

**WEBB COUNTY – CITY OF LAREDO
REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD**

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
Teleconference Meeting
Hosted by J. Cruz & Associates, LLC
216 W. Village Blvd., Ste. 202, Laredo, Texas 78041
Thursday, February 25, 2021
3:00 PM

BOARD MINUTES

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA) Board met at the above date via Teleconference. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. WC-CL RMA Board Chair Jed A. Brown present and presiding. The following board members were present:

Jed A. Brown
Douglas B. Howland
Oscar O. Lopez
Arturo Dominguez
Alfonso Mendiola
George Beckelhymer
Antonio Arce

The following board members was absent: Viridiana Fernandez

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Jed Brown, called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. It was announced the following Board Member was absent: Viridiana Fernandez. He then 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 the Board Members – Jed Brown (WC-CL RMA Presiding Office)

Chairman Brown informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and telephones must be silenced or muted to avoid interference. Chairman Brown also informed the board that they must identify themselves when speaking.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

No one signed up to make comments.

5. Action Item: Consideration and Approval of the Minutes for: A. December 1, 2020 - Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Chairman Brown stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the Minutes for the December 1, 2020 Regular Board Meeting for review. He then asked for a motion to accept the Board Meeting Minutes of the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: George Beckelhymer
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentations:

A. Presentation by Texas Department of Transportation on Area Projects, with specific updates on the FM 1472/Killam turn lanes project and the proposed Laredo Outer Loop.

Chairman Brown introduced Roberto Rodriguez and Humberto Gonzalez from TxDOT and asked to update the Board on the various projects under construction. Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Rodriguez went on to illustrate and updated the Board on the status of the various projects including the percentage of completion and projected completed dates. Some of the projects included the Shiloh overpass, IH 35 railroad overpass, widening of FM 1472 and a concrete raised median on Hwy 359. He also informed the board that the feasibility study for the outer loop was found on TxDOT website. Mr. Gonzalez went on to update the board on an upcoming project on FM 1472 intersection from I-69 to Pan American Blvd., where improvements will help increase mobility and reduce delay times along the corridor by eliminating conflict points and increase safety. Mr. Gonzalez also invited the Board to a Public Meeting in March and welcome questions and comments by the Board.

B. Financial Report

- Acceptance of the financial statements through January 31, 2021.

Chairman Brown ask Oscar Lopez, treasurer, to report the RMA financial statements through January 31, 2021. Mr. Lopez went on to report the highlights and RMA assets to the board. He also reported the uncollected VRF funds in the amount of \$459,210.00 and welcomed any questions.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Arturo Dominguez
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

C. Status Report on Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) Program and Collections.

Chairman Brown went on to report that the uncollected VRF funds as of January 2021 were collected in February 2021 and updated the board with the total overall collected Vehicle Registration Fees.

7. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action on an Honorary Resolution recognizing former Board Member, Jesus Romero.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the board that Mr. Romero has been with the RMA since its initiation and thank Mr. Romero for all the support, dedication and commitment he had given to the RMA over the years.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Doug Howland
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Chairman's Report:

A. Introduction of new Board Member, Tony Arce, Jr.

Chairman Brown went on to introduced Mr. Arturo Arce as a new Board member and notified the board that he was sworn in on February 3, 2021.

B. Compliance Calendar

Chairman Brown went on to remind the Board of the ongoing commitment to the RMA, it was important to maintain all reports and audit to comply with the City, County and State. He reminded the Board that all requirements are to be submitted to keep up with the active compliance calendar.

C. Update on Vallecillo Road Project virtual meeting held on January 8, 2021

Chairman Brown went on to report that the meeting was held on January 8, 2021, which was sponsored by Congressman Henry Cuellar. Chairman Brown informed the board that he was pleased that the Congressman and the community supported the Vallecillo project and included that the resolution of support stated that Vallecillo Road project is a high priority project.

D. Report on WCCL-RMA’s Checking Account Data Breach

Chairman Brown went on to report a data breach to the RMA’s checking account and asked Lisa Paul for a brief on the matter. Lisa M. Paul went on to inform the Board of six unauthorized transactions that were intercepted by the Bank’s fraud department. Ms. Paul added that the RMA suffered no damages as no funds were taken and as per the Bank’s recommendation, the account was closed and a new one was opened.

E. Annual Board Member Certifications to Serve

Chairman Brown reported that all the members have complied with the Annual Board Member Certification to Serve. Chairman Brown added that any conflict of interest issue will be immediately resolved as per requirements of the law.

