



MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

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Meeting Date & Time: March 15th, 2021 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Virtual

Meeting Link: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>

Public Access Channel: Spectrum TV channel 1300

In order to adhere to the current public gathering guidelines, this meeting will be held in a virtual meeting format. Citizens wishing to provide public comment may phone in their comments during the meeting, or submit them electronically through means provided (see information below).

AGENDA:

- I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL
- III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizens interested in providing comments on a particular item are to submit their comments in writing via the "Online Response Form", available at the "CONTACT US" tab of the MPO website located at <http://www.laredompo.org/contact-us/>. Comments are to be submitted no later than 1:15 p.m. the day of the meeting. During the meeting, a telephone number shall be provided to allow citizens the opportunity to call in to speak on a particular item. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a specific issue, they should select not more than three (3) representatives to speak on their behalf. The presiding officer may further limit public on the interest of order or time. Speakers may not transfer their minutes to any other speaker. Comments should be relevant to MPO business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks shall be permitted.

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

- A. Approval of the minutes for the virtual meeting held on February 22nd, 2021.
- B. Discussion with possible action on the formation of a Freight and Logistics Committee as a subcommittee of the MPO, similar to the Technical Committee and Active Transportation Committee, and any matters related thereto.
- C. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.

V. REPORT(S) AND PRESENTATIONS (No action required).

- A. Status report by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).
- B. Presentation by MPO Staff on the proposed MPO Work Plan.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

NOTICE INFORMATION:

Notice of this meeting was posted at the municipal government offices, 1110 Houston Street, Laredo, Texas, at a place convenient and readily accessible to the public at all times. Said notice was posted 72 hours before the meeting date and time. The agenda and meeting information was also posted online at <http://www.laredompo.org/agendas-minutes/>.

All meetings of the MPO Committee are open to the public. Persons who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services such as: interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers of large print or Braille, or a translator for the Spanish language are requested to contact MPO Staff at 956-794-1613, or via email at planner@ci.laredo.tx.us, at least five working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Materials in Spanish may also be provided upon request.

Disability Access Statement: This meeting is wheelchair accessible. The accessible entrances are located at 1110 Victoria and 910 Flores. Accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall, 1110 Victoria.

Ayuda o Servicios Auxiliares: Todas las reuniones del Comité del MPO están abiertas al público. Personas que planean asistir a esta reunión y que pueden necesitar ayuda o servicios auxiliares como: interpretes para personas con discapacidad auditiva, lectores de letra grande o en Braille, o un traductor para el idioma español deben comunicarse con el personal del MPO al 956-794-1613 o por correo electrónico planner@ci.laredo.tx.us al menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión para que los arreglos apropiados se pueden hacer. Materiales en español se proveerán a petición.

Declaración de Acceso a la Discapacidad: Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Las entradas accesibles están ubicadas en 1110 Victoria y 900 Flores. Los espacios de estacionamiento para discapacitados se encuentran por la calle Victoria.

Información en español: Si usted desea esta información en español o si desea explicación sobre el contenido, por favor llámenos al teléfono (956) 794-1613 o comunicarse con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a planner@ci.laredo.tx.us.

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

County of Webb Representatives:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

City of Laredo Representatives:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI

Laredo Mass Transit Board Representative:

Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember, District VII

State DOT Representative:

Mr. David M. Salazar, Jr. P.E., TxDOT District Engineer


Private Sector Representative:

Mr. Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, Jr.

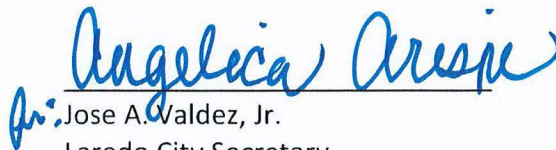
Ex-Officio Representatives:

Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21
Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42
Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80

AGENDA REVIEWED:

for 

J. Kirby Snideman, AICP
LW-CAMPO Director



Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
Laredo City Secretary

Laredo-Webb County Area (LWCA)

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Virtual Meeting

LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>

PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL FEBRUARY 22ND, 2021 VIRTUAL SPECIAL MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LW-CAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge.
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.)
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3 (joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.)
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, Private Sector
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., City Councilmember District V
Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember District VII

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:

Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42
Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21
Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80

Staff (Of Participating LWCA Agencies) Present:

City:	J. Kirby Snideman, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
	Graciela Briones, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
	Jason Hinojosa, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
	Angie Quijano, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
	Juan Mendive, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
	Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
	Ramon Chavez, City Engineering Department
State:	Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
	Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.
Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc.
Jedd Brown, RMA
Richard Seitz, Dannenbaum Engineering
Brad Hamer, Ama Terra Consultants

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Graciela Briones, LW-CAMPO Staff, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Speakers are required to fill out witness cards, which must be submitted to MPO Staff no later than 15 minutes after the start of the meeting. Speakers shall identify themselves at the microphone. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. No more than three (3) persons will be allowed to speak on any side of an issue. Should there be more than three (3) people who wish to speak on a specific issue, they should select not more than three (3) representatives to speak on their behalf. The presiding officer may further limit public on the interest of order or time. Speakers may not transfer their minutes to any other speaker. Comments should be relevant to City business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks shall be permitted.

Mr. Cliff Killam, representing Killam Development, spoke in favor of the Vallecillo Road project. He stated the project is designated to create an east/west connection from Mines Road to IH 35. He stated it would be a strategic aspect to the community and complimentary to the World Trade Bridge. He also stated the project would be a valuable asset for the economic fatality. He stated Killam would be contributing all the Right of Way and five million dollars in funds. He thanked everyone for the support.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the virtual meeting held on January 19th, 2021.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held January 19th, 2021.

Second: CM. Perez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Dr. Martinez and CM. Galo joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

B. Approval of the Mayor's appointments to the Policy Committee:

- 1. Council Member Ruben Gutierrez**
- 2. Council Member Vanessa Perez**

Dr. Martinez made a motion to approve the item.

Second: CM. J. Gonzalez
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Mayor Saenz designated CM. Vanessa Perez and the Mass Transit Board member.

Being that CM. Perez was just appointed, the minutes were re-approved.

CM. Galo made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held January 19th, 2021.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-02, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2020-2045 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

- 1. Amending Chapter 10, subsection entitled Operation and Maintenance of Unified Transportation Program Projects to include Table 10:2A entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Operations and Maintenance Costs.**

Kirby Snideman, MPO Director, gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM. Galo made a motion to close the public and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-02, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2020-2045 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-03, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

- 1. *DELETION/REMOVAL* of project CSJ 0018-05-089 intended to provide for the replacement of a bridge structure on IH 35, at Uniroyal Drive, with an estimated total project cost of \$125,323,000. The project letting date was FY 2024.**
 - TxDOT has requested the project be removed from Fiscal year 2024 and moved to FY 2025 in order to ensure statewide fiscal constraint.**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-03, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Second: CM. Galo

Dr. Martinez stated his concerns about removing the project from the TIP. He stated that area on Uniroyal Drive needs a lot of infrastructure. He stated that if funding ever became an issue, they can bring the item back. He stated he did not feel comfortable removing the project and instead requested for the project maintain on the TIP for FY 2024.

David Salazar, District Engineer, stated the project being removing from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) does not remove it from the Unified Transportation Program (UTP). He stated the UTP was a 10-year plan and delaying the project one month was to meeting certain letting dates. He also stated TxDOT was committed to the project and the was no risk of the project going away.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated in regards to the project, TxDOT was finalizing the schematic and working on getting the environmental approval. He stated they are moving forward with the project and are looking into having a public meeting sometime in the summer.

Judge Tijerina amended his motion to remove the word deletion/removal from the item language and put project back on the TIP in August FY 2024.

Second: CM. Galo
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-04, adopting and supporting the Texas Department of Transportation’s 2021 targets for Federal Safety Performance Measures.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-04, adopting and supporting the Texas Department of Transportation’s 2021 targets for Federal Safety Performance Measures.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

F. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-05, providing support of the development of the Vallecillo Road Project.

Jedd Brown, Chairman of the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA), gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mr. Brown requested to revise the resolution by adding “and the Vallecillo Road Project is the highest priority project consistent with the MPO’s goal that is not yet fully funded for construction” on the resolution.

CM. Galo and CM. Perez expressed their support for the resolution.

CM. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2021-05, providing support of the development of the Vallecillo Road Project subject to adding the language as presented by Mr. Jedd Brown.

Second: CM. J. Gonzalez
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

G. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.

Mr. Richard Seitz spoke on the status of Hachar-Reuthinger. He stated he had received an email from TxDOT back in October requesting additional environmental work. Subsequent to that, Dannenbaum submitted a request for supplemental based on the funds that were necessary to perform that work. At the moment, they are waiting on approval of the supplemental. Once that is approved, they can move forward. He also stated Dannenbaum would have to re-submit the environmental assessment and stated TxDOT has said there would be no further review or approval of the environmental assessment until all of the environmental issues are fully addressed. That means that the results of the archeological investigation would need to be known first. He stated the environmental assessment would also require revision of the section on water resources due to changes on the water rules that went effect in June of last year. Those changes are beneficial to the project and they eliminate most or all of the water crossings from the permitting requirements. He stated that although they have the ability to revise the environmental assessment, they have not done so in part because the archeological issue has not been resolved which is withholding funds from Dannenbaum to perform the work.

