

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting  
International Bank of Commerce  
1200 San Bernardo Ave  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – Community Suite  
March 26, 2025

**BOARD MINUTES**

The Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA) Board met at the above time and place. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. WC-CL RMA Board Chairman Jed A. Brown present and presiding. The following Board members were present:

Jed A. Brown  
Douglas B. Howland  
Arturo Dominguez  
Antonio Arce  
David Garcia  
Jose Murillo

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**AGENDA**

**1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum**

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Jed A. Brown called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. It was announced that Oscar O. Lopez would arrive delayed, while Alfonso Mendiola and Diana Palacios were absent. Chairman Brown 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 of Board Members – Jed Brown (WC-CL RMA Presiding Office)**

Chairman Brown informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and thanked International Bank of Commerce for hosting the meeting.

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**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

It was noted that no individual signed up to offer public comments during the meeting.

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#### **5. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action concerning the Approval of the January 27, 2025, WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.**

Motion: Motion to approve January 27, 2025, WC-CL RMA Board Meeting Minutes.  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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#### **6. Chair's Report**

##### **A. Compliance Calendar Update**

The Chair reminded everyone that personal financial statements are due by April 30 and must be submitted online. Failure to submit on time could have consequences.

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#### **7. Presentations**

##### **A. Financial Report**

Oscar Lopez, Treasurer, presented the financial report as of February 28, 2025. The total cash available from various accounts is \$8,416,201.97. Investments were valued at \$4,412,260.09, and receivables in the amount of \$684,005.47, bringing total assets to \$13,051,684.44. A summary of key deposits were communicated to the Board. Total cash in the bank at end of November is \$579,242.49.

##### **B. Status Report on Vehicle Registration Fees (VRF's)**

The amount of VRF funds that were received and have been paid to the WC-CL RMA are \$630,350.00. There was discussion about the fluctuations in the VFR (Vehicle Fee Revenue) and the potential for it to increase over time. While the revenue has varied, with some months being much larger than others, there is hope that as the community grows, the revenue will gradually increase. It was mentioned that with more vehicles on the road and the elimination of certain online registration shortcuts, the county may start collecting more fees in the future. Although the numbers have tapered off at the end of the year, there is optimism that, in the coming years, the

revenue will steadily rise.

### **C. Financial Investment Planning Report**

The report to the Board highlights the quarter from October 1 to December 31, 2024, and includes details on fixed income investments and money market balances. This is the first in a series of planned quarterly updates to keep stakeholders informed. The Investment Committee met on February 24, 2025, to review financial statements, discuss future cash needs, and assess the economic outlook. Key decisions included renewing a maturing certificate of deposit at Commerce Bank for six months and instructing Faro Wealth to invest \$1.25 million from the money market into short-term fixed income investments. The approach focuses on maximizing interest earnings while maintaining enough liquidity to cover expenses, a practice that has helped support projects and operations in recent years.

Motion: Motion to accept Financial Report, Status Report on VRF and Financial Investment Report as presented.  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

### **D. TxDOT Laredo Mines Road Proposed Improvements Project presentation**

TxDOT presented proposed improvements for the Mines Road (FM 1472) corridor, which is divided into two segments. Segment 1 (I-69W to 2 miles north of SH 3338) is in the feasibility study phase, while Segment 2 (north of SH 3338 to SH 255) is further along in schematic design. Due to severe congestion and high crash rates—nearly 4x the state average—TxDOT is evaluating three alternatives to improve traffic flow and safety. The alternatives include elevated main lanes and upgraded frontage roads, with Alternative 3 offering the highest capacity. However, all options require significant right-of-way acquisitions and are costly, with Segment 1 alone estimated around \$800 million. While no construction funding is yet secured, TxDOT is moving forward with design and public engagement, planning to prioritize segments and seek funding. The RMA expressed strong support for the project.

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### **8. Action Item (Resolution 25-05): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to reallocate \$1,000,000.00 of Category 12 funding from Vallecillo Overpass Project and the remaining unallocated \$1,226,035.00 of Category 12 funding to the Vallecillo Road Project.**

Chairman Brown informed the Board that about a month ago, it was communicated—likely by Mark Williams, Executive Director of TxDOT—that the RMA must fully allocate the remaining \$8.89 million in Category 12 strategic partnership funds, originally granted in 2014, or risk losing

them. In response, the RMA proposed reallocating \$1 million from the Vallecillo overpass and the remaining \$1,226,035 million in unallocated funds to the Vallecillo Road project. This move was based on updated cost estimates and the understanding that project costs often exceed initial projections. The Committee agreed this was the best course of action and notified TxDOT of the intent, pending Board approval. A motion was made to reallocate and fully commit the funds to the Vallecillo Road project as a single action item. The funds are already included in the draft UTP, which is expected to be approved by the TxDOT Commission in August 2025.

