

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

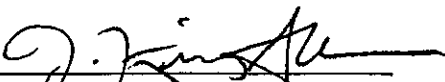
Mr. Snideman informed the committee that Gracie Briones was selected as the MPO Planning Division Manager. He also introduced Julio Niño and Jason Hinojosa as Long-Range Planners currently contracted by the MPO until the recruiting process is complete. He also briefly discussed the MPO work plan and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

VII. ADJOURNMENT

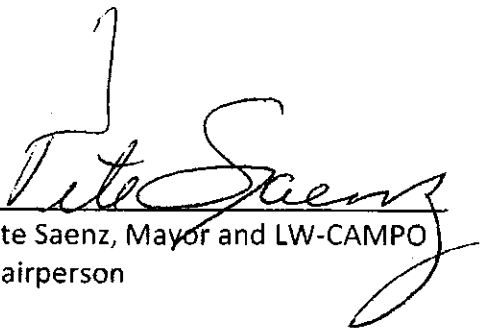
CM. Perez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:52p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously



J. Kirby Snydeman, AICP
MPO Director



Pete Saenz, Mayor and LW-CAMPO
Chairperson