

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 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 Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at the IBC Community Suite. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. WC-CL RMA Board Chair Jed A. Brown present and presiding. The following Board members were present:

Jed A. Brown
Antonio Arce, Jr
Oscar O. Lopez
Jose Murillo
Douglas B. Howland
Arturo Dominguez
Diana Palacios
George Beckelhymer

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Jed Brown, called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. It was announced that Alfonso Mendiola was 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 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 Board Action Concerning the Approval of the August 1, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Brown opened the discussion concerning the approval of the Minutes for the June 19, 2023, 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 August 1, 2023, WC-CL RMA Board Meeting Minutes.
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: Jose Murrillo
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

6. Chair's Report

- a. Chairman Brown discussed photography session for a board group image and individual headshots for use on the website and social media.
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7. Presentations

a. Financial Report

WC-CL RMA Treasurer, Oscar Lopez, provided the financial report to the Board. Mr. Lopez reported that as of August 31, 2023, Financial Summary reflects cash in bank totaling \$4,816,867.17, the value of the investment portfolio was \$6,803,970, and accounts receivable brings total assets to \$11,634,665.46. Checks paid out of the operating account total \$198,966.58 and deposits made totaled \$603,680. The checking balance as of August 31, 2023, is \$1,225,962.66. Additionally, during September, some of the assets were moved over to Faro Wealth and additional US Treasury securities were purchased in the amount of approximately \$1 million with rates above 5% and scheduled to mature in February and May 2025.

Motion: Motion to Accept Financial Statements through August 31, 2023.
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: Jose Murrillo
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

b. Status Report on Vehicle Registration Fees (VRF)

Treasurer Oscar Lopez informed the Board the total registration fees from 2014 to June 2023 is \$19,370,846.90 and the latest VRF received on June 30 was in the amount of \$603,680.00.

c. Presentations by TxDOT Laredo District office:

Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Transportation Plan – Epi Gonzalez, TxDOT, presented to the Board the UTP for FY 2024 which grew from 1.6 billion in FY 2023 to 2.1 billion for FY 2024. The projects include: the construction of a new roadway 4-lane divided highway Hachar-Reuthinger; the construction of an overpass at Lomas del Sur Blvd; IH-35 overpass at Uniroyal Dr. & Hachar-Ruethinger; new direct connectors (#3 and #6) northbound and southbound IH35 to US59; construction of an interchange at the airport; converting a 6-lane non-freeway facility to a 6-lane freeway facility with auxiliary lanes and frontage roads; widen freeway from 4-lane to 6-lane with overpass at UPRR; widen existing roadway to 4-lane divided; construction of Vallecillo Road 4-lane off-system hwy with continuous turn lane; widen existing roadway to 4-lane divided; widen existing roadway to 4-lane divided (future i-69 corridor).

Update on US 59 Feasibility Study – Robert Rodriguez, TxDOT, explained to the Board the purpose of the study was to enhance regional mobility, connectivity and safety, and facilitate the free movement from Laredo to the east. What is going to be constructed is a two-lane divided highway that will become a frontage road. The project started off with 46 concepts in the fall of 2022 which has now been narrowed down to four alternatives.

Ongoing construction projects within Webb County – Denise Garcia, TxDOT, informed the Board of the current ongoing projects including: IH35/Railroad Grade Separation and Direct Connectors 5 and 8; FM 1472 widening from Big Bend Blvd to Killam; US 83 Road Rehabilitation North; US 83 Road Rehabilitation South; six-inch stripping IH35 Webb and La Salle; US59 Upgrade to Frontage Roads and Overpasses; SH359 Widening; IH35 SB Overlay; IH35 NB Overlay; and IH35/Saunders/Clark/FM1472 Overlay.

8. Action Item (Resolution 23-14): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the WC-CL RMA FY 2023-2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

Chairman Brown explained to the Board the Annual Operating and Capital Budget. The first page details the actual and budgeted surplus revenues for FY 2023-2024 and the second two pages are the capital improvements Fiscal Year End September 30, 2024, through Fiscal Year End September 30, 2028. The one-year plan details the budget for GEC at \$359,000 consistent with the approval of approximately \$30,000 a month. There is also \$45,000 budgeted for a project coordinator position in case it becomes necessary. Chairman Brown also informed the Board of possibly amending the Capital Improvements Budget once all the numbers for Vallecillo Road are sorted out.

