

Webb County – City of Laredo
Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA)
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
4:30 PM

Minutes

The Webb County – City of Laredo Regional Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 4:30 P.M., On Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at TxDot's Laredo District Meeting Room, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, TX.

Minutes are as follows:

Present: Douglas Howland, Vice-Chairman and Presiding Officer, Jose Murrillo, George Beckheymer, Arturo Dominguez, Oscar O. Lopez, and Jesus Romero.

Absent: Alfonso Mendiola

Others: David Salazar, Tx DOT Laredo District Engineer
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
Janece Marquez, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Don Gonzalez, Estrada & Hinojosa
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB Inc.
Juan Cruz, J. Cruz & Associates, LLC
Araceli S. Rangel, Ruben Soto, Jr., CPA, Note taker.
Ruben Soto, Jr., Past Chairman

1. Open Meeting and Establish Quorum

After establishing a quorum, Presiding Officer Douglas Howland, called the meeting to order at 4:36 P.M. He then announced the following Board Members were present: Jose Murrillo, Arturo Dominguez, Oscar O. Lopez, Jesus Romero, and George Beckleymer. He 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 and Introduction of Board Members – Douglas Howland (WC-CL RMA Presiding Office)

Chairman Howland informed all present that the meeting was being recorded and thanked TxDOT for hosting and videotaping the meeting.

3. Action Item: Discussion, Consideration, and Approval of February 27, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Chairman Howland stated that the Board Members had been provided a copy of the February 27, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes for review. He then asked for a motion to accept the Board Meeting Minutes of the Webb County-City of Laredo RMA. George Beckelhymer made a motion and a second by Arturo Dominguez to accept the meeting minutes. No discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Chairman's Report

A. Financial Report

Chairman Howland informed the Board that the last payment of Vehicle Registration fees of \$931,350.00 from Webb County was received on May 15, 2019.

Chairman Howland informed the Board that they have a current checking account balance as of 5/27/19 of \$2,832,773.20. Also earned \$12,575.34 interest on their CD and currently have a CD balance of \$6,012,575.34 in a 3-month CD maturing 6-27-19 at 1% interest.

Funds disbursed since the last meeting were:

HNTB Corporation \$115,861.41 (WA 4)
Locke Lord LLP \$22,147.34
J Cruz & Associates LLC \$1,217.00
PMB Helin Donovan LLP (Audit Balance) \$5,825.00

B. Audit Update

Chairman Howland informed the Board that the RMA's audit for the fiscal year ended 9-30-18 was completed on March 8, 2019 and a copy was in their notebook for review.

C. Surety Bond Renewals

Chairman Howland reminded board members that as their surety bonds expired, they would be notified and the RMA would pay for their bond renewal.

D. New Chairman Appointment

Chairman Howland went on to inform the Board that as of May 27, 2019, Ruben Soto, Jr., would no longer serve as Chairman of the RMA. A new Chairman would be appointed by Governor Abbott. The name of the new Chairman is currently unknown. He further explained Mr.. Soto's term terminated with the end of the current legislative session and due to prior law enacted in 2017, he could not be held over until the new replacement was appointed. So until the new appointment is known, he, Douglas Howland, the Vice-Chairman, would conduct the board meetings and assume the Chairman responsibilities.

The Chairman, Mr. Howland then mentioned they had an Honorary Resolution expressing the WC-CL RMA's gratitude and appreciation to Ruben Soto, Jr. for his dedicated service as the first Chairman of the WC-CL Board of Directors and for the valuable contribution he had made to the WC-CL RMA and its mission of improving mobility and quality of life in the South Texas Region. On a motion made by Oscar Lopez and a second from Jose Murrillo same was unanimously approved.

E. Other updates – Regarding Compliance Reporting, Project Financing & Project Development

Chairman Howland informed the board that the Infra grant application due March 4th was submitted on time and Mr. Antonio Rodriguez would give them an update on this later in the meeting.

The Chairman, Mr. Howland, further informed the board that the agreements with the City on the Los Presidentes Road extension from Concord Hills and Killam Industrial Blvd. turning lanes projects were still being reviewed by the City.

Chairman Howland also informed the Board that the draft agreements with the City and the Killams on Vallcillo Road had just been released the previous week and were being reviewed by the GEC and executive officers of the RMA. Same to be resolved within the next few weeks.

As per Chairman Howland, other developments would be discussed in the GEC's update agenda item.

5. Action Item (Resolution 19-11): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Work Authorization No. 10 for the Development of the North Laredo-Webb County Transportation Planning Study.

Chairman Howland called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez to report on the item. As per Mr. Rodriguez, the study got funded in the Fall. A presentation was made to the MPO May of last year. The study entails a 20/25 year transportation plan from the Rio Grande to IH 35, from Camino Columbia to IH 69 west, which is the heart of the trade for the community and if there's any growth, that is where it is going to happen.

On a motion made by Jesus Romero and a second by Jose Murrillo, Resolution 19-11 was approved.

On a motion by Jose Murrillo and a second by Oscar Lopez, Work Authorization No. 10 for the Development of the North Laredo-Webb County Transportation Planning Study was unanimously approved.

6. Action Item (Resolution 19-12): Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Issuance of a Solicitation for RMA Administrative Services.

Chairman Howland informed the Board that since Mr. Soto was no longer part of the Board, they would need to contract administrative services. Mr. Soto provided a list of the duties that needed to be performed to ensure that the RMA continued to run smoothly. Since two road projects are about to get started funds from RMA are allowed to be spent on administrative duties. As per Brian O'Rielly, it was further discussed that a request for bids for these duties would be the way to go.

On a motion by Oscar Lopez and a second from George Beckelhymer same was approved.

7. Legislative Update

Chairman Howland informed the Board that since there was a time constraint, he would have Mr. Brian O'Reilly e-mail the updates to each director to bring them up to date on the last legislative session.

8. General Engineering Consultant Report

Chairman Howland then called on Mr. Antonio Rodriguez to bring the Board up to date on the projects the GEC is currently working on. Mr. Rodriguez mentioned that Work Authorization #9 regarding the INFA Grant Application that the RMA provided to the City of Laredo started in January and was completed on time on the 4th of March. The City of Laredo actually provided the application but we supported them on the development services as well as sitting with them on the computer to actually upload the application. Subsequent to that, 2 or 3 weeks ago, the City of Laredo and other members of the community are looking to make a trip to DC sometime in June. We offered our support and are awaiting an agenda from the Laredo delegation to make sure it works with the other tasks we are doing. And as far as updates on the INFA Grant itself we are waiting on the status. It usually takes 3 to 6 months.

Work Authorization #4 is ours, which is basically all the work we do for the RMA. Those projects include the following:

- Coordinated with the WC-CL RMA Legal Advisor for Progress updating draft for the Inter Local Agreement for Los Presidentes and the Killam Industrial Turn Lanes to return to the City of Laredo and Webb County Drainage District
- Worked with TxDOT Laredo District Administrator Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT Local Government Coordinator Janece Marques and WCDD Engineer Edward Garza in developing the Advanced Funding Agreement for Los Presidentes
- Met with Chairman Ruben Soto to review and Develop a list of potential projects for the Laredo area to present to the Laredo Economic Development Corporation
- Coordinated with the City of Laredo and TxDOT Laredo District for the development of a scope for the World Trade Bridge Traffic Study
- Coordinated with the WC-CL RMA Legal Advisor, the City of Laredo Legal Department and the WCDD Engineer for finalizing the draft Inter Local Agreement for Los Presidentes and the Killam Industrial Turn Lanes
- Provided Grant Application Services for the Infra Grant for the upgrade of Loop 20 to Interstate Standards for International Boulevard to University Blvd.; will work on the Benefit Cost Analysis which will include working on the Laredo MPO Travel Demand Model working with the TxDOT Laredo District to determine the existing funding breakdown and the need for funding, Will reach out to elected officials to obtain "Letters of Support" for the grant application and develop the grant application narrative to respond to the Grant Application requirements described in the United States

Department of Transportation notice of Funding Opportunity from the Federal Register for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program that was released on December 21, 2017

