

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

WC-CL RMA Board of Directors Meeting
International Bank of Commerce
1200 San Bernardo Ave
3rd Floor – Community Suite
June 4, 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 10:01 a.m. WC-CL RMA Board Chairman Jed A. Brown present and presiding. The following Board members were present:

Jed A. Brown
Douglas B. Howland
Oscar Lopez
Arturo Dominguez
Antonio Arce
David Garcia
Jose Murillo
Alfonso Mendiola
Diana Palacios

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Jed A. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. 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.

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.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Open Public Forum/Comment Period.

James Gonzalez and Joe Gage representing the Laredo Economic Coalition for Improved Highway Exchanges (LECHE), provided the board with an update on recent meetings with TxDOT, City of Laredo, and other partners regarding a transportation project that may include a connection to Los Presidentes. The board was informed that letters of support have been received from the MPO, Webb County, with additional support anticipated from Commissioners as well as City Council. Mr. Gage noted that the Canadian Pacific Railroad has also expressed interest in supporting the project and look forward to the board for help, guidance and support on behalf of the RMA.

5. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action concerning the Approval of the March 26, 2025, WC-CL RMA Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Motion: Motion to approve March 26, 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

6. Chair's Report

A. Compliance Calendar Update

The Chair thanked the board for timely submitting their personal financial statements.

B. Update on Letter of Support for the City of Laredo's Safe Routes to Schools Pilot Program application to the Transportation Alternatives Set Aside LWCAMPO Call for Projects submitted on May 30, 2025

The Chairman provided an update regarding a letter of support issued to the City of Laredo for its application to the MPO's Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program, which was submitted on May 30, 2025. The letter supports a Safe Routes to Schools Pilot Program aligned with the Vision Zero Plan.

Blasita Lopez from LJA Engineering explained that safety audits were conducted at six LISD campuses including four elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school with support from Tool Design Group. The audits focused on student arrival

and drop-off safety. Based on the findings and collaboration with City departments and Council Member Melissa Cigarroa, the City submitted a \$655,000 grant request for pilot safety enhancements, one at each school. The RMA provided a letter of support, as permitted under board policy and consistent with Vision Zero goals. The pilot aims to gather data and build momentum for future safety initiatives.

7. Presentations

A. Financial Report

Oscar Lopez, Treasurer, presented the financial report as of March 2025. The total cash available from various accounts is \$8,087,532.59. Investments of various treasury bonds and fixed income investments total \$4,305,315.06. Account receivables with a total of \$758,078.05 and accounts payables/liabilities total \$126,920.00. Total bank balance at end of March is \$492,245.46.

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

The amount of VRF funds that were received and paid to the WC-CL RMA at the end of March is \$644,240.00.

C. Financial Investment Planning Report

Treasurer and Investment Officer Oscar Lopez presented the Investment Committee report for the period of January 1 to March 31, 2025. He provided highlights, including a \$22,125.73 balance in a money market account at Commerce Bank, and a certificate of deposit valued at \$2,180,777.24 (including accrued interest) with a 3.85% rate maturing on October 7, 2025. The investment account at Faro Wealth started the quarter at \$9,645,789.61 and ended at \$9,692,262.61. Detailed activity on interest earned, matured investments, and purchases are included in the report.

Chairman Brown thanked Mr. Lopez for his work, noting the report's thoroughness and expressing appreciation for his service as Investment Officer. No questions were raised.

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

8. Action Item (Resolution 25-10): Discussion, Consideration, and Possible Action to approve the submittal of an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) implementation grant.

The board discussed and considered approval of Resolution 25-10, authorizing the submission of an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant. This follows the successful completion of the RMA's \$2 million Safety Action Plan adopted in March 2025.

Chairman Brown emphasized that the goal of the plan is to implement real safety improvements not just studies and that the timing is right to pursue funding. The proposed grant request totals \$24.9 million, with a \$4.9 million local match. The RMA would serve as the grant recipient, contributing up to \$1 million from vehicle registration fees. The City of Laredo and TxDOT would each contribute \$1.95 million, with funding structured over five years.

The resolution authorizes the submission of the grant application before the July 26 deadline and pledges the RMA's \$1 million contribution, contingent upon finalized agreements with the City and TxDOT. Board members discussed the reimbursement process and stressed the importance of financial oversight and timely reporting.

Jason Rodriguez of LJA Engineering presented the project timeline and funding structure. If awarded, the grant would support project design and environmental work in the first two years (FY 2026-2027), followed by construction in the final three years (FY 2028-2030). The program operates on a reimbursement basis, with federal funds reimbursing 80% during the first phase, and the City and TxDOT reimbursing the RMA in later years.

Board members raised questions regarding Webb County's participation. It was clarified that while the County is not contributing direct funding, some projects in unincorporated areas (such as colonia bus stop improvements) are included in the broader \$33 million capital plan.

Board members praised the staff for their grant management expertise, noting that the RMA developed the federal reimbursement model now used nationally.

Motion: Motion to Approve Resolution 25-10
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: Jose Murillo
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

9. Action Item (Resolution 25-11): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to authorize the negotiation and execution of agreements with the City of Laredo and the Laredo & Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to commit funding for a joint Laredo and Webb County Area Freight Study.

The board considered authorizing the negotiation and execution of interlocal agreements with the City of Laredo and the Laredo & Webb County Area MPO to jointly fund and conduct a regional freight study. The proposed study would address outdated freight data and pressing concerns regarding truck traffic and turning movements within the city, particularly on Jefferson Street. Initiated by the City of Laredo and supported by Councilwoman Melissa Cigarroa, the goal is to assess problematic truck routes, improve freight movement, and plan for the impact of future bridge expansions.

