

**Webb County - City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2015
9:00 AM**

Minutes

The Webb County - City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 9:04 a.m. on Monday, August 17, 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; Paul Saenz, Albert Muller, Sr., Jose Murillo, Alfonso Mendiola, Oscar Lopez, Steve LaMantia, and Arturo Dominguez.
- Absent:** Precinct 1 (Unassigned)
- Others:** Melisa D. Montemayor, District Administrator, TxDOT Laredo District, Araceli Rangel, Staff Assistant, CPA Office of Ruben Soto, Jr. (Note taker) Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord, LLP (Legal Counsel), Juan J. Cruz, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC (Legal Counsel).

1. Open Meeting, Establish Quorum, Welcome and Opening Remarks - Ruben Soto

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer, Ruben Soto, Jr., called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. He then announced the following Board Members present; Alfonso Mendiola, Paul Saenz, Jose Murillo, Albert Muller, Sr., Oscar Lopez 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.

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

2. Action: Discussion/Action to Approve June 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Soto stated that the Board Members had been supplied a copy of the June 15, 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 June 15, 2015 as presented.

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

3. **Action: Swearing in of Arturo Dominguez as WCCL-RMA Board Member by Araceli S. Rangel, Notary Public.**

Chairman Soto then introduced a new member to the Board of Directors, Mr. Arturo Dominguez. He then asked Araceli S. Rangel, Notary Public to join Mr. Dominguez at the head of the room. Ms. Rangel administered the oath of office to Mr. Arturo Dominguez.

4. **Interviews of Respondents to the WC-CL RMA Request for Qualifications to Provide General Engineering Consultant Services.**

Chairman Soto stated that they would be starting with the interviews for the General Engineering Consultant and that although it was not required, but out of courtesy for the presenting team, that non-presenting teams step out of the room into the foyer during the presentations. The presentation interviews were limited to 20 minutes per team with an additional 10 minutes of a question and answer session between the board members and presenter(s).

Teams presenting included Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, HNTB, and S&B Infrastructure, LTD. There was a question and answer session following Dannebaum Engineering Corporation's and HNTB's presentation.

Prior to S&B Infrastructure, LTD's presentation Chairman Soto temporarily halted the presentations so that individuals who wanted to make public comments could proceed and not have to wait any longer.

5. **Public Comments**

Rosa Salazar, a resident of Green Ranch, located on Mines Road spoke of the residents' concerns regarding traffic congestion. Chairman Melisa D. Montemayor, District Administrator from TxDOT addressed Mrs. Salazar's concerns regarding several projects that would be completed in the near future to help alleviate some of the congestion. City Councilman, Mr. George Altgelt, also addressed the RMA on the congestion. He did state that Mrs. Salazar was just one of the many residents that complain daily to his office regarding the traffic on Mines Road. He stated that he was very pleased to see such capable qualified people taking part in the decision. He further stated that he wanted to let the RMA know that he was a resource and he would be willing to bring resources from the city and push collective initiatives forward.

6. **Open Meeting reconvened after the public comments.**

S&B, Infrastructure, LTD proceeded with their presentation followed by a question and answer session with the Board.

7. **Closed Session: Board adjourned into closed session at 11:25 a.m. pursuant to the following section of the Texas Open Meetings Act.**

- A. **551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney**

8. **Reconvene from closed session at 11:37 a.m.**
9. **Open Meeting continued at 11:42 a.m.** Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on the Selection of a General Engineering Consultant.

Chairman Soto thanked all the GEC teams for their presentations and stated that they were very informative and very well presented and that all three exhibited vast experience and that Board could not go wrong with their decision. He then stated that the GEC Evaluation committee met on August 7, 2015 and the firm they ranked first in their scoring was HNTB. He then proceeded to ask if there was a motion to select the evaluation committee's selection, HTNB as the RMA's GEC. Mr. Alfonso Mendiola stated based on their ranking and presentation, he made a motion to select HNTB as the GEC to represent the WC-CL RMA. Mr. Arturo Dominguez seconded.

Mr. Paul Saenz asked for discussion. Mr. Saenz mentioned that the questions he asked from the GEC firms were consistent and emphasized that the GEC team we select should exhibit experience in working with local team members. He said everybody who presented, clearly standing alone, carry merit and weight. He stated he didn't know what the selection committee was considering and didn't think selecting based on scoring sheets without more open discussion was not merited. His concern was that the team has worked together on other projects and more importantly, local projects, and the team had the feel for the community in which we live in. He then asked others to comment.

Mr. Arturo Dominguez stated that he thinks they are all good, unfortunately we had to pick one.

Mr. Jose Murillo said he had the same concerns as Paul. To have someone locally that can be here and how many people would be local. If we needed something or something to be done, who was going to be there to make the decision. That was a concern of his but it was cleared up from the presentations.

Mr. Oscar Lopez added that he was present at evaluation committee's discussion regarding the three applicants for the GEC. He thought the committee did an outstanding job in having a very detailed discussion and input regarding in what they felt was important having gone through the applications that were presented. He added it was an excellent committee in getting all the issues and discussing them and coming through with their recommendations. It was very close scoring and thought the board would be good to pick any of them as they are all very qualified. He closed saying that he was also very impressed with their presentations.