- Successfully completed the final draft for the INFRA Grant Application and submitted to the City of Laredo for review, the Grant Application Team updated the Grant Application. The Grant Application Team supported the Laredo MPO Interim Executive Director to electronically submit the Grant Application to Grants.gov
- Support Chairman Ruben Soto in the development of the list of future projects for the Upcoming Texas – Mexico Border Master Plan
- Will coordinate Legal Advisor Brian O'Reilly, Webb County Drainage Engineer Edward D. Garza, and Laredo Legal Lisa Paul on updates to the Killam Industrial Blvd. turn lanes and Los Presidentes Interlocal Agreements
- Will coordinate with Andres Gonzalez of the Killam Company to provide a copy of the Vallecillo Road Schematic
- Will support WC-CL RMA and the City of Laredo to set up a meeting with Senator Ted Cruz's staff for the upcoming Washington D.C. trip on 6-18-19. Will assist with setting up meeting for the Laredo Delegation which will include Project Manager Richard Ridings, Project Principal Carlos Lopez, Planner Jason Rodriguez, GR Staff Frank Raja, GR Staff Levon Boyagien. Members of the Laredo delegation will include Mayor Pete Saenz and IH 69 alliance member Gerald Schwebel, The purpose of the meeting for the Laredo delegation will be to provide support for INFRA Grant application by the City of Laredo,
- Continue with the TxDOT Laredo District regarding the status of donation agreement of the acceleration and deceleration lanes on Cuatro Vientos as part of the Los Presidentes project.
- Coordinate with Interim City Planning Director Vanessa Guerra to provide an update to Interim City Manager Rosario Cabello on the status of the INFRA Grant application.
- Support Chairman Ruben Soto and Legal Advisor Brian O'Reilley on preparing the agenda and resolution for the scheduled WC-CL RMA Board Meeting.
- Support Ruben Soto in providing the TxDOT Laredo District their required documentation in the draft of WA #10 for their approval of execution of the North Laredo Webb County transportation Planning Study

- Engineer Himane Alisary and Engineering Interim Simon Yu will support DPM Antono Rodriguez in performing design criteria review of the Vallecillo Road to ensure it still conforms with the current Tx DOT Roadway Design Manual. This was the first step to provide any needed updates to the schematic roadway geometry and cost estimate update to be performed the following month.

9. Report: Update from Tx DOT on the Status of Projects in the TxDOT Laredo District.

Chairman Howland then asked TxDOT for current updates on their projects. The first to speak was Mr. Carlos Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez stated that the Loop 20 over the Kansas City Railroad project was 97% complete. They are working on the punch list, there are some things that are being corrected. There is also going to be some large message signs that are lacking to be brought in from the contractor/manufacturer. It should be completed by July 2019. The US 59 at IH 35 SER Project; that one is moving pretty good; is 78% complete. It should be completed December 2019. This project has the pre-test segments going up. We do have the concrete roadway being constructed. We have the concrete slab so if you look up in the air or on the ground we have both going on. Roadway 1472 is 97% complete. The last time we had discussed that we were waiting for the open season they are currently preparing the road for the sealing coat. The seal coat will be laid tomorrow morning. What will be left is the striping of the road outside of 255. They are currently working on preparing the widening of the road. On Highway 359 City of Laredo to Duval County Line base repair, the overall project is 45% complete. This project also calls for base repairs on IH 83 south to Cielito Lindo to Mangana Hein to Rio Bravo. This one we are working on southbound lanes. Then we come back on 359 and 83 south and do the overlay.