F. Webb County – City of Laredo 2020 Annual Report

Chairman Brown went on to report that the WC-CL RMA Annual Report has been posted on the website, which includes all RMA projects as required.

9. Action Item (Resolution 21-01): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to approve amendments to the WC-CL RMA Policy Code.

Chairman Brown went on to report that after Mr. Arce’s appointment, it was realized that he did not reside in the precinct appointed. Chairman Brown opined that if the elected official appointed is the right person to represent their interest, the interest of their precinct or district, he was not opposed if such elected official did not reside in the precinct appointed. Chairman Brown proposed to change and amend the RMA Policy Code to allow an elected official to serve on the RMA board when an individual does not reside precinct appointed.

Motion: So Move

Moved by: George Beckelhymer

Second by: Oscar Lopez

Discussion: Chairman Brown welcomed Mr. Arce. Mr. Antonio Arce informed the Board that he was looking forward to serve and help move the RMA projects forward.

In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

10. Action Item (Resolution 21-02): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to elect the following WC-CL RMA Board Officers: Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Chairman Brown commented that he appreciated the work done by Doug Howland and valued his input. Chairman Brown went on to say that the role each individual performs are what the RMA needs.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola
Discussion: Mr. Beckelhymer added that team works quite well and looks forward to more years.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

11. General Engineer Consultant Update.

- 1) Project Status Update: Los Presidentes Road Project, Phase 1 and 2A
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB and Eduardo Garza, Crane, updated the Board on the Los Presidentes Road Project and informed that the project was in the preconstruction phase and currently awaiting the executed contract from the City of Laredo and HNTB. Mr. Garza added that construction for the project was under \$5.1 million dollars and all insurances and bond requirements have been received. He further illustrated the Product Submittal List and answered questions by the Board. Humberto Gonzalez added that TxDOT was committed to funding and constructing of the acceleration and deceleration lanes as the result of this project, which is scheduled October 2021. The Board further discussed details of the project including landscaping and design.
 - 2) Project Status Update: Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lane Project
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB went on to update the Board on the Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lane Project and welcomed any questions by the Board.
 - 3) Project Status Update: Vallecillo Road Project
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB went onto inform the board that the geotechnical report and traffic study has been completed at the end of December 2020. Mr. Rodriguez added that this road project extends 2.75 miles. Melisa Montemayor added project development dates and welcomed any questions by the Board.
-

12. Action Item (Resolution 21-03): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 4.9 with HNTB for Continued Project Development Services.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the Board that the action item is to authorize General Engineering Consultant work that is not project specific. Chairman Brown added that the Supplemental Work Authorization agreement was to award a time extension only.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Doug Howland
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

13. Action Item (Resolution 21-04): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to approve an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo, Webb County Drainage District No. 1, and the WC-CL RMA for an increased contribution by WC-CL RMA to the Los Presidentes, Phase 1 and 2A Road Project.

Chairman Brown commented that at a City Council meeting in January 2021, the City of Laredo awarded the contract to low bidder MTZ Construction for Los Presidentes Phase 1 and 2A. Chairman Brown added that subject to additional monies available, an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Laredo, Webb County Drainage District No. 1, and the WC-CL RMA for an increased contribution by WC-CL RMA will help close the gap of the deficit.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Arturo Dominguez
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

14. Action Item (Resolution 21-05): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action to Adopt the WC-CL RMA FYE 2021 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the Board that the Annual Operating and Capital Budget was included in the Board packet for review. Chairman Brown went on inform the Board about the programed and spent funds.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Antonio Arce
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

15. Action Item (Resolution 21-06): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to accept the 2020 WC-CL RMA Annual Audit Report.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the Board that the RMA has been in compliance with no deficiencies found and is found to be responsible for the monies entrusted to the RMA. Chairman Brown welcomed any discussion by the board.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

16. Action Item (Resolution 21-07): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action to approve the WC-CL RMA Legislative Priorities for the 87th Legislative Session.

Chairman Brown invited Brian O'Reiley to inform the Board of the importance of adopting the Legislative Session priorities. Mr. O'Reiley updated the board and explained, adding that most of the RMA's have adopted the Legislative Sessions for the priorities which include preserving financing tools, public-private partnership authorities, transportation reinvestment zones and international ports of entry.

Motion: So Move
Moved by: Antonio Arce
Second by: Arturo Dominguez
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chairman Brown informed that Board that the next board meeting will be scheduled in or about two months unless one was needed sooner. Chairman Brown reminded the board that the next meeting will very likely be virtual.

18. Adjournment.

On a motion made by George Beckelhymer and second by Arturo Dominguez. With no discussion, meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M. Motion passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned.