

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 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 Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at the IBC Community Suite. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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
Jose Murillo
Alfonso Mendiola
Antonio Arce, Jr.
George Beckelhymer

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 Arturo Dominguez and Viridiana Fernandez were absent. 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.

Chairman Brown opened public comments and welcomed David Trevino, Vice President of Daniel B. Hasting Incorporated.

Mr. David Trevino went on to inform the board that on September 2, 2021, Daniel B. Hastings Incorporated hosted a meeting that included an Assistant City Manager, Laredo Police Department, Webb County Sherriff's Office, County Judge Tano Tijerina, TxDot, as well as property owner representatives. Mr. Trevino added that the lack of several infrastructure issues that exist at the Unitec Industrial Park has caused traffic congestion and continues to be a huge issue of concern. He continued saying that under a "No Traffic Congestion" situation, it would take first responders approximately 10 to 15 minutes to arrive at Unitec. Under "Traffic Congestion" situations, this would take them 20 to 30 minutes to arrive and is simply too long. There continues to be two ways in and two ways out of Unitec. If Union Pacific Railroad is blocking the I35 Frontage Road at Union Royal, then there's only one way in and one way out. The traffic congestion, especially after four o'clock, continues to be a huge problem. The most especially at the intersection of Carrier Drive and South Unitec Road. This congestion and the congestion on the 12B exit ramp is why it sometimes takes first responders even longer to arrive as our area continues to grow. At one point, the City of Laredo developed a plan between the city Traffic Department and the Webb County Sheriff's Office to alleviate some of the congestion within the park. However, TxDot did not approve this plan and the city never received a final report from TxDot or TTI. Mr. Trevino would like to ask the RMA Board for any assistance they can provide or extend to either the state, the city, or the county to help alleviate any of the congestion, especially with creating another form of ingress and egress on the east side of I35.

With no further public comments, Chairman Brown closed the comment period.

5. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action concerning approval of the July 20, 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 July 20, 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 July 20, 2022, WC-CL RMA Board Meeting Minutes.
Moved by: Oscar Lopez
Second by: George Beckelhymer
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Brown moved to Item 8.

8. Presentations

a. Financial Report

- **Acceptance of Financial Statements through August 31, 2022.**

Chairman Brown welcomed Oscar Lopez, RMA treasurer, to present the financial report through August 31, 2022. Mr. Lopez went on to report a total cash balance of \$11,529,635.59 and \$1,353,000.00 is in the operating checkbook. Mr. Lopez directed the board to the board packet for a list of checks that were written during the months of July and August 2022.

b. Status Report on Vehicle Registration Fees (VRF's).

Mr. Oscar Lopez directed the board to the board packet that includes the statement of vehicle registration fees collected in the amount of \$17,118,816.00.

Motion: Motion to Accept the financial statements through August 31, 2022.
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Antonio Arce
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

c. Investment Planning Presentation by WC-CL RMA Investment Officer.

Chairman Brown welcomed Oscar Lopez to make his Investment Planning Presentation. Mr. Lopez informed that board that the Investment Committee met and discussed the current interest rates and was agreed that the RMA should earn a better rate of return than what has been currently offered to the cash and near cash accounts. After meeting with financial advisors, the investment committee agreed to establish an account with Faro Wealth and instruct them to develop a portfolio of US Treasury obligations with maturity starting six months and quarterly after that up to two years maturity. Mr. Lopez added that the committee was in the process of completing the new account paperwork and would have a detailed report for the RMA Board at the next meeting. Chairman Brown thanked the RMA Investment Committee for their efforts on behalf of the RMA and those RMA serves in Laredo and Webb County.

d. Presentation by Texas Department of Transportation Regarding Mobility Issues on Interstate Highway 35 Between Mile Marker 13 and the Unitec Overpass.

Chairman Brown welcomed Humberto Gonzalez, Jr., Deputy District Engineer for TxDOT Laredo District. Mr. Gonzalez went on to update the board on mobility issues

on Interstate 35 at mile marker 13 near the Unitec Overpass.

Chairman Brown moved back to Item 6.