Motion: Motion to Approve Resolution 25-05  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: Oscar Lopez  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**9. Action Item (Resolution 25-06): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to reallocate \$300,000 of Category 12 Strategic Partnership funds from the Webb County Fairgrounds Project to the Mangana Hein Road Project.**

The Board discussed the reallocation of \$300,000 in Category 12 funds originally earmarked for the Webb County Fairgrounds project. After consultation with the County Judge and the county's transportation consultant, it was determined that applying these funds to the Fairgrounds project would unnecessarily federalize it and complicate the progress, especially since the project currently lacks a timeline. The county instead requested that the funds be redirected to the Mangana-Hein Road project, which is already federalized and scheduled to be let in FY 2026. The Board agreed this reallocation was appropriate and aligned with the country's priorities.

It was also discussed that the RMA previously conducted a traffic impact analysis for the Fairgrounds driveway; however, that study is now likely outdated and may no longer be accepted by TxDOT. The county is currently working with the MPO to ensure the Mangana-Hein project is included in the TIP, UTP, and MTP.

Motion: Motion to Approve Resolution 25-06  
Moved by: Antonio Arce  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**10. Action Item (Resolution 25-07): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 3.1 with LJA Engineering, Inc. for additional scope and 2 budget, for changes of the design of Vallecillo Road that requires additional project management, coordination, environmental studies, additional ROW acquisition,**

**changes in geometry at IH 35, and additional utility coordination.**

The Board received a detailed update on the Vallecillo Road project, highlighting design changes primarily due to the addition of a more complex overpass at I-35. Originally envisioned as a simpler structure, the overpass has evolved into a stronger design, which benefits traffic flow but has also required significant redesign work, including additional environmental, survey, and engineering services. This has extended the project timeline, which began as early as 2014, and increased overall costs. The redesign work, led by LJA Engineering and involving multiple subconsultants, totals \$749,886.16 and raises the total project cost from \$3.138 million to \$3.88 million. The Killam family's donation of additional right-of-way help facilitate these changes without additional land acquisition costs.

Chairman Brown and staff emphasized the legitimacy of the expense, given the extended timeline and scope increase.

Motion: Motion to Approve Resolution 25-07  
Moved by: Jose Murillo  
Second by: Arturo Dominguez  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**11. Action Item (Resolution 25-08): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to Approve an amendment to the WC-CL RMA FY 2024-2025 Capital Budget.**

Following this, the Board also considered an amendment to the FY 2024–2025 Capital Improvements Budget. This amendment reflects the reallocation of \$1 million from the Vallecillo Overpass and \$300,000 from the Webb County Fairgrounds project, both now redirected to the Vallecillo Road project. While legal counsel indicated a formal approval was not strictly necessary due to prior resolutions, the Chairman requested formal approval to clearly document the updated five-year capital spending plan for future reference and clarity.

Motion: Motion to Approve Resolution 25-08  
Moved by: Oscar Lopez  
Second by: Jose Murillo  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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**12. Action Item (Resolution 25-09): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action on adoption of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.**

The Board discussed the adoption of the Safety Action Plan, noted as the most significant item on the agenda due to extensive work over the past year by LJA and its subconsultants. A meeting

was held earlier that day with the City of Laredo and MPO representatives to review the plan and its next phase. A comprehensive effort led by LJA Engineering over the past 15 months to identify and prioritize roadway safety improvements across Laredo and Webb County. The plan focuses on reducing fatal and serious injury crashes, identifying 17 priority corridors and projects based on crash data, community input, and agency collaboration.

This plan marks a critical milestone and is the first step in a three-part process that will also require adoption by the MPO and Laredo City Council. Once adopted by all entities, the plan makes the region eligible to apply for federal implementation funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program.

The total estimated cost of identified projects is approximately \$32.5 million, and federal agencies have expressed strong interest in receiving applications. The plan also opens the door for supplemental planning grants and further collaboration with other local agencies.

Motion: Motion to Adopt Resolution 25-09  
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez  
Second by: Doug Howland  
Discussion: No discussion was held  
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

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### **13. Discussion Item: Discussion and Consideration on a *Call For Projects* program.**

The Board held an open discussion regarding a potential *Call for Projects*, acknowledging recent and upcoming project funding requests from various stakeholders. Chairman Brown noted that over the past year, the RMA has been approached by multiple organizations seeking assistance, including three key projects:

- Safety Action Plan Implementation – Funding will be needed for next-phase implementation.
- River Road Project – Previously studied with the MPO.
- South Texas Parkway (LECHE Project) – A proposed new connector between US 59 and US 359.

