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MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

www.laredompo.org

Meeting Date & Time: July 19th, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: City of Laredo Council Chambers, 1110 Houston St., Laredo, Texas 78040

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

Public Access Channel: Spectrum TV channel 1300

AGENDA:

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

Speakers are required to fill out witness cards, which must be submitted to MPO Staff no later than 1:15 p.m. the day 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 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 meeting held on June 21st, 2021.
- B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-08, adopting the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-09, reaffirming support for the adjusted statewide system performance (PM3) targets.
- D. Discussion with possible action on changing the regularly scheduled meeting dates of the MPO Policy Committee currently held on the 3rd Monday of each month subject to the results based on the poll sent out to the Policy committee members.
- E. Discussion with possible action on the Hachar-Reuthinger road project.

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

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

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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 956-794-1602, or via email at aquijano@ci.laredo.tx.us 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 ramps 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-

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

1602 o por correo electrónico aquijano@ci.laredo.tx.us antes de la reunión para que se puedan hacer los arreglos apropiados. Material en español está disponible mediante una petición.

Declaración de Acceso a la Discapacidad: Esta reunión permite el acceso a personas en silla de ruedas. Las rampas de acceso 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) 794-1602 o comunicarse con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a aquijano@ci.laredo.tx.us.

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

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

County of Webb Representatives:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge and LWCAMPO Vice-Chairperson
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Laredo Mass Transit Board Representative:

Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember, District VII

State Representative:

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

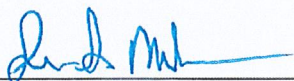
Private Sector Representative (Member at Large):

Mr. Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, Jr., P.E.

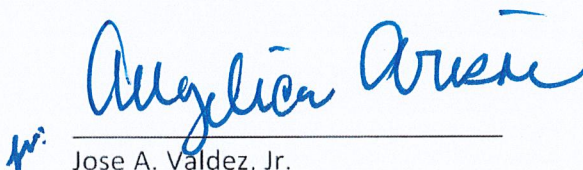
Ex-Officio Representatives:

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

AGENDA REVIEWED:



Juan S. Mendive,
LWCAMPO Interim Director



Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
Laredo City Secretary



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 21ST, 2021

LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>
PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Graciela Briones, LWCAMPO Staff, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to excuse members not able to participate in the meeting.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., City Councilmember District V
Honorable Dr. Marte A. Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI (joined virtually)
Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember District VII (joined virtually)
David M. Salazar, Jr., P.E., TxDOT District Engineer
Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, P.E., Private Sector

Regular members not present:

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

Ex-Officio members not present:

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

Staff present:

Juan Mendive, LWCAMPO Staff
Graciela Briones, LWCAMPO Staff
Julio Niño, LWCAMPO Staff
Angie Quijano, LWCAMPO Staff

Guests:

Robert A. Eads, City Manager's Office
Riazul Mia, City Manager's Office
Orlando Navarro, City of Laredo Planning Department
Vanessa Guerra, City of Laredo Planning Department
Ramon Chavez, City Engineering Department
Danny Magee, City Traffic Safety Department
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro
Jed Brown, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc.
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.

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.

There were no citizen comments.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the virtual meeting held on May 17th, 2021.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting held on May 17th, 2021.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-06, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the MPO Bylaws:

- 1. Article II, Section 2.3 Membership, Terms and Administration, shall be amended to allow a permanent Director for the MPO separate from the City of Laredo Planning Director who is appointed by the City Manager and confirmed by City Council.**

After reading the item and having no objections, the chairman opened the public hearing.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2021-06, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the MPO Bylaws.

Second: Cm. Perez

No action was taken. This motion was later rescinded.

Cm. Gutierrez expressed concerns with verbiage about the permanent director.

Juan Mendive, Interim MPO Director, briefly explained that the intention for this modification was to have a permanent Director for the MPO separate or different from the Planning Director as it used to be. He also recapped previous discussions with the Policy Committee about the recommendation of making the MPO a more independent organization and, being the first step the amendment of the Bylaws. A comment period was opened at the meeting held in May and now the item was presented before the committee for final consideration. During the time of the comment period, it was brought to staff's attention the existence of an agreement in place between TxDOT, the City of Laredo as fiscal agent and LWCAMPO signed in 2018 that doesn't expire until

2024, and which specified that was the fiscal agent the one that has the sole authority to hire or terminate the MPO Director.

Mr. Mendive further mentioned that the reason why the agreement reads as such was because the MPO Director had always been the Planning Director. He also stated that Technical committee recommended the approval of the Bylaws pending the required changes to the MPO agreement.

Robert Eads, City Manager, stated that he could see the situation in two different pieces. One where action had been taken by the MPO Policy committee to unlock that MPO to Planning Director. And, the other one where it was stated that there was an active agreement with TxDOT which will expire in 2024. He further mentioned that according to such document, which has not been amended yet, it was the City Manager who appoints the MPO Director. Therefore, if he would be asked for his recommendation for the MPO Director, he would recommend Mr. Juan Mendive.

Mayor Saenz asked Mr. Mendive if he was willing to accept the position.

Mr. Mendive agreed and stated he had been carrying the duties of the Interim Director position since the Committee appointed him.

Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, TxDOT suggested to bring agenda items up to discuss them all together as they all related to the same topic.

Judge Tijerina stated there was a motion and second that needed the vote to take action.

Sara Garza, TxDOT, stated that after reviewing the current Planning agreement, in order to make any changes to the document, the MPO, TxDOT and the City of Laredo as fiscal agent would have to first meet and agree on the decisions for the proposed changes. She also stated that no further changes could be made until the agreement was amended.

Mr. Mendive stated that also as per the agreement in place, and as long as the City of Laredo continues to be the fiscal agent, if an MPO director was selected, it would still be a City employee and that position would be paid with MPO funds.

Judge Tijerina expressed his concerns by saying that for transparency purposes, there needed to be a certain item written for that particular appointment. He further asked if City Manager appointed, who would terminate the MPO Director?

Mr. Eads responded it would also be the City Manager.

Mr. Mendive added that it is part of the Article V. F. in the agreement.

Judge Tijerina stated that in his opinion, the Policy board should have the authority to hire or to terminate the MPO Director. He stated he was not in agreement with the fact that the Policy board was limited to only change certain things.

David Salazar, TxDOT, joined the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Ms. Garza stated that the contract could be amended but all parties involved would need to come to an agreement first in a separate meeting.

Cm. Dr. Martinez reaffirmed that no changes should be made until this document was amended.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **rescind** his motion.

Second: Cm. Perez

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **table** the item.

Second: Dr. Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Dr. Martinez made a motion to **bring up** item IV-I.

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

I. Discussion with possible action on the appointment of a permanent MPO Director, and any other matters incident thereto.

Mr. Eads stated that he recognized the appointment of the Policy Committee for the Interim Director but until the agreement changed, the terms had to be followed and therefore, the City Manager had the authority to hire or fire the MPO Director.

