

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
IBC Bank Complex
2418 Jacaman Rd., Laredo, Texas
Administration Building – Community Suite (2nd Floor, Rear)
Tuesday, October 5, 2021
2:00 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 2:00 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
Arturo Dominguez
Alfonso Mendiola
Viridiana Fernandez
George Beckelhymer
Jose Murillo
Antonio Arce, Jr.

It was announced the following board members were absent: Oscar O. Lopez

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Jed Brown, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. It was announced the following Board Member was absent: Oscar O. Lopez. Mr. Brown 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 welcomed the board to its first in person meeting since February 2020, and thanked IBC for hosting the RMA. He also informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and give instructions on microphone use. Chairman Brown also informed the board that

a quorum of the Board of Directors were present they must identify themselves when speaking.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

No public comments to report.

5. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action concerning approval of the July 22, 2021, WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Brown stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the Minutes for the July 22, 2021, 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 Moved
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: George Beckelhymer
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Presentation

A. Presentation by Texas Department of Transportation on Area Projects, with specific updates on projects serving the World Trade Bridge, including, but not limited to:

- Hachar-Reuthinger project
- FM 1472 Improvements Project
- FM 1472 Super Street Project
- IH-69W

Chairman Brown welcomed Humberto Gonzalez, TxDot Director of Transportation Planning and Development. Mr. Gonzalez went on to introduce Mr. Jesus Saavedra, Laredo Area Engineer to present the projects under construction. Mr. Saavedra went on to inform the board the details of each project with construction status updates and gave estimated completion dates. Mr. Gonzalez also added a presentation of the projects under development, showed preliminary planning schematics and estimated construction costs. Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Saavedra discussed with the Board and answered all questions presented.

B. Presentation by Brian O'Reilly on new rules for Public Meetings in Texas.

- Overview of Telephone and Videoconference Meeting Options for the WC-CL RMA.

Chairman Brown welcomed Mr. Brian O'Reilly to present the new rules for Public Meetings in Texas and how to conduct virtual meeting going forward. Mr. O'Reilly went on to inform the board that the governor suspended certain Open Meetings provisions, which was intended to encourage social distancing at the beginning of the pandemic. Mr. O'Reilly added that effective September 2021, all suspensions have been reinstated and explained certain requirements that are in place and need to be followed. Mr. O'Reilly welcomed questions presented by the board.

C. Financial Report

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

Chairman Brown reported the financial information and informed the Board that a balance sheet and income statement for review were included in the board packet. He asked that all questions be directed to the RMA's CPA (Ruben Soto). Chairman Brown reported that as of August 31, 2021, the checking account balance at Commerce Bank is \$1,043,783.42. The savings account balance at Commerce Bank is \$1,075,670.02. The certificate of deposit balance is \$9,086,351.66, maturing on September 27, 2021, and earning a 0.15% interest.

Funds disbursed since last meeting were to:

Commerce Bank Charges	\$124.49
HNTB (Work Auth. 4,11,12)	\$90,147.64
J. Cruz & Associates, LLC	\$1,982.00
Locke Lord, LLP	\$4,070.35
LDS Media, LLC	\$5,400.00
Ruben Soto Jr, CPA	\$3,115.00

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

Chairman Brown reported that the RMA collected \$637,220.00 in Vehicle Registration Fees on August 19, 2021.

Motion: So Moved
 Moved by: George Beckelhymer
 Second by: Jose Murillo
 Discussion: No discussion was held
 In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

7. Chair's Report

A. Compliance Calendar

Chairman Brown went on to inform the Board of his commitment to follow the compliance calendar and as such, the upcoming September 30th deadline to close the fiscal year. Chairman Brown asked Mr. Ruben Soto, CPA to update the board of the process of closing the year end financials and the audit process.

B. Vallecillo Road Project – Update on possible sources of funding.

Chairman Brown held comments until Agenda Item 10.

