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TxDOT Laredo Dist.