Mayor Saenz stated the goal was to change the Bylaws to provide autonomy to the MPO and the City of Laredo to remain as fiscal agent with the responsibility to pay salaries of staff, and the Policy Committee to hire, fire and supervise staff.

Cm. Dr. Martinez inquired about the HR (Human Resources) aspect regarding the hiring process.

Mayor Saenz stated that an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) would have to be developed to include the conditions for the organizations.

Mr. Mendive stated that those terms would have to be stipulated in the agreement. The City will provide certain assistance such as HR, IT services, etc. as well as the Policy Committee role would be established.

Judge Tijerina asked how other independent MPOs do this process.

Mr. Mendive responded that a good example will be the MPO for the City of El Paso. El Paso MPO Director is appointed by the Policy Committee and the bylaws state that the staff are city employees but the Director is hired and supervised by the Policy Committee. He further said that depending on the MPO's we were looking at, their agreements have small variations but are based on a contract provided by TPP. Also, Mr. Mendive mentioned that it was difficult for an MPO to become completely stand alone because the funds the MPO receives was on a reimbursement basis. Therefore, the MPO would still need a fiscal agent.

David Salazar, TxDOT District Engineer, stated that some MPO's like the ones from Abilene, Midland, Odessa and San Angelo have their respective independent MPO Directors and are City employees who do not answer directly to the City Manager but to the Committee. Mr. Salazar further mentioned that there was also an agenda item that could help in the transition process.

Cm. Vanessa Perez stated that at the last Policy Committee meeting it was discussed that the MPO should be a separate entity and if that was the intention, she would support to move in that direction.

Ms. Garza stated all MPOs need a fiscal agent even though they stand alone.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated that this might be a little confusing and wanted to clarify that the planning agreement that was in place spelled out the responsibilities of the MPO Director and the fiscal agent; the MPO Bylaws were the only place where it was stated that the City Planning Director was also going to be the MPO Director. He further said that the motion that was made at the last MPO meeting was to separate those two individuals and their responsibilities so that the MPO Director position could be independent. He further commented that the intent was always just to be able to

separate those positions but there was still the need for the financial agent to oversee the program.

Mayor Saenz expressed his concern for the need of an Interim Director as the program cannot continue without someone at the head of the program. Therefore, an appointment had to take place.

Mr. Eads went ahead and appointed Juan Mendive as the Interim MPO Director.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **affirm** Mr. Eads appointment of Mr. Juan Mendive.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **bring up** item IV-F.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

F. Discussion with possible action to allow staff to initiate a request for an MPO process review by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI).

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** the item.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion with possible action on the approval of Resolution No. MPO 2021-07 reaffirming support for adjusted statewide pavement and bridge condition (PM2) targets.

Mr. Mendive gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2021-07, reaffirming support for adjusted statewide pavement and bridge condition (PM2) targets.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Receive public testimony and initiate a twenty-day public review and comment period for the draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **open** the public hearing and **initiate** a twenty-day public review and comment period for the draft FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion and possible action to direct the Interim MPO Director to issue a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for an independent accounting firm to conduct an audit of the MPO, including but not limited to, determining that the MPO's Federal Aid expenditures comply with Federal Planning Program requirements, determining that expenditures are allowable, necessary, reasonable, allocable and in accordance and compliance with Federal requirements, determining that proper approval was given for expenditures, that there is adequate documentation to support the MPO's expenditures, determine that there are sufficient controls in place to prevent fraud or misappropriation of Federal funds and any other matters incident thereto.

Judge Tijerina stated that he requested to put the item on the agenda.

Mr. Mendive stated that the item was discussed at the Technical committee. He stated that since the City was the fiscal agent, the audit would be on the City and TxDOT. He also mentioned that the Technical committee recommended the item to be tabled subject to the possibility of TxDOT to perform said audit first before the MPO committee goes out for RFQ's for an independent auditor.

Mr. Salazar stated the audit would be handled internally from TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) division and was something that could be handled directly by TxDOT.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **allow** TxDOT to conduct an audit of the MPO.

Second: Cm. Gutierrez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

G. Discussion and possible action on providing a letter of support to the City of Laredo and El Metro Transit for the USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the new North Transit Hub.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **approve** the letter of support to the City of Laredo and El Metro Transit for the USDOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the new North Transit Hub.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

H. Discussion with possible action on changing the regularly scheduled meeting dates of the MPO Policy Committee currently held on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Cm. Perez stated she had requested the item be put on the agenda. She stated it was difficult to have MPO meetings on the same day as City Council. She stated she would want the Policy committee to agree and move the meetings to another day.

Dr. Martinez recommended to poll all the members so that they all can come to an agreement of when they want the meetings to take place.

Cm. Perez made a motion to **poll** the committee members in order to decide what day would work best to have the MPO meetings.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

J. Discussion with possible action on the Hachar-Reuthinger road project.

Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering, stated Webb County had received files requested the consultant and were delivered to TxDOT for review. He stated said files were also being reviewed by the County. He stated additional files were requested by the consultant.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT had done a thorough review of all the files that were received last month. He stated as soon as TxDOT received the remaining files, that would complete the task from the County. He also TxDOT had their engineering consultant on board that was working on the plans for the project and also had the consultant on board that has started the remaining environmental work to get that cleared as well.

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

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

Jed Brown representing the RMA provided a status report via e-mail which read as followed:

1. Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes – 100% Design completed and submitted to TxDOT on 5/14/20. Project has been submitted with the IH 69W/ FM 1472 Project to Division for review and final comments. Letting of the project is planned for August 2020. Construction is anticipated for November 2020.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills) – Design is ongoing. 95% Design submittal is anticipated for June 2020. The Acceleration/ Deceleration Lanes for Cuatro Vientos 30% Design submittal was received in May 2020. Comments to be released in June 2020. Anticipated letting of the project is scheduled for August/ September 2020.
3. Vallecillo Road – WCCL RMA has completed preliminary surveying on the proposed project alignment.
4. WCCL RMA is developing an agenda for the next Board Meeting. The Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for June/ July 2020.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Mendive thanked the committee and MPO staff for all their assistance. He also thanked city management and the planning department for all their support and cooperation.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Martinez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 7
Against: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Juan S. Mendive
Interim MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO
Chairperson

**LAREDO WEBB COUNTY AREA MPO
ACTION ITEM**

DATE: 07-19-21	SUBJECT: RESOLUTION Receive public testimony and approve Resolution MPO NO. 2021-08, adopting the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
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INITIATED BY: Staff	STAFF SOURCE: Juan S. Mendive, Interim MPO Director
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PREVIOUS ACTION:
The Policy Committee initiated a 20 day public review and comment period on June 21, 2021.

BACKGROUND:
The Unified Planning Work Program describes and schedules work to be undertaken by the Metropolitan Planning Organization during the 2022 fiscal period.

