

## 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 MARCH 15TH, 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  
Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, P.E., Private Sector  
David M. Salazar, Jr., P.E., TxDOT District Engineer  
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., City Councilmember District V  
Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember District VII

#### **Regular members no present:**

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

#### **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  
Juan Mendive, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff  
Julio Niño, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff  
Jason Hinojosa, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff  
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff

Ramon Chavez, City Engineering Department

State: Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering  
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering  
Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc.  
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.

**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.

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**A. Approval of the minutes for the virtual meeting held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.**

Dr. Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**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.**

Mayor Saenz stated City Council has also wanted to create a similar committee and to consider groups by Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon to discuss transportation infrastructure a but has not been successful.

Dr. Martinez asked what the purpose of the committee was.

Kirby Snideman, MPO Director, stated that the purpose of the committee has not been defined at the moment. He requested to allow staff to complete the Freight Logistics Infrastructure Plan which will begin very soon.

Dr. Martinez stated the City's committee was not quite there yet. He stated he felt it was too early to have discussions especially not knowing what the committee would entail.

Cm. V. Perez stated she felt there was room for another committee especially if the committee would be focused more on the international side. She stated residents and the trade community have experienced traffic congestion issues along FM 1472.

Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated technical committees have the opportunity to strengthen the MPO as a whole. He stated if said committees have the right personnel on it, it would make the job of the MPO Policy committee a lot easier. He also stated that it was important to have said committees but to make sure the committees are clearly defined and set a goal of how that would be accomplished.

Mr. Snideman stated Staff would want to make the committee more defined where input can be given along the process. He also stated of big part missing in the MPO is public input, both informally and formally. The committee would be focused mainly on the infrastructure needed, short and long term.

Judge Tijerina stated a freight and logistics committee would be a great idea but he also stated that it would also rely mostly on the MPO committee in order to be able to move the freight and people freely.

Cm. Perez, asked if there was anything in the works for FM 1472.

Mr. Snideman stated the MPO Policy committee was focused more on long range planning. He stated any operations and maintenance would be directly addressed by the City and TxDOT.

David Salazar, TxDOT District Engineer, stated the Technical committee was a key component of the MPO. He stated that that a sub-committee would be a great asset but would need to be cautious because there might be conflicts as to what direction to take.

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

Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Assistant Engineer, stated the County was working with the consultant to have all the pending deliverables sent to TxDOT by March 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated that would conclude all the work the County has pending with Dannenbaum Engineering.

David Salazar, TxDOT, stated the City and the County would be receiving letters to amend the current documents allowing TxDOT to take over the environmental clearance of the project.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated he had no updates at the moment. He stated the land had been swapped and waiting for the title commitments.

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

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

Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc. gave a brief presentation on the item as follows:

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 (April 2021).
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Brownwood) – Bid opening occurred on 12/30/20. MTZ Construction was the low bidder and has been awarded the construction contract on 1/19/21. Pre-Construction Meeting was 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. A resolution of support was received 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. A meeting was anticipated to occur later in March or April.

**B. Presentation by MPO Staff on the proposed MPO Work Plan.**

Mr. Snideman gave a brief presentation on the proposed work plan. He stated the work plan would consist mostly of MPO staff completing MPO work plans. He stated it would

take less time especially because the procurement process would not be needed. He also stated they would also be looking at the next five years and even beyond that to see what issues that need to be studied, what plans to be complete, and what part of the region, city, and county need more focus on.

Mayor Saenz left the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

#### VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

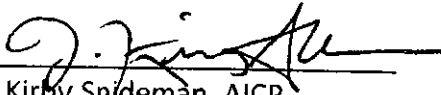
There were no director's comments.

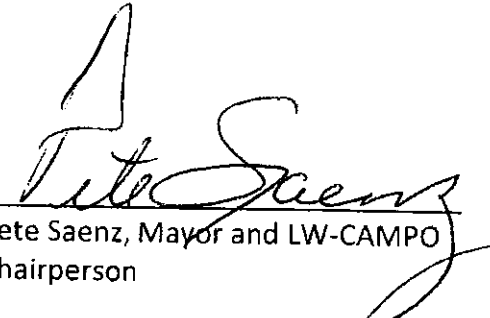
#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Judge Tijerina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

Second: CM. Perez  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

  
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J. Kirby Sydeman, AICP  
MPO Director

  
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Pete Saenz, Mayor and LW-CAMPO  
Chairperson