Mr. Roberto Rodriguez continued with updates from TxDOT. They are putting their emphasis on Loop 20, US 59 to IH35, I69 from Saunders all the way to I35, from IH 35 all the way to the US facility on the bridge. What we have right now for US 59 funded are 5 overpasses which cost about 95 million. They include Shiloh, Del Mar, Jacaman Rd., University Blvd., and the Airport. We also have to construct the main links on the frontage roads between the interchanges which we have funding of 43 million, we're still short 64 million to complete. So far, what it looks like is we're going to start from the north going south all the way to Del Mar. We still need to acquire land from the golf course, UISD Kitchen, National Guard Armory, and part of the hotel. We have another project from I69 widening of World Trade Bridge to IH 35. We are going to go from 4 lanes to 6 lanes so we're adding a 3rd lane to the middle of the road that cost about 18.34 million. Also, as part of this project we are adding a turning lane as part of FM1472. A lot of congestion going south on I 69 making a right turn to Mines Road. The same thing on Mines Road making a right turn to IH 69, they are going with the flow of traffic. Another project that they have is on IH 35 from Shiloh mile marker 6 all the way to mile marker 30; 1 mile north of Border Patrol check point station. Going from 4 lanes to 6; we're trying to replace some of those interchanges right now what we have funded is railroad crossing underpass right north under Shiloh currently going under 6 lanes then as you pass Shiloh you go to 2 lanes going to the railroad pass Loop 20 then you go to 3 lanes so we're replacing the bridge instead of going under, we'll go over with 3 lanes in each direction. We are also building a direct connect called Direct Connector Number 5, going west on Loop 20 going south into IH35; this connector will take you to downtown Laredo. It's a total of 8 direct connectors in that interchange, we have a total of 3 already built; the 4th connector is coming up in December. Project will cost about 30 million. Also, there is a section on I35 and Loop 20 that is still a 4-way section, we need to close a little gap in the middle so that's about 5 million. So because of traffic control, we are going to let these two projects together, which will let in December 2019. As we continue to move north

the Uniroyal Interchange that's another project to be let September 2021, that's another 65 million to replace the Uniroyal Bridge. We will replace 4 or 6 lanes and help out with the traffic flow of that intersection. If we keep going up to mile marker 18 where the travel center is at and the exit to US 83 instead of going under the railroad we're to be going over the railroad; we're going to fix the curvature with total estimated cost of \$75 million which will let in September 2020.

From there on, the projects on I35 that are not yet funded, we are still working on them to have them shovel ready in case another initiative from the federal government or some other funding becomes available, we are prepared. At Highway 35 and Carrier's, we have another overpass, we want to add one of those bridges to have U-turns. Highway 35 at Carriers doesn't have any U-turns. Then of course from mile marker 30 to mile marker 20, we want to widen the lanes. We might be replacing that bridge at Callaghan Rd to have Becerra's County Rd. building another interchange and we're trying to bring everything to 6 lanes and that's another \$7 million. US 59, we're still lacking about \$64 million. Now that project on Loop 20 construction is about \$204 million, the right of ways cost is \$240 million. Now all the projects we have under development, we're working on schematic's early stages of project development on HW 359 widening. We go past the landfill a few miles then you're back to 3 lanes, right now. So we want to keep expanding that roadway another 3 or 4 miles more of undivided highway and then we're going to go with divided highway 4 lanes divided. It's approximately \$25 million and in schematic phase. This project of course required right of way acquisition, so that's why we're starting early on the project. The other project is widening US 83 to 4 lanes divided. This is by Los Botines, US 83 between IH 35 and SH255. Right now, there are a lot of new businesses in that area. We are going to be building a 4 lane divided highway that's approximately \$200 million in construction costs. Another project we have been looking at is FM 3338. Very soon you're going to be seeing construction on FM 3338. The improvements to the existing highway are to remove the weight limit we have on it. Right now, that highway has a weight limitation which means that no tractor trailer trucks can ride through (Las Tienditas Rd.) In the near future, hopefully we get the funding to bring it up to a 5-lane highway from 1472 to Camino Columbia 255. You've probably heard of the study we have on-going with construction costs of \$480 million that was from the proposed new bridge all the way to HW 255. So far, what we got funded to let in Laredo from now until 2023 is \$345 million in mobility projects on US 59 and IH 35 and we have \$247 million from now until FY 2022, this is our regular preventive maintenance rehabilitation safety projects. We do on a day to day between those two, you can see how in Laredo we're spending more than one-half billion dollars in the next 4 years. Plus, we have about \$437 million in projects in the Laredo area that are being developed to be ready for letting and funding when they are available (shovel ready).

10. Open Public Forum/Comment Period

No comments.

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

To be determined later.

12. Adjournment

On a motion made by Oscar Lopez and a second by George Becklehymer meeting was adjourned at 5:37 P.M.