The final approved Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is due July 30th, 2021. Listed below is the proposed program budget:

<u>Subtask</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.1 Regional Planning and Administration	\$450,000.00
1.2 Travel, training, equipment	\$50,000.00
2.1 General Data Administration	\$100,000.00
3.1 General Administration (short range-planning)	\$30,000.00
4.1 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)	\$25,000.00
4.2 Preparation for 2025-2050 MTP Update	\$25,000.00
5.1 Long Range Freight Mobility Plan	\$100,000.00
5.2 Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis	\$250,000.00
5.3 Sidewalk Gap Analysis	\$50,000.00
5.4 Bus Rapid Transit Study	\$200,000.00
5.5 Resiliency Study	\$30,000.00
Total	\$1,310,000.00

The total estimated Transportation Planning Funds (TPF) that will be available for FY 2022 is \$2,430,738. This consists of an estimated \$562,039 TPF estimated to be awarded in FY 2022 based on authorizations from previous years and an estimated unexpended carryover of \$1,868,699 from FY2021. A total of \$1,310,000 in TPF is proposed to be programmed in FY 2022.

Public Comments – No public comments were received during the 20 day public review and comment period. TxDOT staff reviewed the document and requested the following two minor revisions:

- Page 8 - sub task 1.2 third sentence reads “All computer, hardware, software, and equipment expenditures of Federal Funds over \$5,000 will receive prior approval from TxDOT.” That should read from FHWA not TxDOT. (MPO staff has revised the draft UPWP as requested).
- Page 11 - under C. Previous Work. “MEIR/Plum” shows to be misspelled. (MPO staff has revised the draft UPWP as requested).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The LWCAMPO Technical Committee recommends approval.	STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.
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RESOLUTION NO. MPO 2021-08

BY THE LAREDO WEBB COUNTY AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

ADOPTING THE FY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

WHEREAS, the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Organization (LWCAMPO), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Laredo Urbanized Area, wishes to adopt the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); and,

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study finds that the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) meets federal and state requirements, and meets the transportation planning needs of the Laredo Metropolitan Area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, as the designated MPO for the Laredo Urbanized Area, adopts the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purpose on this the 19th day of July, 2021

We certify that the above resolution was adopted at a public meeting of the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO).

Juan S. Mendive
Interim MPO Director

Honorable Pete Saenz
Mayor of Laredo and Chairperson
of the LWCAMPO Policy Committee



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

1413 Houston St.

Laredo, TX. 78040

(956) 794-1613

<http://www.laredompo.org/>

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

FY 2022

DRAFT

ADOPTED BY THE POLICY COMMITTEE ON: _____ 2021

AMENDED ON: _____

This document has been prepared in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). All contents of this report reflect the views of the authors who are responsible for the opinions, findings and conclusions presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FHWA, FTA or TxDOT.

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DRAFT

I. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1962 promulgated the requirement that all urban areas of 50,000 or more population develop and maintain a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3-C) transportation planning process. The process would establish a transportation plan and provide the procedure by which it would be maintained and revised on a continuing basis.

In July 1979, the Governor of Texas designated Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) Steering Committee as the MPO for the Laredo urbanized area. In February 2020, The Policy Committee approved the amendment of the MPO Bylaws to change the name of the MPO from Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) to the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO).

A. PURPOSE

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the instrument that serves as the document for coordinating and identifying ways to carry out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for Laredo, Texas and portions of Webb County. An MPO is required to perform all planning tasks set forth in federal laws and regulations, many of which are conducted annually. This UPWP is a one-year transportation planning work program which describes in detail transportation planning programs, and activities to be performed in LWCAMPO for the FY 2022.

However, some tasks require more than one year to complete and are carried forward from one UPWP to the next. To effectively identify all work tasks, the Laredo MPO prepares this UPWP with input from federal, state and local jurisdictions, and transportation providers in the region.

The MPO's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will comply with all applicable federal and state regulations. Several transportation bills have been implemented in the past. These include the following:

- **ISTEA**—The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, which emphasized the efficiency of the intermodal transportation system.
- **TEA-21**—The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, signed by the President in 1998, builds on the initiatives established in ISTEA with a particular focus on equity through access, opportunity, and fairness.
- **SAFETEA-LU**—The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, was enacted in 2005 authorizing the Federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009.
- **MAP-21**—The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, was enacted in 2012 and created a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program and builds on many of the highway, transit, bike, and pedestrian programs and policies established in 1991.
- **FAST Act**—The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, was passed in 2015 covering a 5-year period and was the first Federal law in over ten years to provide long-term funding certainty for surface transportation (for fiscal years 2016 through 2020). The FAST Act continues the Metropolitan Planning Program and authorizes \$305 billion for the Department's highway, highway and motor vehicle safety, public transportation, motor carrier safety, hazardous materials safety, rail, and research, technology and statistics programs.

FAST Act Planning Factors

FAST Act contains ten (10) planning factors that should be considered when developing plans and programs. The work tasks contained in this UPWP have considered the following areas, some more directly than others:

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users;
4. Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight;
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
7. Promote efficient system management and operation;
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system;
9. Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate storm water impacts of surface transportation; and
10. Enhance travel and tourism.

Further, the work tasks consider the federal performance goals (23 USC § 150.b) in the following seven areas:

1. **Safety:** achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
2. **Infrastructure Condition:** maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair.
3. **Congestion Reduction:** achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System.
4. **System Reliability:** improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system.
5. **Freight Movement and Economic Vitality:** Improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development.
6. **Environmental Sustainability:** enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
7. **Reduced Project Delivery Delays:** reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agency work practices.

Performance Management

MAP-21 instituted Performance Management to provide greater accountability and transparency and help achieve the most efficient and effective investment of transportation resources. The FAST Act continued MAP-21's overall performance management approach, within which States invest resources in projects that collectively will make progress toward national goals.

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation in consultation with stakeholders establishes performance measures to chart progress toward accomplishment of national goals established in MAP-21: safety, infrastructure condition, interstate system condition, congestion reduction, system reliability, freight movement and economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and reduced project delivery delays. Performance targets established by the State and MPO will be based on national performance measures and will improve decision making through performance-based planning and programming.

The FAST Act adjusts the timeframe for States and metropolitan planning organizations to make progress toward meeting their performance targets under the National Highway Performance Program and clarifies the significant progress timeline for the Highway Safety Improvement Program performance targets.

The MPO believes in the proactive involvement of citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agencies, private providers of transportation, and other interested parties in the development and updates of transportation plans and programs. The Laredo MPO has a Public Participation Plan (PPP) intended to provide an opportunity for meaningful, active, ongoing public participation and involvement for citizens, groups, agencies, and public providers of transportation. The Laredo MPO conducts all planning activities in accordance with the adopted (PPP).

