

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, March 25, 2022, 10:00 AM
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 Friday, March 25, 2022, at the IBC Administrative Building. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.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
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 10:01 a.m. It was announced that Viridiana Fernandez was absent and George Beckelhymer was ten minutes delayed. 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 January 19, 2022, WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Brown opened the discussion, consideration, and possible action concerning the approval of the Minutes for the January 19, 2022 Regular Board Meeting. He then asked for a motion to accept the Board Meeting Minutes of the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA.

Motion: Motion to Approve the January 19, 2022, WC-CL RMA Board Meeting Minutes.
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

6. Chair's Report

a. Vallecillo Road Project

Chairman Brown reminded the board that Vallecillo Road remains a priority project to the RMA after several years and will continue to stay optimistic and keep pushing this project for funding as Laredo remains as the number one inland port. Chairman Brown added that he will continue to keep the project in the forefront with elected officials and those decision makers that have an opportunity to help the RMA obtain funding.

b. Report on Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Survey for Unfunded Roadway Projects

Chairman Brown thanked the board for being among the 25 respondents that participated in the Survey Monkey and discussed the results and ranking of projects. The Vallecillo project scored third. In Chairman Brown's opinion, the two parts of town that are experiencing the most need for transportation improvements would be the Mines Road area and South Laredo. Discussions regarding the poll results and how projects are weighed affecting the results were held. Chairman Brown clarified the Texas Transportation Commission decides what projects will go through category 12 funding and discretionary monies. Monies received from category 12 funds are based on vehicle registration fees. \$8,089,000 were awarded the year of our creation

in 2014. It was agreed the board will keep pushing for the projects that are important to our community and creating partnerships for those projects.

c. Cuatro Vientos TRZ Updated Study

Response from the city for the ILA presented was received. All parties agreed with comments presented by Brian O'Reilly and currently waiting on getting the document finalized and executed. Study will begin once document is executed.

d. Extension of Work Authorization No. 4 with HNTB as General Engineering Consultant.

This document is the principal contract that allows HNTB to perform work for RMA that is not a specific contract project, i.e., attend board meetings, and is paid for by Authorization No. 4. Chairman Brown is pleased with work performed by HNTB and discussed various topics with the advisory committee. Brian O'Reilly suggested RMA consider posting a RFP to consider other options for GEC. The advisory committee agreed RMA will continue to work with HNTB as our GEC for an additional two years. If the board agrees, their contract will be extended in September 2022.

e. Personal Financial Statement Due on May 2, 2022 (deadline extended due to weekend).

Chairman Brown reminded the board to have their personal financial statements filed before the expiration date of May 2, 2022.

7. Presentations

A. Financial Report

Chairman Brown welcomed Ruben Soto, CPA, to present the financial report through February 28, 2022, and asked that all questions be directed to him. Mr. Soto stated that in the board packet was a financial summary and reported a total cash fund for checking, savings and CD in the amount of \$12,012,313.81 as of February 28, 2022. Mr. Soto informed the board that the CD would be maturing March 27, 2022 and will roll over for another three months on the advice of council.

Funds disbursed in January/February 2022 were:

Commerce Bank-Service Charges	\$ 110.83
HNTB (WA#4, 11, 12)	\$ 40,321.66
IBC Insurance Agency	\$387.50
J Cruz & Associates, LLC	\$2,050.00
Locke Lord	\$5,628.60
IRSolutions LLC	\$4,160.00
Cherry Bekaert LLP	<u>\$15,000.00</u>

Total \$67,658.59

Motion: Motion to Accept the financial statements through February 28, 2022.
Moved by: George Beckhelhmer
Second by: Jose Murillo
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Ruben Soto reported the Vehicle Registration Fees received from Webb County for the period of October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2021, was \$465,660.00. He informed the board that included in the packet was the statement of financial position and statement of activities through February 2021 and welcomed questions by the board.

Chairman Brown moved to Agenda Item 7D to allow presenter, for Item 7C, time to virtually join.

D. TxDOT Presentation on District Projects in Design and Construction.

Chairman Brown welcomed TxDOT District engineers to make their presentation. Mr. Gonzalez went on to inform the board of the new designation of interstate 27 making it a very popular topic since the City of Laredo and Webb County would have four major interstates going through it. Mr. Gonzalez added that this would open doors for federal funding. Mr. Gonzalez also stated that over the next 10 years, there was \$1 billion dollars in current projects that are funded with \$660 million within the Laredo-Webb County. Jose Vargas, Laredo Area Engineer, continued with a status of the ongoing construction project in Webb County, Mr. Humberto Gonzalez highlighted the major projects with greatest impact on mobility and entertained questions and discussions with the board.

C. Webb County Presentation on Webb County Fair Grounds Master Plan.

Judd Gilpin, Master Plan Engineer, illustrated and went over the key points of this project.

Moved to Agenda Item 11

11. Action Item (Resolution 22-13): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Support the Development of the Concord Hills Boulevard Extension Project.