6. Chair's Report

a. Vallecillo Road Project

Chairman Brown reminded the board members the Vallecillo Project was not in the Draft UTP as discussed in the previous meeting. Since then, Chairman Brown attended a meeting in Austin on August 3rd. Laredo was well represented. Three key take-aways was that there are additional funds coming into our district than Chairman Brown originally realized. Another take-away was Mark Williams informed Chairman Brown the RMA was given \$8.9 million dollars in 2014 that has not been spent. Chairman Brown was appointed in November 2019 and located those funds with TxDOT in January 2022. These funds will be allocated to various projects. The third take-away was Mark Williams pointed out the fact that an overpass must be built for the Vallecillo Project to work. Cliff Killam, who was in attendance, pledged to donate every bit of right of way that TxDOT needs to construct an interchange in that location. At the last MPO meeting, Judge Tijerina made a motion to allocate \$16.5 million dollars to Vallecillo. Congressman Henry Cuellar had already pledged \$3 million securing the gap funding that was needed for this project.

7. WC-CL RMA Board Workshop: Use of Allocated Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds from the Texas Department of Transportation.

Chairman Brown announced the board will be allocating funds from the \$8.9 million dollars to various projects during this meeting. Chairman Brown proposed they pledge \$1,000,000.00 million dollars to Concord Hills Project, \$1,000,000 million dollars to Springfield Extension Project, \$300,000 for the Webb County Fairgrounds driveways, and \$5,363,964.00 to the Vallecillo Project. The remaining \$1,226,036.000 will remain in case a project goes over budget at one point.

Motion: Motion to close the workshop
Moved by: Oscar Lopez
Second by: Douglas Howland
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

9. Action Item (Resolution 22-24): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action for Supporting the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of Vallecillo Road Project.

Chairman Brown went on to ask the Board to take action on supporting the TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership with \$5,363,964.00, for the development of the Vallecillo Road Project. At the board's request, Chairman Brown went on to clarify that the \$4 million that was previously committed by board action was coming from the Category 12 Strategic Partnership funds. RMA would be placing an additional \$1,363,964 million, for a total of \$5,363,964.00 from the TxDOT Category 12 Strategic Partnership to fund the Vallecillo Road Project.

Motion: Motion to approve and Support the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of Vallecillo Road Project.
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Oscar Lopez
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

10. Action Item (Resolution 22-25): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Supporting the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of the Concord Hills Boulevard Extension Project.

Chairman Brown went on to ask the Board for the consideration to contribute \$1 million dollars from the TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership funds for the development of the Concord Hills Blvd. Extension Project.

Motion: Motion to Supporting the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of the Concord Hills Boulevard Extension Project.
Moved by: Oscar Lopez
Second by: George Beckelhymer
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

11. Action Item (Resolution 22-26): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Supporting the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of the Springfield Avenue Extension Project, Phases 2 and 4.

Chairman Brown asked the Board for the consideration in supporting the commitment of TxDOT

Category 12 Strategic Partnership funds for the development of the Springfield Avenue Extension Project Phases 2 and 4 in the amount of \$1 million dollars. It was discussed that further action would be taken at a later date if the City of Laredo chose to apply the funds to a difference Phase other than Phase 2 and 4.

Motion: Motion to Support the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of the Springfield Avenue Extension Project, Phases 2 and 4.
Moved by: Antonio Arce
Second by: Jose Murillo
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

12. Action Item (Resolution 22-27): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action Supporting the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of Proposed Driveways for Webb County Fairgrounds Project.

Chairman Brown went on to ask the Board for \$300,00 dollars from the TxDOT Category 12 Strategic Partnership funds to support the development of the proposed driveways for the Webb County Fairgrounds project.

Motion: Motion to Support the Commitment of TxDOT Category 12-Strategic Partnership (RMA) Funds for the Development of Proposed Driveways for Webb County Fairgrounds Project.
Moved by: Alfonso Mendiola
Second by: Doug Howland
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

13. Action Item (Resolution 22-28): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve an Extension to the General Engineering Consulting Agreement with HNTB.

Chairman Brown welcomed Melissa Montemayor and Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB. Mr. Rodriguez came before the board requesting an extension to the HTNB Master Contract as General Engineering Consultants for an additional two years. He went on to remind the board that in 2015, the board had awarded the master contract a five-year term and was extended an additional 2 years, which is said to expire on September 16, 2022. Mr. Rodriguez asked the board for an extension of an additional 2 years to continue providing support to the RMA as General Engineering Consulting, extending the master contract to September 16, 2024.

Motion: Motion to Approve an Extension to the General Engineering Consulting Agreement with HNTB.

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

14. Action Item (Resolution 22-29): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 4.12 with HNTB for Continued Project Development Services.

