

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 2:00 p.m.  
International Bank of Commerce  
2418 Jacaman Road  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Administration Building

**BOARD MINUTES**

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA) Board met on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the IBC Administration Building. 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  
Antonio Arce, Jr  
Oscar O. Lopez  
Jose Murillo  
Douglas B. Howland  
Arturo Dominguez  
Diana Palacios  
George Beckelhymer  
Alfonso Mendiola

**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. 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.

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**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.

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**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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#### 4. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

No public comments to report.

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#### 5. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Board Action Concerning the Approval of the December 11, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Brown opened the discussion concerning the approval of the Minutes for December 11, 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 October 24, 2023, WC-CL RMA Board Meeting Minutes.  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: Antonio Arce  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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#### 6. Chair's Report

##### a. TxDOT Category 12 Funding Commitments

Chairman Brown informed the Board the RMA received \$8.89 million in 2014 in Category 12 Strategic Partnership funds. The RMA has to date committed \$5.363 million to Vallecillo Road Project; \$300,000 to the Webb County Fairgrounds driveways Project; \$1 million to the Springfield extension Phase II/IV, Project; and \$1 million to the Concord Hills Extension Project.

##### b. Vallecillo Road future over pass at IH35

Chairman Brown informed the Board originally there was an understanding that Vallecillo Road would be funded through the RMA, the MPO, the City of Laredo, and Webb County and TxDOT was committed to the overpass including the design and the construction. However, it has become clear it would make more sense for the RMA working with LJA to take over the design of the overpass too. Chairman Brown and Melissa Montemayor met with Roberto and Epi from and decided that as another governmental entity, the RMA can take that over from them and bring that up to speed with the RMA schedule to control how quickly the drawings are done so that the road and the overpass are built at the same time.

##### c. Springfield funding phase II/IV

Chairman Brown presented to the Board they have allocated a million dollars to go to Springfield. A council member for North Laredo also discussed the RMA being involved in Phase IV. With the City's consent, the RMA would be taking over the Springfield IV project using the million dollars that had been allocated to Phase II, moving it to Phase IV, and working with TxDOT. The RMA would handle the design of the remaining portion of the road that needs to be done along with TxDOT's portion. This would also federalize the project.

**d. Personal Financial Statement Due Date is April 30, 2024**

Chairman Brown informed the Board that the Personal Financial Statements are due April 30, 2024, and reminded the Board directors that they must submit their Personal Financial Statements to the Texas Ethics Commission.

**e. Submission of the 2023 Project Report**

Chairman Brown updated the Board that the 2023 Project Report has been completed and is posted on the WCCL – RMA website.

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**7. Presentations**

**a. Financial Report**

Chairman Brown asked WC-CL Treasurer, Oscar Lopez, to provide the financial report to the Board. Mr. Lopez reported that as of November 2023, Financial Summary reflects cash in bank totaling \$3,249,590.68, the value of the investment portfolio was \$8,477,956.00, and accounts receivable was \$12,306.90 which brings total assets to \$11,772,022.72. Checks paid out of the operating account total \$306,932.92 and deposits made totaled \$ 732,906.09. Additionally, money was transferred over to the investment account bringing the ending balance of the operating account to \$472,262.18.

**i. Acceptance of financial statements through November 2023.**

Motion: Motion to Accept Financial Statements through November 2023  
Moved by: Alfonso Mendiola  
Second by: George Beckelhymer  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously.

**b. Status Report on Vehicle Registration Fees (VRF)**

Treasurer Oscar Lopez informed the Board of the latest VRF received in December 2023 in the amount of \$478,020.

**c. Financial Investment Planning Report**

Treasurer Oscar Lopez informed the Board the Investment Committee met to summarize the Financial Investment Planning Report on January 31st. Action was taken to renew one of the treasuries that had matured with Faro Wealth. They expect to meet again in March for another maturity and will take action as appropriate.

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**8. Action Item (Resolution 24-01): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Elect the following WC-CL RMA Board Officers: Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.**

Chairman Brown informed the Board of the possible action to elect Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer for the WC-CL RMA Board.