Chairman Brown welcomed Ramon Chavez, City of Laredo Engineer, to present the development of the Concord Hills Blvd Extension Project. Mr. Chavez went on to inform the board that on February 22, 2022, the City Council moved to authorize the interim city manager to discuss with RMA, Webb County and private landowners to support funding for the Concord Hills 1.3 mile

roadway extension from Los Presidentes to Las Lomas. Mr. Chavez continued with his presentation, Eddie Garza, Crane Engineering, discussed the drainage of this project, discussed water drainage issues and entertained questions from the board.

Motion: Motion to Support the Development of the Concord Hills Boulevard Extension Project.
Moved by: Jose Murillo
Second by: Antonio Arce
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

Moved to Agenda Item 8

8. Action Item (Resolution 22-10): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve the FY 2021 Compliance Report for Submission to Texas Department of Transportation as required by 43 Texas Administrative Code §26.65.

Chairman Brown informed the board of the fiscal year 2021 compliance report for submission to the Texas Department of Transportation as required by 43, Texas Administrative Code 26.65 was included in the agenda packet. Chairman Brown added that this annual compliance report to TxDOT was prepared by HNTB, as it will be done in subsequent years.

Motion: Motion to approve the FY 2021 Compliance Report for Submission to Texas Department of Transportation as required by 43 Texas Administrative Code Section 26.65.
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Jose Murillo
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

9. Action Item (Resolution 22-11): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve and Adopt the 2022 Strategic Plan.

Chairman Brown informed the board of the 2022 Strategic Plan included in the agenda packet was due every 2 years to the Texas Department of Transportation and outlines the methodology of projects by the RMA.

Motion: Motion to approve the 2022 Strategic Plan.
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola

Discussion: No discussions was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

10. Action Item (Resolution 22-12): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve and Adopt the 2022 WC-CL RMA Annual Report.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the board that the annual report in the board packet, prepared by HNTB, consists of the RMA's 2021 project report, revenue bond issuance (if any), financial condition of the RMA, budget and surplus revenues, and capital improvements. Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB answered questions and discussed questions presented by the board.

Motion: Motion to adopt the 2022 WC-CL RMA Annual Report.
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: Jose Murillo
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

12. Action Item (Resolution 22-14): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Deliver a Letter in Support of the City of Laredo Presidential Permit Application to Expand World Trade Bridge.

Chairman Brown informed the board that the board packet included a letter of support to the City of Laredo for the permit application to expand the World Trade Bridge.

Motion: Motion to approve a letter in support of the City of Laredo Presidential Permit Application to Expand World Trade Bridge.
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: George Beckelhymer
Discussion: Mr. Arturo Dominguez commented that the World Trade Bridge was in critical condition and added several things that are being done, such as, motion scales, expanding of exit gates, fast lanes and other new projects to reduce the waiting times.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

13. Action Item (Resolution 22-15): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to Share the Cost Associated with the River Road Corridor Study.

Chairman Brown informed that board that at the last MPO meeting, the MPO policy committee members agreed to participate with the RMA on a \$250,00 River Road Corridor Study, a project

previously approved. Chairman Brown mentioned the importance of the Mines Road and South Laredo to the community growth. The Interlocal Agreement commits the RMA to 50 percent participation for the corridor study, which is to identify the possible alignments of where a road could be between River Road and Mines Road going from Aquero North to the Las Tiendas Road area.

Motion: Motion to approve an Interlocal Agreement with the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to Share the Cost Associated with the River Road Corridor Study.

Moved by: Arturo Dominguez

Second by: George Beckelhymer

Discussion: Chairman Brown added that any study more than two or three years old is obsolete by the way things are growing.

In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

14. General Engineer Consultant Update:

Chairman Brown invited Tony Rodriguez with HNTB to update the board on the following agenda items.

d. Project Status Update: Webb County Fairgrounds Traffic Study

Raj Basavaraju, Transcend Engineer, went on to inform the board of the data collected during the peak event of the entire year, as the fairgrounds were expecting about 10,000 visitors. He added that based on the field study analysis, they will move forward with the information gathered to complete the traffic impact study. All questions by the board were addressed.

a. Project Status Update: Los Presidentes, Phases 1&2A

Alfredo Martinez, Crane Engineering, gave an update of the current progress of Phase 1 and 2a. He went on to illustrate the board on completed items, ongoing construction status and gave a project completion date of June/July 2022 as they work alongside TxDOT.

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

Mr. Antonio Rodriguez informed the board of they were projecting a May timeframe for the construction of the intersection.

c. Project Status Update: Springfield, Phase 3

Mr. Antonio Rodriguez informed the board that this project started construction in late December 2021 and is 30% complete and projected to be complete by August 2022.

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

Chairman Brown informed the Board of plans to have the next board meeting in a month or month and a half, unless one was needed sooner. Details for next board meeting would follow.

16. Adjournment.

On a motion by Jose Murillo and seconded by Alfonso Mendiola, with no discussion, meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am. Motion passes unanimously, and meeting was adjourned.