- Motion: Motion to Approve Item 8 Resolution 23-14.
- Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
- Second by: Oscar Lopez
- Discussion: No discussion was held.
- In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

9. Action Item (Resolution 23-15): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 1.1 with LJA Engineering for additional time and budget for FY 2024 General Consulting Engineering Services.

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, went on to inform the Board this item is an extension of Work Authorization No.1 into the 2024 Fiscal Year starting on October 1 and Ending September 31, 2024. This would include \$30,000 a month equal to \$359,826.79. The GEC is for general staff augmentation, technical assistance on projects, and general day-to-day type operations at the RMA.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 9 Resolution 23-15.
Moved by: George Beckelhymer
Second by: Jose Murillo
Discussion: Discussion by Mr. Beckelhymer and Chairman Brown on the efficient utilization of the engineering staff.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

10. Action Item (Resolution 23-16): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Authorize the Chair to appoint a board representative to lead a Safe Transportation Advisory Council (STAC) that will be supporting efforts in the development of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan, a stakeholder component of the Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant program.

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, explained to the Board that they are looking to appoint a Board representative to the Safe Transportation Advisory Council. The representative would be the voice of the RMA and lead the advisory council. The advisory council would be comprised of approximately 60 stakeholders.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 10 Resolution 23-16.
Moved by: Oscar Lopez
Second by: Tony Arce
Discussion: No discussion was held.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

11. Action Item (Resolution 23-17): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action regarding the designation of the functional classification of Vallecillo Road as a Principal Arterial.

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, informed the Board that the Federal Highway Administration is requiring roads like Vallecillo to be functionally classified in order to be able to utilize federal funds. The action needed is to visit with TxDOT and the MPO, who have the authority to

functionally classify Vallecillo Road, update their maps, and send them to the Federal Highway Administration.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 11 Resolution 23-17
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: George Beckelhymer
Discussion: Question by Mr. Beckelhymer on the impacts of the designation. Melissa Montemayor assured him there are no additional obligations and the only possible impacts would be the possibility of attracting additional federal funds.
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

12. General Engineer Consultant Update:

a. Project Status Update: Vallecillo Road

Baldazar Avila, LJA, informed the Board that regarding the project on data collection, the topographic surveys are being finalized. That also includes the surface utility engineering investigation to continue with the schematic design and start coordinating with the City of Laredo and utility providers on the relocation to existing facilities. The sub-consultant is working on collecting traffic data for the projects to prepare and finalize the traffic report. Environmental Studies, drainage studies, and right-of-way retracement studies are underway, and once completed, within the next two months, an updated preliminary schematic will be submitted to TxDOT. The target date to submit the final schematic is May 2024 and the letting date is September 2025.

b. Project Status Update: North Laredo TRZ feasibility study

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, informed the Board that at the October 18 City Council meeting, there was a TRZ item on the agenda. The agenda item was to allow the city manager to have conversations with Chairman Brown about the joint TRZ study in North Laredo. It also looked at extending the limits of the TRZ over to the east to the area called Unitec off of I-35.

c. Project Status Update: Cuatro Vientos TRZ next steps

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, informed the Board that we are pending action from the City of Laredo to discuss with the RMA how they want to focus on implementation. Chairman Brown added that the RMA offered to help through consultant expertise that can help through the implementation period. But it is not a project that would affect the RMA's budget.

d. Project Status Update: Killam Industrial Blvd. at FM 1472 Turn Lane Project

Tony Rodriguez, LJA, informed the Board they are awaiting the notification from TxDOT to perform the final walkthrough on the project and the TDLR inspection as well.

e. Project Status Update: Springfield Ave. Extension Project, Phase 2

Tony Rodriguez, LJA, updated the Board that they are waiting for the City of Laredo to provide their plan set and cost estimate to utilize that information to submit an AFA to TxDOT to access the category 12 dollars that will be used as the RMA's proponent for the project.

f. Project Status Update: Concord Hills

Tony Rodriguez, LJA, informed the Board that similar to the Springfield update, they are

waiting on an updated construction budget from the City of Laredo for this project. The RMA's commitment is \$1 million.

g. Project Status Update: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A): Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan

Jason Rodriguez, LJA, updated the Board the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan was started in September. They have been coordinating with the MPL staff on data collection. The team has already started some preliminary analysis, preparations to have a project website, a one-pager that says generally what the study is about, and a draft logo. Next is going to be to convene the committees and start meeting with policymakers.

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

No date and time was set for the next Board meeting. Details for the next Board meeting will follow.

16. Adjournment.

On a motion by Mr. Beckelhymer and seconded by Mr. Murillo, with no discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm. Motion passes unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.