Motion: Motion to continue with the current slate of officers.  
Moved by: George Beckelhymer  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**9. Action Item (Resolution 24-02): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Accept the FY 2023 WC-CL RMA Annual Audit Report.**

Douglas Howland, informed the Board of the audit report conducted by Canales, Garza, and Baum, PLLC which had no issues and is good to go.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 9 Resolution 24-02.  
Moved by: Oscar Lopez  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**10. Action Item (Resolution 24-03): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve the FY 2023 Compliance Report for Submission to Texas Department of Transportation as required by 43 Texas Administrative Code §26.65.**

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, presented to the Board the 2023 Compliance Report which similar to previous years, the first column contained the compliance rule, the second column the compliance statement, and the final column the certification.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 10 Resolution 24-03.  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: George Beckelhymer  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**11. Action Item (Resolution 24-04): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to provide a Letter in Support of the City of Laredo 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant application.**

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, informed the Board the RMA was asked by the fire chief to provide a letter of support for their Emergency Response Grant application.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 11 Resolution 24-04.  
Moved by: Douglas Howland  
Second by: Oscar Lopez  
Discussion: Question regarding the period of time the grant is for, Blasita Lopez, LJA, responds it is a multi-year grant. Further discussion on the location of the fire station, Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, informs there is a solicitation for Fire Station #15 in the Hachar-Ruthinger area.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**12. Action Item (Resolution 24-05): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on Vallecillo Funding Agreement with the Killam Development, LTD.**

Chairman Brown updated the Board of the Vallecillo Funding Agreement that Brian O'Reilly, Locke Lord, LLP, and the Killam's attorney have worked on and agreed upon. Mr. O'Reilly informed the Board he is comfortable with the terms of the agreement. However, while the agreement is being signed now, it will not be 100% valid until the City of Laredo and the Killams enter into a donation agreement.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 12 Resolution 24-05.  
Moved by: George Beckelhymer  
Second by: Doug Howland  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**13. Action Item (Resolution 24-06): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on the allocation of funding for the Concord Hills Extension project.**

Chairman Brown presented to the Board he would like to adjust the allocation of funding for the Concord Hills Extension Project, the million dollars that was pledged from the Category 12 funds be replaced with vehicle registration fees.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 13 Resolution 24-06.  
Moved by: Oscar Lopez  
Second by: Antonio Arce  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**14. Action Item (Resolution 24-07): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to enter into an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the design of the Vallecillo Overpass at IH 35.**

Chairman Brown informed the Board that since the RMA is a governmental entity, they can step in and take over the design of the overpass to time it with roadway design to be completed at the same time. Chairman Brown mentioned that the million dollars that were freed up from Item

13 will now be allocated to Item 14 with Category 12 funding. TxDOT agreement states, they would split design costs, 50/50. Estimate was \$1.75 million which would be \$875,000 for the RMA portion.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 14 Resolution 24-07 to enter into an Advanced Funding Agreement with TxDOT for the design only of the Vallecillo Overpass at IH-35.  
Moved by: George Becklhymer  
Second by: Diana Palacios  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**15. Action Item (Resolution 24-08): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to approve amended WC-CL RMA FY 2023-2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget.**

Chairman Brown asked the Board to amend the budget originally approved in October 2023 to reflect the changes in Action Items 13 and 14.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 15 Resolution 24-08.  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**16. Action Item (Resolution 24-09): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on adoption of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040.**

Jason Rodriguez, LJA, informed the Board of the SS4A grant for \$2 million dollars for the Vision Zero Webb Laredo study. The study commenced in September and has since been undergoing an analysis on the safety and equity impacts within Webb County. In putting together the implementation plan there are three actions the Board will need to take. The first was to identify an individual to represent the Board to work with the project team on the State Transportation Advisory Council, for which Mr. Dominguez was selected. The second action is to endorse the RMA Board supporting the goal of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on Laredo roadways by 2040. The third action would be at the end of this process, to adopt a plan. The Board is currently taking action on the second item.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 16 Resolution 24-09.  
Moved by: Jose Murillo  
Second by: Alfonso Mendiola  
Discussion: Mr. Murrillo asks whether the “by 2040” is necessary in the resolution. Jason Rodriguez, LJA explained the 2040 goal allows us to more clearly define the steps that everybody that's involved will have to take by a certain year.  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

**17. Action Item (Resolution 24-10): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve Supplemental Work Authorization No. 2.1 with LJA Engineering for an extension of time for the North Laredo TRZ Financial Feasibility Study.**

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, updated the Board of receiving notice from the City of Laredo moving forward with executing the ILA with the RMA to move forward with the TRZ North Laredo study. The study will be extended through December 31, 2024

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 17 Resolution 24-10 which encompasses work authorization 2.1 to extend the time for the TRZ Financial Feasibility Study with no impact to the budget, and to amend the attachment to indicate February 14 not February 1, 2024.

Moved by: George Beckelhymer

Second by: Alfonso Mendiola

Discussion: No discussion was held.

In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**18. Action Item (Resolution 24-11): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to amend the By-Laws regarding the appointment and reappointment of WC-CL RMA directors and total consecutive terms.**

Chairman Brown informed the Board of the intent to make a policy change which allows board members to serve indefinitely. Members will serve for two years but can be reappointed by the official who appointed them and there's no limit on the number of terms that they can serve.

Motion: Motion to Approve Item 18 Resolution 24-11.

Moved by: George Beckelhymer

Second by: Jose Murillo

Discussion: No discussion was held.

In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**19. General Engineer Consultant Update:**

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, informed the Board of the reason Item 17 read February 1 rather than February 14 was due to the previous work authorization expiring on the 31st of January.

Motion: Motion to pick up Item 17 amend motion for Resolution 24-10 with supplemental work authorization number 2.1 to reflect that the work authorization does need to state February 1, 2024.

Moved by: George Beckelhymer

Second by: Jose Murillo

Discussion: No discussion was held.

In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

**a. Project Status Update: Vallecillo Road**

Baldazar Avila, LJA, updated the Board of the continued efforts with the schematic design, environmental studies, community impact assessments and hazardous materials, and working on the draft EIA document. The environmental group will be doing field studies in March. Discussions are ongoing with the Killam Company regarding the proposed footprint for the right of-way retracement and land ownership to ensure no conflict with other recent property acquisitions or their development plans. The traffic report is at 60%, will be receiving traffic signal timings from TxDOT to include into the model as well as recorded Platts from the planning department. On the schematic design, there are horizontal or vertical alignments, coordinating with Killam on the horizontal alignment, working on the hydrology and hydraulics studies, and want to present a conceptual 30% schematic to TxDot by the end of the month, have a tentative public meeting for May 23rd. Scheduled to present the project to the City of Laredo committee on February 28, 2024.

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

Blasita Lopez, LJA, informed the Board of the public engagement schedule. Will be requesting the public to conduct a survey and give feedback on their street experiences. There will be stakeholder committee meetings and a series of public events inviting the community at large to come in and take part. The first event will be on February 29 which is a press conference to represent 119 people that were impacted by traffic violence in 2022 the purpose of which is to reintroduce the idea of Vision Zero. The survey is going to gather and bring in different areas of the community, such as pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, motorists, commercial vehicles, etc.

**c. Project Status Update: Concord Hills**

Melissa Montemayor, LJA, informed the Board that the RMA will be working with the City of Laredo and the RMA will be sponsoring the design for the project. She reiterated that the \$1 million dollars from Vehicle Registration Fees will be going towards the construction of Concord Hills.

**d. Killam Industrial Blvd. at FM 1472 Turn Lane Project**

Tony Rodriguez, LJA updated the Board on reaching out to the Laredo office for TxDOT and they are awaiting next steps and permission to move forward with the TDLR inspection. Once that is received the project will be close to closing out.

**e. Project Status Update: US 59 Loop Upgrade (Future I-69 Corridor) Project Groundbreaking Ceremony**

Blasita Lopez, LJA, informed the Board of the event said it went very well with good attendance including the Judge, Senator, council members, Mayor, several county commissioners, and Representative Cuellar. Great celebration in terms of the \$360 million improvements that are going to be North along Loop 20. The plan for the project is to construct the frontage road first and then the main lanes so that traffic has a place to drive and access to neighboring businesses and residences won't be impacted so much during the construction of the main lanes.



**20. 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.

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**21 . Adjournment.**

On a motion by Diana Palacios and seconded by Mr. Beckelhymer with no discussion, meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm. Motion passes unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

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