The MPO continues to engage interested parties during the development of the Public Participation Plan (PPP), and the short-term and long-term transportation plans. Per 23 CFR 450.316, interested parties such as those listed below, shall have reasonable opportunities to comment on projects of the short-term and long-term transportation plans:

- Affected public agencies
 - Freight shippers
 - Private providers of transportation services
 - Representatives of public transportation employees
 - Representatives of the disabled
 - Representatives of users of public transportation
 - Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
 - Other interested parties
- The MPO continues to consult and cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies and tribal nations responsible for land use, natural resources, and other environmental issues during the adoption of long and short-term plans. The MPO consults with agencies responsible for historic preservation, natural resource conservation, environmental protection, and land use management, as appropriate, in the development of the short and long-term transportation plans.

B. DEFINITION OF AREA

The Laredo Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) includes the City of Laredo and portions of Webb County. (See Map, Appendix B.) The MAB was approved by the Governor in 2004. The Laredo urbanized area (as determined by the 2010 Census) surpassed 200,000 in population and was designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA) effective July 18th, 2012.

C. ORGANIZATION

The Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization is governed by the Policy Committee established in accordance with adopted MPO Bylaws. The Policy Committee is the MPO body that holds review and decision-making authority over transportation planning efforts undertaken by the MPO. The Committee is chaired by the Mayor of the City of Laredo and includes as voting members: three members from the City of Laredo, City Council (including two members representing the City of Laredo, and one Councilman representing the Laredo Mass Transit Board), the Laredo TxDOT District Engineer, the Webb County Judge, two Webb County Commissioners, and one Member at Large. The State Senator for District 21, the State Representative for District 80 and the State Representative for District 42 serve as non-voting, ex-officio members. The MPO Technical Committee responsibilities include professional and technical review of work programs, policy recommendations and transportation planning activities. A list of the Technical Committee and Policy Committee Membership is provided in Appendix A.

The Title VI/EJ Working Group is comprised of 9 members, including representatives of the City of Laredo, the MPO, TxDOT, transit and the County Planning Department. The Group's purpose is to assist the MPO in improving data collection, monitoring and analysis to ensure that transportation related programs and policies do not have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. The City of Laredo staff providing service and support to the MPO include: the Director, 3 planners, an administrative secretary, and administrative assistant, an accountant and others as may be required.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Laredo Webb County Area MPO, in cooperation with the TxDOT, Webb County/City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA), mass transit operators, planning agencies and local governments is responsible for carrying out and maintaining the urban transportation planning process to include:

1. Cooperative decision-making, principally, by elected officials of local governments.
2. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP),
3. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP),
4. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and
5. Congestion Management Process (CMP).

The MPO also executes contracts and/or agreements necessary to carry out the work outlined in the UPWP. In addition, the MPO develops and maintains transportation databases and analytical tools.

MPO staff has the following general responsibilities:

1. Provide staff support to the Transportation Policy Board (TPB), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and committees of the Policy Board and TAC;
2. Review and report on items on the agenda(s) for the TPB, TAC, and appropriate committees;
3. Coordinate and perform the planning and data collection activities contained in the UPWP;
4. Prepare and submit an annual budget outlined in the UPWP for approval;
5. Receive and review all bills from consultants that the MPO has contracted with to perform work outlined in the UPWP;
6. Submit requests for reimbursement to the appropriate federal and/or state agencies for work performed according to the UPWP;
7. Prepare and submit grant applications for federal/other assistance in transportation planning, and related fields, as appropriate;
8. Prepare and submit the annual performance and expenditure report and annual project listing;
9. Coordinate the activities for the development and maintenance of the Unified Planning Work Program, the long-range metropolitan transportation plan and the Transportation Improvement Program;
10. Refine and maintain a process for engaging the public in the transportation planning process;
11. Perform any other administrative duties as required by the Transportation Policy Board; and,
12. Ensure compliance with Title VI Civil Rights, Environmental Justice and other federal requirements related to the MPO's operations, activities and programs.

D. PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT

The private sector is encouraged to participate in the development of all transportation programs and plans including the TIP and MTP development. Staff also maintains and periodically updates a list of consultant firms that provide transportation planning services.

E. PLANNING ISSUES AND EMPHASIS

Planning Issues

Roadways and Livability - System capacity issues will pose a major challenge in light of expected population and freight movement growth levels. However, while investments are made in transportation infrastructure, the safety and livability of communities in the Laredo MPO should be considered.

- **Population** - The number of jobs and people in the Laredo MPO region are expected to grow by more than 50 percent over the next 25 years. Growth in the past has been accommodated mainly thorough sprawl. The City of Laredo recognizes that for many reasons this type of growth is unsustainable. In order to plan for future growth in the region—a considerable share of which is expected to occur through infill and redevelopment—a more efficient allocation of transportation resources should be considered. There is an increased desire for multi-modal transportation alternatives, but facilities for walking, biking, and other options are lacking.
- **Freight** - Recent projections indicate that the trade values of all outbound, inbound or internal types of freight movement are projected to be more than double than the current levels. Said growth will continue to add capacity burdens on the network.
- **Transit** - Key issues facing the transit system in the upcoming years include: more customers, more service needs, and less funding.

- **More customers** - Population projections show a growing transit dependent population, especially in growth areas in south Laredo.
- **More service needs** - Recent ridership surveys revealed concerns regarding the frequency of service, slowness of buses, and the length of wait times. Increased bus frequency and longer service hours were suggested.
- **Less funding** - The 2010 census revealed that the Laredo region's population had surpassed 200,000 people which resulted in a decrease in federal and state operation funding assistance. Said decrease in outside funding makes it necessary to rely on more local funding sources.

In light of all of the above, careful and effective transportation planning and investment will be critical to providing for the area's future transportation needs while balancing the livability of communities.

Emphasis Areas

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in a memorandum to Metropolitan Planning Organizations, dated March 18, 2015, jointly issued Planning and Emphasis Areas (PEAs). The PEAs are topical areas in planning that FHWA and FTA want to emphasize as MPOs develop work task associated with PEAs in the UPWP. The PEAs include:

- **MAP-21 Implementation** - *Transition to Performance Based Planning and Programming.* Performance based planning and programming includes using transportation performance measures, setting targets, reporting performance, and programming transportation investments directed toward the achievement of transportation system performance outcomes. Relevant UPWP work tasks include working with local planning partners to identify ways to implement performance-based planning provisions such as collecting performance data, selecting and reporting performance targets for metropolitan areas, and reporting actual system performance related to those targets. The Laredo MPO uses scenario planning through the Travel Demand Model process to develop the Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
- **Regional Models of Cooperation** - *Ensure a Regional Approach to Transportation Planning by Promoting Cooperation and Coordination across Transit Agency, MPO, and State Boundaries.* The Laredo MPO will continue to work with its planning partners to improve the effectiveness of transportation decision-making by thinking beyond traditional borders and adopting a coordinated approach to transportation planning. A coordinated approach supports common goals and capitalizes on opportunities related to project delivery, congestion management, safety, freight, livability, and commerce across boundaries. Improved multi-jurisdictional coordination between the Laredo MPO, TxDOT, El Metro, area providers of public transportation, and the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) can reduce project delivery times and enhance the efficient use of resources. The Laredo MPO will periodically revisit its metropolitan area planning agreements to ensure that there are effective processes for cross-jurisdictional communication between TxDOT, the Laredo MPO and local area transit providers to improve collaboration, policy implementation, technology use, and performance management.

