

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 1:30 PM
International Bank of Commerce
1200 San Bernardo Ave.
3rd Floor - Community Suite

BOARD MINUTES

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA) Board met on November 16, 2021, at the IBC Administrative Building. The meeting was called to order at 1:40 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
George Beckelhymer
Jose Murillo
Antonio Arce, Jr.

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Jed Brown, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. It was announced the following Board Member were absent: Oscar Lopez and Viridiana Fernandez. 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 and thanked IBC for hosting the RMA. He also informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and speakers 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 October 5, 2021, WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Brown open the discussion, consideration and possible action concerning the approval of the Minutes for the October 5, 2021, Regular Board Meeting. 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: Jose Murillo
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Chair's Report

A. Vallecillo Road Project

Chairman Brown reminded the board of the infrastructure bill that had passed, but without the earmark that would have brought the gap fund needed to complete the project. Chairman Brown went on to say that the Mayor and the County Judge along with Congressman Cuellar have indicated that Vallecillo Road is the top priority unfunded project in Webb County and the City of Laredo. He went on to inform the board of other options to allocate alternative source of funding.

B. International Bridge 4/5 Update

Chairman Brown informed the board that after much discussion at the last meeting, he met with the Advisory Council, and it was agreed that this project would be more suitable handling by the City of Laredo and Webb County as it may be too big of a project for the WC-CL RMA.

C. Springfield Road Project Groundbreaking Ceremony

Chairman Brown informed the board of the groundbreaking ceremony held in North Laredo at the north end of where Phase 3 is being constructed. Chairman Brown added

that the ceremony was very well attended by city and county officials who were pleased with RMA's participation in the funding.

D. Lomas del Sur Overpass

Chairman Brown disclosed to the board a conversation he had with the City of Laredo Mayor regarding discretionary funding on transportation projects considered important before Mayor Saenz leaves office. Chairman Brown added that Mayor Saenz considered the Cuatro Vientos Corridor and specifically the overpass important and asked whether the WC-CL RMA could assist with the project. Chairman Brown added that the RMA could participate in at least the design as it has been identified as a high priority.

7. Presentations

A. Financial Report

Acceptance of the financial statements through October 31, 2021.

Chairman Brown reported that as of October 31, 2021, the checking account balance at Commerce Bank is \$987,501.61. The savings account balance at Commerce Bank is \$1,075,866.97. The certificate of deposit balance of \$11,153,155.63.

Funds disbursed in September and October 2021 were:

Commerce Bank Charges	\$123.60
HNTB (Work Auth. 4,11,12)	\$51,743.71
IBC Insurance Agency	\$175.00
J. Cruz & Associates, LLC	\$619.50
LVS Media, LLC	\$1,800.00
Ruben Soto Jr, CPA	<u>\$1,820.00</u>
Total	\$56,281.81

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

Chairman Brown reported that in November 2021, the RMA collected \$564,600.00 in Vehicle Registration Fees. He added 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).

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

C. Presentation by Texas Department of Transportation on Area Projects, including, but not limited to:

- **Mines Road and Killam Industrial Turn Lane Project**

Chairman Brown welcomed Humberto Gonzalez, Director of Transportation, Planning & Development for the Texas Department of Transportation, Laredo District. Mr. Gonzalez informed the board that currently there is \$295.5 million dollars in construction projects in Webb County and is at its highest ever. He went on to update the board on various project construction stages and estimated date of completion. Mr. Gonzalez added that in the next four years, \$533.4 million dollars are focused in Webb County in project letting. Mr. Gonzalez also gave a brief summary on upcoming developments and answered all questions by the board.

D. City of Laredo

- **Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zone**

Chairman Brown informed the board that on November 1, 2021, City Council considered this item on their agenda, which referenced the WC-CL RMA's 2018 study of the Cuatro Vientos area. Chairman Brown welcomed Teclo J. Garcia, Director of Economic Development Director for the City of Laredo to provide a presentation regarding the Cuatro Vientos Reinvestment Zone. Mr. Garcia discussed the Loop 20 Transportation Reinvestment Zone opportunity with the RMA and discussed a possible collaboration and partnership to develop and create more mobility from Highway 59 down to the proposed bridge location in South Laredo. Mr. Garcia provided additional information regarding ways to develop a safe transportation solution, tax increments, revenues that would be at stake, and entertained questions by the board.