Chairman Brown welcomed Antonio Rodriguez from HNTB. Mr. Rodriguez came before the board requesting an extension to the HTNB Continued Project Development Services under Work Authorization No. 4. Mr. Rodriguez went on to explain that this work authorization provides product development, representation on behalf of the RMA at meetings, as well as any other task or requirements by the RMA. Mr. Rodriguez added that HNTB was requesting a one-year extension to Work Authorization No. 4 to expire September 2023 in the amount of \$266,000.00 for the extension according to the timeframe.

Motion: Motion to Approve Work Authorization No. 4.12 with HNTB for Continued Project Development Services.
Moved by: Jose Murillo
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

15. Action Item (Resolution 22-30): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Authorize the Procurement of Independent Auditing Services for the WC-CL RMA.

Chairman Brown went on to inform the board the need to hire an independent financial auditor as the current auditor could no longer provide the service. The board further discussed the issue of a request for qualification, implement a process, and review applicants and recommendations with the board.

Motion: Motion to Authorize the Procurement of Independent Auditing Services for the WC-CL RMA.
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Antonio Arce
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

16. General Engineer Consultant Update:

- a. **Project Status Update: Killam Industrial Blvd. at FM 1492 Project**
Mr. Antonio Rodriguez, HTNB, mentioned construction for this project began in May 2022 and is 45% complete. Grading and hot mix for bedding for concrete pavement structure has been completed along with drill shafts for signal work. Construction completion is projected for October.
- b. **Project Status Update: Los Presidentes, Phases 1 & 2A**
Alfredo Martinez, Crane Engineering, informed the board they are at and estimated 90% completion. He described the progress completion regarding water line construction, fire hydrant adjustments, sidewalks, landscaping, and irrigation. Photos were shared with the board. Projected completion date is October 2022.
- c. **Project Status Update: Springfield Avenue Extension Project, Phase 3**
Mr. Antonio Rodriguez, HTNB, informed the board the project is 85% complete. They are pending to tie down some of the water main tie ins, as well as subsidiary concrete work with their culvers on the headwall area. Mr. Doug Howland is attending those meetings.
- d. **Project Status Update: Webb County Fairgrounds Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA)**
Raj Basavaraju, Transcend Engineer, announced the 2025 conditions analysis has been completed and summarized. It was presented back to the GNC team for review. In conversations with TxDOT, they got an idea of how 59 will look like in front of the fairgrounds by 2025. It looks like it will be a six-lane divided roadway with a potential overpass for a main entrance to the fairgrounds. Report should be completed by December 2022.
- e. **Project Status Update: River Road Corridor Study**
Ms. Melissa Montemayor, HTNB, announced the kick-off meeting was held in August 2022. Preliminary environmental constraints have been discussed. A draft Purpose and Need was developed. Phase one has started to identify alternatives. Alternatives that get through the filter of level one will end up in level two. This is where we really buckled down and look at the traffic that's traversing and how that alignment is going to handle the traffic. Target dates for stakeholder involvement are October 19th and 20th. Stakeholders will meet to draw the alignments and give opinions on the project.
- f. **Project Status Update: Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zone Feasibility Study**
Travis James shared a PowerPoint with updates on the TRZ Project. The three main tasks are 90-95% complete. Mr. James described two large projects that are in the pipeline. Some master planning efforts for residential projects to the south are also underway. Property values have dramatically increased within Laredo as a whole and the kinds of properties getting built so revenue that would generate are based on that.

Mr. James discussed three scenarios he refers to as high, medium, and low. The report will give some order of magnitude and numbers to work with in terms of revenues over the next 30 years.

- g. **Project Status Update: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application**
Ms. Melissa Montemayor, HTNB, informed the board the grant is available to communities to enhance and develop a Safety Action Plan and its implementation phases. This grant application is a joint venture between RMA, the Laredo MPO, and the City of Laredo. Cost was split between the three to allow us to tap into their resources and data. Application was completed and submitted on September 9, 2022. If selected, \$2 million in funds will be received by May 2023. The scope of work should begin by September and the community should have an action plan about 18 months later. Ms. Montemayor thanked Ruben Soto for his assistance in setting up the account.

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

Chairman Brown informed the Board of plans to have the next board meeting in mid-September unless one was needed sooner to review the auditing services matter. Details for next board meeting would follow.

15. Adjournment.

On a motion by George Beckelhymer and seconded by Jose Murillo, with no discussion, meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m. Motion passes unanimously, and meeting was adjourned.