With the motion on the table, a vote was then taken. Mr. Lopez, Mr. Dominguez, Mr. Mendiola, Mr. LaMantia, Mr. Muller and Chairman Soto voted in favor of HNTB. Mr. Jose Murillo abstained and Mr. Paul Saenz voted against. Motion passed in favor of HNTB.

Chairman Soto then asked the board if there is a motion to authorize the executive committee to negotiate and Chairman to execute an agreement with HNTB with the assistance of general counsel. Motion was made by Jose Murillo and seconded by Arturo Dominguez. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. Interviews of Respondents to the WC-CL RMA Request for Proposals to Provide Financial Advisory Services

Presenting teams were First Southwest Co. LLC and Estrada Hinojosa Investment Bankers. Each team was given 20 minutes for their presentation and interviews followed by 10 minutes of question and answer sessions.

11. Closed session: The Board adjourned to closed session at 12:50 p.m. pursuant to the following section of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

B. 551.071 Consultation with Board's Attorney

12. Open session reconvened 12:55 p.m. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on the Selection of a Financial Advisor.

Chairman Soto opened the meeting by stating that both firms were neck to neck in the rankings resulting from the evaluation committee meeting held on August 7, 2015. He then proceeded to ask if there was a motion to select the evaluation committee's selection, First Southwest as the RMA's Financial Advisor. Albert Muller made a motion for First Southwest and there was a second from Steve La Mantia.

Discussion ensued. Paul Saenz commented that both firms made great presentations but was more impressed with the firm of Estrada Hinojosa. Mr. Saenz then asked for discussion amongst the board members regarding which of both firms would fit the mold. Oscar Lopez mentioned that the Board could not go wrong with selecting either firm but unfortunate that we could only pick one. There was no other discussion.

Chairman Soto then asked for a vote; the only board members in favor were Albert Muller, Steve LaMantia and Chairman Soto. Since there was not a majority vote, the motion failed.

Chairman Soto then proceeded to ask if there was a motion to select Estrada Hinojosa as the RMA's Financial Advisor. Paul Saenz made a motion for Estrada Hinojosa and there was a second by Jose Murillo. Estrada Hinojosa was then selected by unanimous vote.

Chairman Soto then asked the board if there is a motion to authorize the executive committee to negotiate and Chairman to execute an agreement with Estrada Hinojosa with the assistance of general counsel. Motion was made by Jose Murillo and seconded by Albert Muller. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

13. Approval of Policy Manual

Chairman Soto asked legal counsel, Brian O'Reilly of Locke Lord to explain to the Board the new policy documents. Mr. O'Reilly explained that the revised bylaws have been

presented to the City and County and now incorporated into the policy manual. The two new documents added are the Drug and Alcohol Policy & the Environmental Review Policy for Projects. Also, the revised Bylaws have been incorporated into the manual.

Chairman Soto then asked the board if there is a motion to approve the revised and new policy documents as presented. Motion was made by Oscar Lopez and seconded by Albert Muller. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

14. Approval of the Interlocal Agreement with Webb County for the Vehicle Registration Fund.

Chairman Soto asked legal counsel, Juan Cruz of J. Cruz & Associates, LLC to update the Board on the status of the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Cruz stated that the agreement has been approved by the Webb County Commissioners Court unanimously and now up to the board to start getting the money in and recommended that agreement be approved and signed. Oscar Lopez then made a motion to approve the agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement and was seconded by Albert Muller. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

15. Website Development update

Chairman Soto gave a brief update on the Website development. He thanked Mike Graham for supplying information to Webb County to update the website and thanked Ramon Alcala of Webb County for his assistance in revamping the website. Chairman Soto mentioned that it was a work in progress but looked much better than before. The Chairman also thanked Juan Cruz for allowing his staff to initiate the website.

16. Updates on the status of the US 59/Loop 20/I-69 Projects

Chairman Soto then introduced TxDOT Laredo District Administrator, Melisa Montemayor to give the board an update on current projects. She mentioned that there were two projects just recently let out; one being the International Blvd. Overpass which is a 23 million dollar overpass and work is scheduled to start within 90 days. The proposed project is going to extend McPherson overpass and the gap currently seen between McPherson and International Blvd. will house the main lanes. The other project let for bids was the Kansas City Southern Railroad grade separation and widening along with the construction of brand new frontage roads over the railway. Where there is no frontage roads today, there will be frontage roads when the construction of this project is done. This project coincides with the Spur 400 project under construction. It will be a 30 month project and TxDOT will, on a continuing basis, inform the public about traffic changing patterns as construction continues.

17. Next meeting date

Chairman Soto announced that the next meeting will probably be on September 9, at 9 a.m. with location to be announced. The meeting date falls on a Wednesday since Labor Day falls on September 7 and more than likely the City and County will probably schedule their meetings on Tuesday.

18. Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Soto called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Arturo Dominguez made the motion and seconded by Alfonso Mendiola. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned.

MINUTES FOR THE WEBB COUNTY - CITY OF LAREDO REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 17, 2015 WERE COMPLETED ON THIS THE 29th DAY OF AUGUST 2015.

Submitted by:
Araceli S. Rangel,
Assistant to
Ruben Soto, Jr., CPA, WC-CL RMA Chairman