Motion: Skip to Agenda Item No. 9
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Doug Howland
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

9. Action Item (Resolution 21-14): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action Regarding WC-CL RMA Support for City of Laredo's Pursuit of Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zone.

Chairman Brown referred to the resolution in the board packet for RMA to support the City of Laredo in creating the Cuatro Vientos Reinvestment Zone. Chairman Brown added that he would like the board to hold a workshop and have co-participation with the City of Laredo. He included that he would like to have an estimate for an update of the 2018 study. Further discussions of this items including the revenues assigned, collection obligations, and distribution of funds were entertained.

Motion was made to have a workshop of this item, including any other similar structures of development benefits to determine the best idea for the area.

Motion: So Moved
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola
Discussion: Discussion was held to Amend Motion and Table Resolution 21-14 with no action. Action was called for a workshop. Moved by Jose Murillo and second by Mr. Mendiola.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Action Item (Resolution 21-13): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action to Increase Support of WC-CL RMA's participation for the Webb County Planned Improvements to U.S. 59 Associated with the LIFE Downs Fairground.

Chairman Brown reminded the board that previously, the RMA approved a traffic study of up to \$50,000, which was thought to be an appropriate amount at the time. HNTB has been working for several months to get qualified firms to produce a traffic study for the approved amount. Chairman Brown introduced Melissa Montemayor from HTNB to provide additional input. Ms. Montemayor informed the board that in response to the request from Webb County to develop the traffic study analysis, HNTB reached out to two different firms. One of the firms quoting \$60,076 and the second quote at \$69,900. She further elaborated on what the analysis would entail, which includes traffic impacts of the surrounding roadway, evaluation of the site plan for that work and their conclusions and recommendations. Ms. Montemayor continued with a brief summary of the County's plan for the fairgrounds and answered questions by the board.

Chairman Brown asked if the board approved the amount of \$60,076.00 for the traffic study.

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

10. Action Item (Resolution 21-15): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action Regarding Development of Aquero Boulevard (River Road) Project.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the board that at the last MPO Meeting on October 20, 2021, there was considerable discussion followed by a request by MPO member, City Councilman Dr. Marty Martinez, for the RMA to get involved with the project. Chairman Brown reminded the MPO members that River Road was not in the list of priority projects that were considered by the

MPO when projects were ranked. He went on to inform the MPO members that he would bring this issue to the RMA Board for discussion. Chairman Brown asked Melisa Montemayor, HTNB, to advise the board on what would be the next logical step if the RMA chooses to become involved. Ms. Montemayor went on to inform the board of costs involved when dealing with environmental constraints that need to be identified to determine the most logical routes concerning natural habitats and the geometry of the terrain. Ms. Montemayor added that the development of Aquero Boulevard (River Road) will help relieve the traffic congestion on FM 1472, as it will serve as a parallel alternative route for passenger vehicles and school busses. Ms. Montemayor welcomed discussions and answered questions by the board.

The Board authorized Chairman Brown to negotiate with the City of Laredo or MPO to participate in the alignment study with 50% participation and not to exceed \$225,000.00 for the development of Aquero Boulevard Project.

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

11. General Engineer Consultant Update:

1. Project Status Update: Los Presidentes Phase 1 & 2A

Chairman Brown welcomed Antonio Rodriguez, General Engineer Consultant to update the board on the Los Presidentes Phase 1 & 2A. Mr. Rodriguez introduced Fred Martinez, who illustrated site photos of construction improvements, project percentages and date of completion being June 2022.

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

Antonio Rodriguez, General Engineer Consultant, went on to inform the board that TxDOT was looking to start construction in the first week of December. He estimated the project should be complete on or about June 2022 as well.

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

Chairman Brown informed the Board of plans to have a workshop in the month of December, as discussed in agenda item 9, and proposed various dates with a possible 9 a.m. start time. More details would follow.

13. Adjournment.

On a motion made by George Beckelhymer and second by Jose Murillo, with no discussion, meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m. Motion passed unanimously, and meeting was adjourned.