The proposed funding structure includes:

- \$200,000 from the RMA (via Vehicle Registration Fee funds),
- \$200,000 from the City of Laredo (pending final internal approvals), and
- \$250,000 from the MPO, already allocated in their Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and available without requiring a lengthy Advance Funding Agreement (AFA).

The study would be conducted within the MPO's planning boundary and include truck route mapping, problematic intersections (e.g., near the airport and I-35/US 83), infrastructure constraints, and stakeholder engagement.

LJA Engineering has already drafted a preliminary scope of work. The study is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete, with findings useful for five or more years. The board emphasized the importance of updating freight plans regularly given Laredo's significant truck traffic volumes.

Motion: Motion to Approve Resolution 25-11
Moved by: Arturo Dominguez
Second by: Alonso Mendiola
Discussion: No discussion was held
In Favor: Motion passed unanimously

10. General Engineering Consultant Update on the following projects:

a. Vallecillo Road Project

Baltazar Avila (TxDOT) provided an update on the Vallecillo Road Project, which involves constructing a four-lane roadway with a raised median, sidewalks, a shared-use path, and drainage improvements within a 150-foot right-of-way. The project is currently undergoing schematic revisions due to a TxDOT overpass, with a 60% PS&E submittal targeted for August 2025. The updated cost estimate stands at \$31.275 million, a 2% increase since February. Environmental documents are being revised and are expected to be submitted to TxDOT by the end of July, along with preliminary right-of-way (ROW) maps. ROW and utility coordination is ongoing, with Crane Engineering completing additional survey work and continued biweekly meetings held

with utility providers. Some utility layouts and cost estimates have been received, but others are still pending. A new TxDOT requirement to submit a white paper on the raised median will involve stakeholder coordination with the Killam family and the City of Laredo. Key milestones include ROW acquisition by late summer 2026, utility relocation completion by summer 2027, and project letting in December 2027. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2028 and finish by late summer 2029. During board discussion, Chairman Brown expressed concern about a possible TxDOT request to delay the letting to August 2028. Melissa Montemayor reported no formal confirmation had been received. Roberto Rodriguez of TxDOT explained letting dates often shift based on statewide funding needs but encouraged the team to stay on schedule. The board agreed to maintain the current timeline unless officially instructed otherwise by TxDOT.

b. Springfield Phase IV Project

Tony Rodriguez from LJA informed the board that after visiting the site, he observed that significant progress has been made. Both ends of the project appear to be connected, and with the 90-day timeline nearing completion this month, he anticipates the project will be finished soon. Based on his observations and a status update from the assistant to the City Manager, he expects the city will submit a single invoice requesting full reimbursement once the project is complete. Chairman Brown added that the project appears finished, with striping in place and only barricades remaining, and noted that a ribbon-cutting ceremony is likely to be scheduled soon.

c. Concord Hills Blvd. Extension

Melissa Montemayor from LJA updated the board on the progress of a development involving the City of Laredo and the developers. She reported that Chairman Brown and she attended a meeting on May 12 with city officials and developer representatives. The City of Laredo is targeting June 16 to complete donation forms and agreements. Surveys have been finalized, and the geotechnical report was expected to be completed by the internal deadline of May 30. The project's cost estimate was also anticipated to be completed shortly thereafter. Total project funding is just over \$5.2 million, with contributions from the City of Laredo (\$3.8 million), Webb County (\$325,000), and a \$1 million contribution from the board. The Interlocal Agreement was executed on February 18, 2025. The developer's engineering firm, Top Site, completed approximately 70% of the PS&E as of that week, indicating that the plans are progressing well and should be ready by early summer.

d. Cuatro Vientos TRZ Implementation

Melissa Montemayor informed the board that a kickoff meeting with City of Laredo administration is scheduled for June 12, involving Chairman Brown, LJA, and their subconsultant TXP. The purpose of the meeting is to initiate the implementation

phase of the Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ), with the goal of having the TRZ fully established and operational by the end of the calendar year. A follow-up meeting is planned for June 24 with relevant city departments to align them with the process. LJA and TXP will also begin outreach to landowners along the Cuatro Vientos corridor to explain the TRZ and its impacts. Melissa emphasized that the TRZ will not directly affect landowners, as it captures the increase (delta) in property tax revenue from post-development values. The City of Laredo will determine what portion of that increase, e.g., 10% or 15%, to allocate into a tax increment account to fund future transportation infrastructure improvements.

e. North Laredo TRZ Feasibility Study

The board was informed that the North Laredo TRZ feasibility study is on hold for the moment, as current efforts are focused on implementing the Cuatro Vientos TRZ. TXP has advised prioritizing kickoff meetings for Cuatro Vientos with City of Laredo administration and departments before beginning the North Laredo TRZ study. Once those initial meetings are completed, coordination will begin to schedule kickoff meetings for the North Laredo study.

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

An update was provided on the City of Laredo's presidential permit application for the Columbia Solidarity International Bridge expansion by Melissa Montemayor from LJA. A presentation will be made on Monday in Mexico City to the U.S. and Mexican federal governments during the binational Border Bridges and Border Crossings Group meeting. This annual meeting alternates between countries and allows agencies to present and discuss key border infrastructure projects. Laredo will have five minutes to present the Columbia expansion project, highlighting the significant increase in non-commercial northbound traffic, over 600,000 additional vehicles since the opening of La Gloria Road, more than doubling previous volumes. The afternoon session, attended by state and federal officials, will focus on evaluating project feasibility, including staffing and funding needs. Confidence remains high in the project's necessity and in the presentation's strength. Regarding the presidential permit, the 60-day review period under the National Defense Authorization Act ends on June 15. If no decision is made by that date, the permit will be automatically approved.

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

Chairman Brown informed the Board that the next board meeting exact date, time, and location will be determined and communicated to the group.

17. Adjournment.

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