C. Life Downs Traffic Study Update

Chairman Brown informed the board that at the MPO meeting on September 15, 2021, Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina asked that RMA move forward with its participation in the traffic study project, which was approved by the Board for an amount of \$50,000.00. Chairman Brown added that he had directed HNTB to work on a proposal within budget, and, if necessary, will be brought back for Board approval if budget is exceeded.

8. General Engineering Consultant Update

1) Project Status Update: Los Presidentes Road Project, Phase 1 and 2A

Chairman Brown welcomed Eduardo Garza, Crane engineering, to update the Board on the Los Presidentes Road Project. Mr. Garza and Fred Martinez went on to illustrate and report the status of the ongoing construction. Mr. Martinez informed that currently the project is at a 45% completion and the updated proposed termination date is June 2022. He went on to report that field changes to the design and weather conditions in the field have caused delays in construction. Mr. Garza and Mr. Martinez welcomed and discussed questions by the board members.

2) Project Status Update: Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lane Project

Melissa Montemayor, HNTB General Engineering Consultant, went on to update the Board on the Killam Industrial Blvd Turn Lane Project. Ms. Montemayor reported a realignment request by Murphy, USA causing a minor change order on driveway number one and five. The project will commence the end of November 2021 and anticipate the turn lane be completed and ready for use by May 2022.

3) Project Status Update: Vallecillo Road Project

Melissa Montemayor, HNTB General Engineering Consultant informed the Board that when in contact with Congressman Cuellar's office, the Vallesillo Road had been a candidate for an appropriation earmark in the DC infrastructure bill. Ms. Montemayor added that the earmarks don't seem to be a topic of discussion and feels that it is not looking very optimistic for the earmarks to be included. The infrastructure bill will have and final vote at the end of the month.

9. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action Regarding Columbia Bridge, World Trade Bridge, Bridge 4/5 and Bridge 5/6.

Chairman Brown went on to say that the assistance in the establishment of a comprehensive transportation system to benefit the traveling public within Webb, and Laredo is a mission of the RMA. He informed the members that when it comes to transportation, the bridges are a very appropriate discussion and would like to have some dialogues. Chairman Brown went on to remind the Board that Resolution 18-05 resolved to support a new international bridge, but the site was not specific. Chairman Brown opened the discussion for dialogue of another bridge that would benefit the community. Discussions with various members were held, which led to a possible workshop.

No Action was required.

10. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action Regarding Additional Sources of Funding for the Vallecillo Road Project.

Chairman Brown informed the board that the Vallecillo Road Project was in line to receive an earmark and unfortunately, appears that the earmark will not progress. Chairman Brown added that the gap funding of approximately \$17.5 million dollars would not be possible, and the RMA would have to seek other possible ways to close the gap.

Chairman Brown added that at the MPO meeting on September 15, 2021, the members of the MPO were hoping to expedite the Hachar Parkway project, and Commissioner John Gallo asked if the RMA or another entity would participate. Chairman Brown went onto say that the Hachar Parkway is a category seven funding and is coming through at \$6.7 million dollars annually. Chairman Brown went on to suggest that since Hachar Parkway was a textile project, the RMA could possibly assist in the funding to help building it more quickly as the mobility issue in Northwest Laredo is important for the community and the RMA.

Chairman Brown also reported that Congressman Cuellar's office informed of another source of funding in the amount of \$27-\$30 billion is anticipated in March of this year and will come to Texas for highway projects. He added that as there are so many important projects that need to

be considered for funding, but the Vallecillo Project is the RMA's principal project. Chairman Brown went on to say that it is not known what's going to happen with the infrastructure bill until October 31 and continued discussions with the Board in pursuing possible funding.

Motion: So Moved

Moved by: George Beckelhymer

Second by: Arturo Dominguez

Discussion: Melissa Montemayor, HNTB, added that the MPO, the City of Laredo and the RMA are to communicate in the negotiations.

In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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

Chairman Brown informed the Board of plans to have one or two meetings before the end of the year. He added that a workshop would be forthcoming.

12. Adjournment.

On a motion made by George Beckelhymer and second by Alfonso Mendiola, with no discussion, meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, and meeting was adjourned.