- ***Ladders of Opportunity - Access to essential services.***

The Laredo MPO will continue to work with TxDOT, and the local area transit providers, as part of the transportation planning process to identify transportation connectivity gaps in accessing essential services. Essential services include employment, health care, school/education, and recreation. At the behest of the local transit provider, the Laredo MPO UPWP routinely includes the development of transit related studies, including the development of a five-year plan, a bus/rapid transit feasibility study, and a paratransit and Americans with Disability Act compliance study. The Laredo MPO will also periodically evaluate the effectiveness of its public participation plan (PPP) for engaging transportation-disadvantaged communities in the transportation decision making process. The Laredo MPO also works with its planning partners to assess the need and availability of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the study area. Furthermore, through the Active Transportation Committee, the MPO will continue working on the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Active Transportation Plan.

II. TASK 1.0 – ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

A. OBJECTIVE

To accomplish, on a continuing basis, the plans and programs necessary to administer Federal transportation planning requirements and maintain the “3-C” transportation planning process in and for the Laredo and Webb County Metropolitan Organization’s planning area.

B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

The operation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization including the following:

1. Administration of the LWCAMPO to include the updating of existing or the completion of new plans, studies, and reports.
2. Fulfillment of planning objectives.
3. Supply/Equipment purchases
4. Compliance with state and federal requirements.
5. Maintenance, updates and dissemination of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Title VI Program and Environmental Justice (EJ) material(s).
6. Continuation of a proactive public involvement process.
7. Maintenance of LWCAMPO Website and Social Media.

C. PREVIOUS WORK

Staff performed general administrative functions for the operation of the Organization to include the coordination of public meetings as required by FHWA, FTA, the State and local government in the development of transportation planning documents, and reports. Both, the Technical and Policy Committee meetings were virtually held on an ongoing basis to make appropriate revisions to documents and approve programs including the maintenance of the PPP, Title VI Civil Rights, Environmental Justice, and Limited English Proficiency Plans, professional development training, and Bylaw/policy amendments and implementation. Staff attended various meetings, and workshops, and made presentations at public meetings. Staff updated and implemented policies to maintain the “3-C” Planning Process.

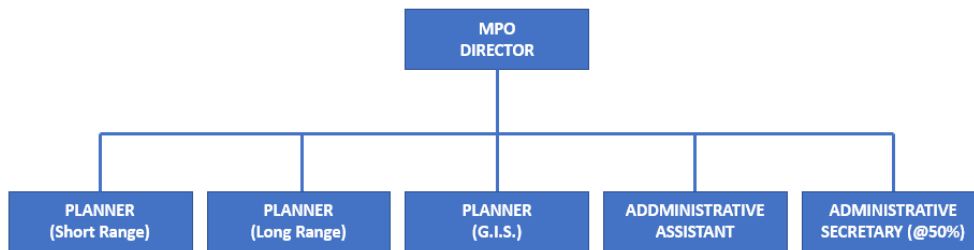
D. SUBTASKS

SUBTASK 1.1 - Regional Planning and Administration.

This includes program administration, record keeping, and monitoring completion of UPWP projects, audit, preparation of reports, interagency coordination, facilitating citizen participation, and preparation of meeting minutes. In addition, staff will be hired, trained, and developed to complete regional plans, studies, and reports. (Routine work effort – carried over from previous year).

In the past the MPO staff consisted of 2 positions, demanding staff to limit their role to administration and primarily utilize consultants for all planning activities. During FY 2020-2021, the MPO increased the number of staff by hiring 2 additional Planners and has utilized City of Laredo staff to temporarily fulfill the role of unfilled positions. This action helped significantly with accomplishing not only the administrative duties of the MPO but, has also represented considerable cost savings and time reductions (over hiring consultants), and has led to better planning outcomes where expertise is maintained in-house. A good example is the creation and adoption of the Active Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Committee.

A revised organizational structure for the MPO is displayed below.



Two Planner positions are currently vacant. The MPO will attempt to fill these or any positions that may become vacant during fiscal year 2021-2022. These positions may be filled as named, or under different titles of equivalent experience and pay grade. The MPO may continue utilizing City of Laredo staff or to enter into contracts for private consultants in an effort to reach the goals of the MPO.

SUBTASK 1.2 - Travel, training, equipment, furnishings, and supplies.

This activity supports staff development in the technical activities associated with the transportation planning process through travel to and attendance at appropriate conferences, courses, seminars, and workshops. This activity includes all equipment, furnishings, and supplies needed by personnel filling MPO staff roles. All computer hardware, software, and equipment expenditures of Federal Planning funds over \$5,000 will receive prior approval from FHWA. The MPO intends to register key planning staff for the Texas APA Conference in November 2021. For out of state travel, the MPO will seek prior TxDOT (TPP) approval. (Routine work effort).

E. FUNDING & PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Task 1.0 - FY 2022

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF)¹	FTA Sect. 5307	Local	Total
1.1	LWCAMPO	\$ 450,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 450,000
1.2	LWCAMPO	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 50,000
TOTAL		\$ 500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 500,000

¹TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

III. TASK 2.0 - DATA DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A. OBJECTIVE

Provide updated information, demographic data and analysis to support the Metropolitan Planning Organization's planning efforts.

B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

The expected products include an enhanced and regularly updated website with online interactive maps and data to help with performance-based planning and programming. MPO staff will continue to create and maintain databases including traffic crash locations, roadway network information, bicycle counts, and demographic data. In addition, data and mapping support will be provided for MPO plans, studies, and reports.

C. PREVIOUS WORK

Updated MPO website regularly with online data and maps. It was also continually updated to provide access to meeting agendas, packets, and publications as they became available. Project maps were developed, retrieved and or printed as new projects were approved or considered. The Demographic Data Development Project (also identified as the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update Project) was also completed. Staff continued to work with TxDOT and Texas Transportation Institute representatives in the development of the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model to be used in the development of the 2020-2045 MTP. Data and mapping support was provided for the Active Transportation Plan and other MPO activities.

D. SUBTASKS

SUBTASK 2.1 - General Data Administration.