He stated on the schematic, Dannenbaum completed and submitted 100%. After everything was submitted, they received additional comments from TxDOT which are minor and will be completed once Dannenbaum gets approval on the environmental supplemental.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated that currently TxDOT and Webb County do not have an active mutual agreement. The agreement expired last year and has not been renewed. TxDOT cannot allow any work to proceed that can reimbursable from the County at this time. He also stated TxDOT has been meeting with the City and the County to come to a solution. TxDOT has proposed a solution that would allow TxDOT to complete the pending environmental work on the project to get environmental clearance. A letter would be sent to the County to proceed with that solution should they choose to.

Richard Seitz, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated Dannenbaum has met all their commitments on the project in a timely manner. The County and the City agreed to conduct all the activity in a current basis which has taken place. The work refereed to is in the Hachar portion of the whole route and that is why the supplemental was sent to Verde Corporation instead of the County.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated he received a report from Nicholas Van Steenberg from Verde Corporation. He stated all surveys and metes and bounds have been completed. The land has been exchanged and has already been signed off pending recording of the document which will happen very soon.

V. REPORT(S) AND PRESENTATIONS (No action required).

A. Status report by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

Mr. Snideman stated the status report by the RMA was send via email and included in the MPO packet which read as followed:

1. Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes – Anticipated NTP for Anderson Columbia for construction will be in February. Construction start date is anticipated for March 2021.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Brownwood) – Bid opening occurred on 12/30/20. MTZ Construction is the low bidder and has been awarded the construction contract on 1/19/21. Construction start date is anticipated for March 2021.
3. Vallecillo Road – Requesting a Resolution of Support by the MPO on the 2/16/21 MPO Policy Committee Meeting. Laredo Community met with TxDOT Deputy Executive Director Marc Williams to present project, existing funding plan and to request funding support to close funding gap on 1/8/21. A meeting with Texas Transportation Commissioner Chairman Bruce Bugg is anticipated for later in February or March.
4. Next WCCL RMA Board meeting is scheduled for 2/17/21.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Snideman informed the committee that Gracie Briones was selected as the MPO Planning Division Manager. He also introduced Julio Niño and Jason Hinojosa as Long-Range Planners currently contracted by the MPO until the recruiting process is complete. He also briefly discussed the MPO work plan and stated Staff would be bringing the work plan to the Policy committee as a presentation. T

VII. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:52p.m.

Second: CM. Gutierrez
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

J. Kirby Snideman, AICP
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LW-CAMPO
Chairperson

IV-B. Discussion with possible action on the formation of a Freight and Logistics Committee as a subcommittee of the MPO, similar to the Technical Committee and Active Transportation Committee, and any matters related thereto.

IV-C. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.

Angelica Quijano

From: Antonio Rodriguez <anrodriguez@HNTB.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:26 AM
To: Kirby Snideman; Angelica Quijano
Cc: Jed Brown; Melisa Montemayor; Douglas Howland
Subject: WCCL RMA Report for MPO Meeting (March 15, 2021)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Team, please see the update below. If possible, please include in the Policy Committee packet.

1. Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes – Anticipated NTP for Anderson Columbia for construction will be in February. Construction start date is anticipated for this month (March 2021).
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Brownwood) – Bid opening occurred on 12/30/20. MTZ Construction is the low bidder and has been awarded the construction contract on 1/19/21. Pre-Construction Meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday on 3/17/21. Construction start date is anticipated to commence 10 days later.
3. Vallecillo Road – Received a Resolution of Support by the MPO on 2/16/21 from the MPO Policy Committee Meeting. We have also received a resolution of support from State Representative Tracy King, State Senator Judith Zaffirini and US Congressman Henry Cuellar. State Representative Richard Raymond has committed to providing a letter of support to the project, as well, and we anticipate receiving the letter shortly. Upon receipt, we will coordinate a meeting with Texas Transportation Commissioner Chairman Bruce Bugg. We anticipate that meeting to occur later this month (March) or April.

If you have any other questions, please let us know. I hope you have a great day.

Thanks.

Antonio Rodriguez, PE

WCCL RMA GEC Deputy Program Manager

Cell (512) 800-0382

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V-B. Presentation by MPO Staff on the proposed MPO Work Plan.

VI. Director's Comments

VII. Adjournment