Representatives from LECHE (Laredo Economic Coalition for Highway Exchanges) presented their request for assistance with environmental and right-of-way studies to make the South Texas Parkway project “shelf ready.” The project would improve east Laredo connectivity and reduce congestion while targeting future federal funding. The route spans five miles, mostly in Webb County with partial city jurisdiction, and would qualify as a major arterial. Most right-of-way are expected to be donated, with some pending input from landowners.

Board members advised LECHE to submit a formal written request outlining project scope and funding needs. The RMA’s General Engineering Consultant (GEC) will review and advise on feasibility and costs.

Chairman Brown emphasized that while funds are available (projected RMA balance of \$9-11 million over five years), budget discipline is key to supporting future projects. He encouraged Board members to bring forward additional project ideas for consideration and noted that a formal process for evaluating and prioritizing such projects is being developed by the GEC.

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**14. Discussion Item: Discussion and Consideration on the River Road Project.**

Chairman Brown provided an update on the River Road project, noting renewed interest at the MPO and local levels. A previous joint study with the MPO indicated that building River Road could reduce traffic on Mines Road by approximately 30%, significantly alleviating congestion. The estimated cost of the project was around \$60 million, though the exact roadway length was not recalled. TxDOT has indicated it views the roadway as a local street, meaning it would not fall under their jurisdiction or funding, which presents a challenge for financing. The Board was informed that while no immediate action is required, River Road is gaining traction again and may warrant further discussion and consideration in the near future.

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**15. General Engineering Consultant Update on the following projects:**

**a. Vallecillo Road Project**

Project Manager Baltazar Avila provided an update on the Vallecillo Road project, a 2.85-mile roadway from Mueller Boulevard to I-35 in Laredo. The project includes four lanes, a median, sidewalks, shared-use paths, and drainage, with a current estimated construction cost of \$37.5 million. Key updates involve schematic revisions to accommodate TxDOT's overpass redesign, updated traffic analysis, environmental studies, and ongoing utility coordination. Approximately 66.62 acres of right-of-way will be needed, with acquisition expected by summer 2026. Annexation efforts are underway, with application targeted for January 2026. The project is scheduled for letting in Fall 2027, with construction starting in early 2028 and completion expected by late 2029.

**b. Springfield Phase IV Project**

Tony Rodriguez (LJA) updated the Board that construction on Springfield Phase Four began last week, with a groundbreaking ceremony being held on Monday. The project is expected to be completed in about three months. The RMA is fully funding construction, having committed up to \$1 million, though the actual cost is approximately \$757,000. He also reminded the Board that the RMA previously funded over 50% of Phase Three, marking another significant accomplishment for the organization.

**c. Concord Hills Blvd. Extension**

The City of Laredo approved a resolution to enter an interlocal agreement with the RMA and the Webb County Drainage District for the Concord Hills project. The agreement has been provided to the RMA and is awaiting final signature from the Drainage District. Once finalized, design work will begin, and the RMA will contribute up to \$1 million for construction.

**d. Cuatro Vientos TRZ Implementation**

Melissa Montemayor of LJA informed the Board that the Cuatro Vientos TRZ study has been completed and the project is now moving into the implementation phase. The City of Laredo has executed an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the RMA to proceed. Implementation will involve coordination with landowners, followed by TXP finalizing tax increment estimates. The city will then determine the percentage of increment to allocate and finalize the tax increment account. Chairman Brown asked if specific projects must be identified; Montemayor clarified that any project within the TRZ boundary qualifies, and only undeveloped land contributes to the increment, with the city determining what portion of the tax increment to allocate.

**e. North Laredo TRZ Feasibility Study**

The Board was informed that the North Laredo TRZ feasibility study is pending the executed interlocal agreement (ILA) from the City of Laredo. Once received, LJA and TXP will begin the study, focusing on the area along FM 1472 north toward the Colombia-Solidarity Bridge. This study is the first step in the TRZ process; upon completion, the city will review and potentially move toward implementation.

**f. City of Laredo Colombia Solidarity International Bridge Presidential Permit Application update**

The Board received an update on the City of Laredo's Columbia-Solidarity International Bridge expansion and presidential permit application. The project involves adding two new spans with four lanes each on either side of the existing bridge, doubling its capacity from eight to sixteen lanes. The RMA previously allocated \$1 million in Category 12 funds to support this effort. The City's presidential permit application was deemed complete by the U.S. Department of State on March 10, triggering a 60-day review period, followed by a 60-day window for the White House to issue the permit. Meetings with federal officials and agencies in Washington, D.C., were positive, and the permit is expected to be granted. The design phase will follow. Constructing new spans avoids disrupting existing traffic and is more cost-effective than modifying the current bridge.



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

Chairman Brown informed the Board that there may be a meeting sometime in May and the exact date, time, and location will be determined and communicated to the group.

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**17. Adjournment.**

On a motion made by Alfonso Mendiola and second by Arturo Dominguez. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.