This subtask allows for planning and administrative activities related to data development, maintenance, procurement, and contract management for the developing related performance measures and the following activities: (To be conducted as routine work effort, by consultants, or by contracted personnel if needed)

- a) General GIS: Specific activities will include reviewing and providing direction on the development and dissemination of geospatial databases on residential and commercial growth and transportation data; mapping databases supporting Laredo MPO programs; maintenance of the demographic and modeling databases of the MPO; develop and maintain the interactive web viewer for sharing GIS data on growth and projects; develop maps and materials for work group and public meetings; support MPO staff in the creation of plans, studies, and reports. (Routine work effort)
- b) Demographic Forecasting: Create a database of population and demographic statistics for the Laredo MPO and develop projections to be utilized for the MPO planning effort. (Routine work effort)
- c) Travel Demand Modeling: Coordinate with TxDOT on development and maintenance of updated travel demand models to be used for the TIP and other plans; refinements of in-house modeling capabilities; and regular updates of computer hardware, software, and necessary peripherals for supporting the demographic forecasting and travel demand modeling activities. (Routine work effort)

E. FUNDING & PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Task 2.0 – FY 2022

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF)¹	FTA Sect. 5307	Local	Total
2.1	LWCAMPO	\$ 100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,000
TOTAL		\$ 100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,000

¹ TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

IV. TASK 3.0 - SHORT RANGE PLANNING

A. OBJECTIVE

To complete those activities associated with short-range planning and implementation of projects that will be undertaken within the next five years.

B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

The MPO will develop and/or revise as necessary the UPWP, the TIP, the MPO By-Laws, the Limited English Proficiency Plan (LEP), Title VI documentation and the Public Participation Plan. Staff will continue to address the recommendations resulting from the formal certification review conducted in 2020. The MPO also anticipates continued participation in the regional service planning process, as well as, any activity associated with FTA’s 5310 Senior’s with Disabilities Program or 5339 - Bus and

Bus Facilities Program. MPO staff will also update the project selection criteria and Call for Projects process. Additionally, the MPO will continue to provide staff support to MPO committees, and will assist in implementation activities related to the MTP and Active Transportation Plan.

C. PREVIOUS WORK

Staff assisted in the development and continued revision of the 2019-2022 TIP and the 2021-2024 TIP. MPO staff also assisted in the development and revision of previous year UPWPs. In June of 2016, the Office of Civil Rights notified MPO Staff the Laredo MPO had demonstrated good faith efforts in meeting the requirements of the Title VI review. Staff developed a Limited English Proficiency Plan which was adopted and implemented in accordance with federal and state guidelines. A 2019 call for TAP projects was initiated in March of 2019. In April of 2020, 3 projects including the Mier/Plum Street Shared Use Paths, 9 Bus Stop Rehabilitation, and the East Chacon Creek Hike and Bike Trail Project were awarded TAP funds. In 2021, the Active Transportation Committee was formed to help improve and promote active modes of mobility within the MPO boundary; staff helped in the creation of the committee and helped coordinate its activities. In FY2021, staff initiated the Public Participation Plan update and is expected to be completed in FY 2022.

D. SUBTASKS

SUBTASK 3.1 - General Administration.

This subtask allows for MPO staff support for administrative activities related to short range planning, including the development and management of agency contracts; procurement, development and management of consultant contracts for projects in Task 3; and the review and processing of monthly billings for work related to Task 3. Specific activities will include, but are not limited to the update and/or revision of (TIP), UPWP, Bylaws, the Public Participation Plan, the Limited English Proficiency Plan, and Title VI documents. This subtask also includes public outreach activities such as video production, developing website information, writing articles, developing other printed materials, and public meeting facilitation as needed. (Routine work effort)

E. FUNDING & PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Task 3.0 - FY 2022

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF)¹	FTA Sect. 5307	Local	Total
3.1	LWCAMPO	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
TOTAL		\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 30,000

¹ TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

V. TASK 4.0 – METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN / LONG RANGE PLAN

A. OBJECTIVE

To continue study and analysis of projects and data for long-range planning elements and long-range project studies. Includes activities associated with publishing or updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, formerly called the Long Range Plan.

B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

Staff expects to assist in the continual revision of the existing Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) as well as the development of the updated plan to conform to state and federal requirements, particularly those of the FAST Act. This will include working with TTI and TxDOT to update the Travel Demand Model. Additionally, the CMP will be updated as needed in preparation for the next MTP update.

C. PREVIOUS WORK

Staff assisted in the continuous revision of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the development of the 2020-2045 MTP. Staff assisted in the continuous revision of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the development of the 2020-2045 MTP. The 2020-2045 MTP was adopted on January 21, 2020. The Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan was developed by staff in 2020 and was adopted by the City of Laredo in February 2021.

D. SUBTASKS

SUBTASK 4.1 - 2020-2045 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The current 2020-2045 MTP and TIP will continue to be reviewed and amended in order to comply with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requirements as needed. Specifically, the review and amendments will address and achieve conformity with all FAST Act requirements. The existing MTP will also be updated to conform to state and federal requirements. Staff will continue to monitor the implementation of the MTP and assist with any necessary amendments to the MTP. (To be conducted as routine work effort or by consultant if needed).

SUBTASK 4.2 - Preparation for the 2025-2050 MTP Update.

MPO staff will develop a project task list and schedule related to the upcoming MTP update and will evaluate which tasks will be performed internally and which will be carried out by consultants. This subtask will entail updating the Travel Demand Model and CMP with the assistance of consultants if needed. (To be conducted as routine work effort or by consultant if needed).

E. FUNDING & PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Task 4.0 - FY 2022

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF)¹	FTA Sect. 5307	Local	Total
4.1	LWCAMPO	\$ 25,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 25,000
4.2	LWCAMPO	\$ 25,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 25,000
TOTAL		\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 50,000

¹ TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

VI. TASK 5.0 - SPECIAL STUDIES

A. OBJECTIVE

To further the goals and objectives of the transportation planning process through special studies undertaken by MPO staff or consultants in support of existing or projected local needs. To maintain the transportation management systems required by federal and state regulations, to assist decision-makers in selecting cost-effective strategies to improve the efficiency and safety of and protect the investment systems.

B. EXPECTED PRODUCTS

These are specific studies and projects that address special problem areas or help promote and support transportation related topics.

C. PREVIOUS WORK

In FY 15, the 2015-2040 MTP, the TMA Certification Project, and the Congestion and Delay Study were completed. The Congestion Management Process (CMP) network and performance measures were adopted, and the Rail Road Quiet Zone study was completed. The Transit Plan Update of 2016, the transit Asset Management Plan of 2016 and a review and analysis of the transit marketing plan were all completed. In coordination with FHWA and TTI, the MPO conducted Bicycle and Pedestrian workshops in December of 2016, and June of 2017. 2015 Quiet Zone Study Update project which was initiated in 2017 and completed in January of 2019.

The Laredo & Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO), in coordination with Laredo Transit Management Inc. (LTMI), locally known as El Metro, solicited Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for the development of a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) study of El Metro’s service and operations. The objective of the plan is to evaluate both the current fixed route and paratransit bus service, and provide recommendations to improve the system’s service, efficiency, effectiveness, and connectivity. The RFQ Invitation was issued on May 20, 2020 and closed on June 2, 2020.

D. SUBTASKS

SUBTASK 5.1 - Long Range Freight Mobility Plan.

This study will evaluate freight movement in the study area in order to identify freight mobility needs and challenges, develop goals and objectives to improve goods movement, evaluate the impact of freight movement on the regional economy, identify freight transportation facilities and investments necessary for economic growth, define freight policies and programs, and provide recommendations for short, mid-range and long-term recommendations for infrastructure improvements. This study will serve as an investment guide for freight mobility improvements in the region. It is intended that staff will primarily be responsible for overseeing the development of the plan. However, consultants may be utilized to provide technical assistance to develop the plan. (To be conducted as routine work effort or by consultant if needed).

SUBTASK 5.2 - Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA).

This study will evaluate the current fixed route and ADA demand response transit system's structure and performance. The study should provide recommendations to address current and future service needs including but not limited to the realignment of existing services, proposal of new routes, optimal locations for transit hubs, discontinuation and/or reduction of non-productive routes/service, and the identification of preferred methodology for the on-going evaluation of the fixed route system, staffing and administration. This study is currently ongoing and is in the stakeholder engagement phase. (Work being conducted by Consultant; ongoing contract).

SUBTASK 5.3 - Sidewalk Gap Analysis.

This study will help identify existing gaps in the current sidewalk network to help local officials prioritize strategic improvements based on key criteria. The sidewalk gap analysis is a recommendation of the Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan adopted by the City of Laredo in February 2021. This study will entail collection of data to develop an inventory of sidewalks and network gaps, the development of prioritization criteria for sidewalk improvements, and recommendations. (To be conducted as routine work effort or by consultant if needed).

SUBTASK 5.4 - Bus Rapid Transit Study.

This study is intended to evaluate the existing transit system and demographic forecasts to assess the feasibility of implementing bus rapid transit service along selected corridors that will help improve regional mobility and reduce congestion. (To be conducted by consultant).

SUBTASK 5.5 - Resiliency Study.

This study is intended to assess the current transportation system's vulnerabilities to major transportation incidents or weather-related hazards, the existence of alternative routes, and ability to recover. This study will help advance FHWA's efforts in working with MPOs to consider resilience in the transportation planning process. (To be conducted by consultant).

E. FUNDING & PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Task 5.0 - FY 2022

Subtask	Responsible Agency	Transportation Planning Funds (TPF)¹	FTA Sect. 5307	Local	Total
5.1	LWCAMPO	\$ 100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,000
5.2	LWCAMPO	\$ 250,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 250,000
5.3	LWCAMPO	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 50,000
5.4	LWCAMPO	\$ 200,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 200,000
5.5	LWCAMPO	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
TOTAL		\$ 630,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 630,000

¹ TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

DRAFT

LAREDO WEBB COUNTY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION – FY 2022

UPWP Task	Description	TPF¹ Funds	FTA Sect. 5307	Local	Total Funds
1.0	Management & Administration	\$ 500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 500,000
2.0	Data Development and Maintenance	\$ 100,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100,000
3.0	Short Range Planning	\$ 30,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
4.0	MTP / Long Range Plan	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 50,000
5.0	Special Studies	\$ 630,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 630,000
TOTAL		\$ 1,310,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,310,000

¹ TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

¹ TPF – This includes both FHWA PL-112 and FTA Section 5303 Funds. TxDOT will apply transportation development credits sufficient to provide the match for TPF. As the credits reflect neither cash nor man-hours, they are not reflected in the funding tables.

FY 2021-2022 Combined Transportation Planning Funds ²	\$ 562,039
<u>Estimated Unexpended Carryover³</u>	<u>\$ 1,868,699</u>
TOTAL TPF	\$ 2,430,738
 <u>Total TPF Programmed</u>	 <u>\$ 1,310,000</u>

² Estimate based on prior years' authorizations

³ The accounting below provides the estimated unexpended carryover for FY 2019-2020 (as shown above).

FY 2019-2020 Unexpended Carryover	\$ 1,710,216
<u>FY 2020-2021 Combined Transportation Planning Funds</u>	<u>+ \$ 562,039</u>
<u>FY 2020-2021 Expenditures (estimated)</u>	<u>- \$ 403,556</u>
FY 2020-2021 Unexpended Carryover (estimated)	\$ 1,868,699

VII. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

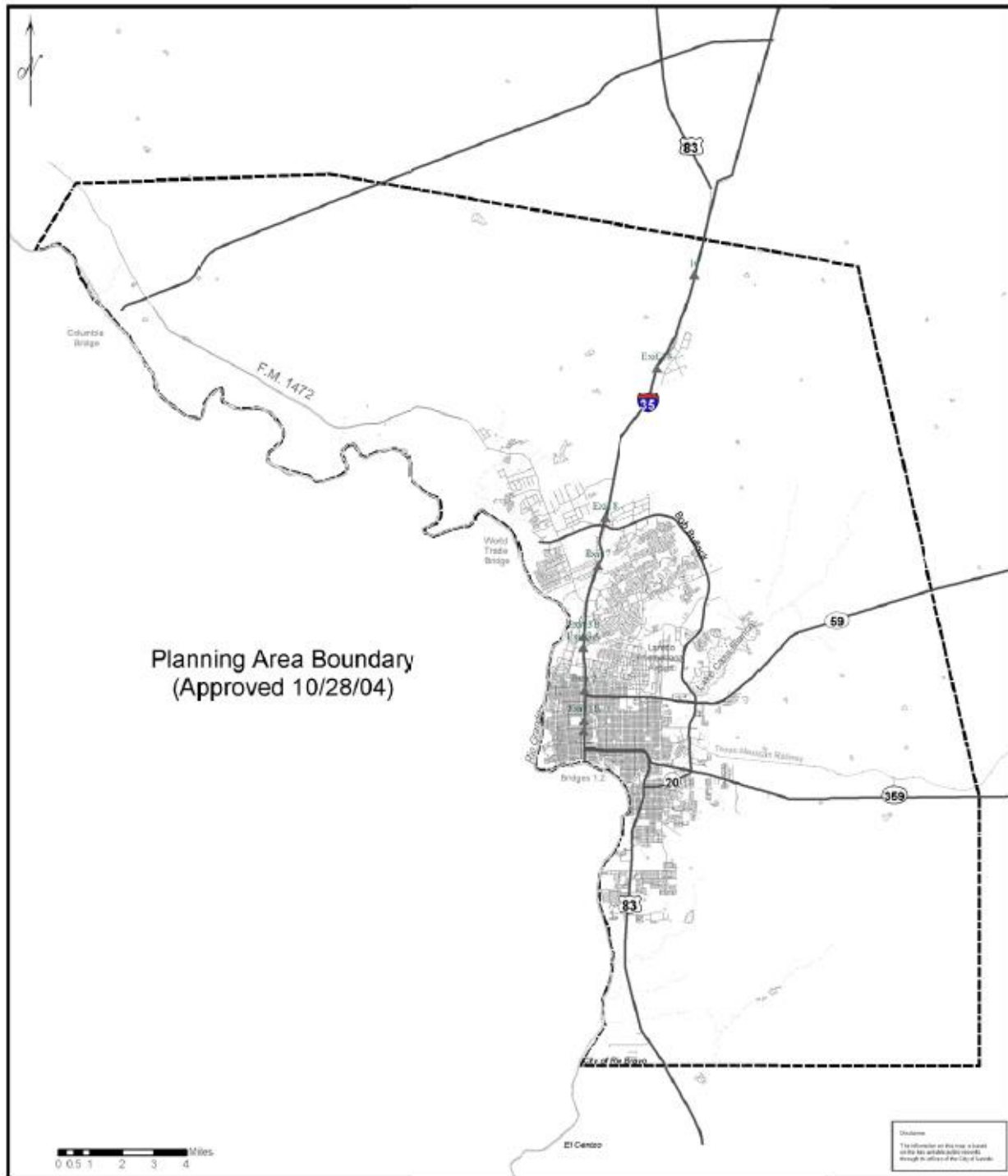
VOTING MEMBERS		
Honorable Pete Saenz	Mayor – Committee Chairman	City of Laredo
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina	Judge – Vice Chairman	Webb County
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr.	Councilmember	City of Laredo
Honorable Dr. Marte A. Martinez	Councilmember	City of Laredo
Honorable Vanessa Perez	Councilmember	Laredo Mass Transit Board
Honorable John Galo	Commissioner	Webb County
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez	Commissioner	Webb County
Humberto “Tito” Gonzalez, Jr. P.E.	Member At Large	Private
David Salazar, P.E.	District Engineer	TxDOT
EX-OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMEBERS		
Honorable Judith Zaffirini	Senator - District 21	State of Texas
Honorable Richard Raymond	Representative - District 42	State of Texas
Honorable Tracy O. King	Representative- District 80	State of Texas

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

<p><u>MPO Representative:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPO Director (Chairperson) <p><u>City Representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laredo Airport Director • Laredo Bridge Director • Laredo City Engineer • Laredo Planning Director • Laredo Traffic Safety Director • The General Manager of the City Transit System 	<p><u>State Representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TxDOT Planning Representative (Vice-Chairperson) • TxDOT Planning Representative • TxDOT Area Engineer • TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming Field Representative
<p><u>Federal representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FHWA Planning Representative (Austin) 	<p><u>School system representatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A representative of the Laredo Independent School District • A representative of the United Independent School District • A representative of Texas A&M International University • A representative of Laredo Community College
<p><u>County and Regional Representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webb County Planning Director • South Texas Development Council Regional Planning Director • The General Manager of the Rural Transit System • Webb County Engineer 	<p><u>Private Sector Representatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A representative of the Kansas City Southern Railway Company • A representative of the Union Pacific Railroad Company • A representative of the Laredo Transportation Association • A Transportation Provider Representative who shall also serve on the Laredo Transportation Advisory Committee

APPENDIX B
METROPOLITAN AREA BOUNDARY MAP

Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization



**APPENDIX C
DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION**

NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS

- 1) The Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, as Contractor, certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
 - a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency;
 - b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public* transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity * with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
 - d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions* terminated for cause or default.

- 2) Where the **Contractor** is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such **Contractor** shall attach an explanation to this certification.

* Federal, State, or Local

Pete Saenz
Chairperson, MPO Policy Committee
Mayor City of Laredo

Date

**APPENDIX D
LOBBYING CERTIFICATION**

**CERTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTS, GRANTS,
LOANS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS**

The undersigned certifies to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- 1) No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- 2) If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- 3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub recipients shall certify and disclosure accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Pete Saenz
Chairperson, MPO Policy Committee
Mayor
City of Laredo

Date

**APPENDIX E
CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE**

I, **Pete Saenz**, Chairperson of the Laredo MPO Policy Committee, a duly authorized representative of the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), do hereby certify that the contract and procurement procedures that are in effect and used by the forenamed MPO are in compliance with 2 CFR 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards," as it may be revised or superseded.

Chairperson, MPO Policy Committee
Mayor
City of Laredo

Date

Attest:

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary
City of Laredo

DRAFT

APPENDIX F
CERTIFICATION OF INTERNAL ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

I, **Pete Saenz**, Chairperson of the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, a duly authorized officer/representative of the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) do hereby certify that the forenamed MPO has adopted and does enforce an internal ethics and compliance program that is designed to detect and prevent violations of law, including regulations and ethical standards applicable to this entity or its officers or employees and that the internal ethics and compliance program satisfies the requirements of by 43 TAC § 31.39 “Required Internal Ethics and Compliance Program” and 43 TAC § 10.51 “Internal Ethics and Compliance Program” as may be revised or superseded.

Chairperson, MPO Policy Committee
Mayor
City of Laredo

Date

Attest:

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary
City of Laredo

**LAREDO WEBB COUNTY AREA MPO
ACTION ITEM**

Date: 07-19-21	SUBJECT: RESOLUTION Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-09, reaffirming support for adjusted statewide system performance (PM3) targets.
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INITIATED BY: Staff	STAFF SOURCE: Juan S. Mendive, Interim MPO Director
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PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION: On January 22, 2019 the Laredo Webb County Area MPO Policy Committee approved resolution MPO 2019-01 adopting the pavement, bridge, and travel time reliability performance measures and targets (PM 2 & PM 3), established by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), as required by Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015. On June 21, 2021 the MPO Policy Committee approved resolution MPO 2021-07 reaffirming support for adjusted statewide pavement and bridge condition (PM2) targets.

BACKGROUND:
Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), surface transportation legislation required that metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes incorporate performance goals, measures, and targets into the process of identifying needed transportation improvements and project selection. Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015 continued the requirements established by MAP-21, and stipulated that States and MPOs must:

- Use a set of federally established performance measures; and,
- Set targets and monitor progress for each of the performance measures.

On June 21, 2018 TxDOT adopted three (3) targets for (PM3) System Performance Measures. The rulemaking established an October 1, 2020 deadline for State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to consider mid-range adjustments to statewide 2022 targets as they each submit a Mid-Performance Period (MPP) Progress Report to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). TxDOT adjusted the three (3) PM3 targets according to their submittal. As a result, MPOs are required to either reaffirm support for the adjusted statewide targets or establish new targets for their Metropolitan Planning Area.

The adjusted statewide pavement and bridge condition (PM3) targets are as follow:

Performance Measure	Baseline	2020 Target	2022 Target (Original)	2022 Target (Updated)
Reliability				
IH Level of Travel Time Reliability	79.6%	61.2%	56.6%	70.0%
Non-IH (NHS) Travel Time Reliability			55.4%	70.0%
Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index	1.50	1.70	1.79	1.76

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The LWCAMPO Technical Committee recommends approval.	STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.
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RESOLUTION NO. MPO 2021-09

**BY THE LAREDO WEBB COUNTY AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE**

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE ADJUSTED STATEWIDE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE (PM3)
TARGETS**

WHEREAS, the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO), is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, for the Laredo Urbanized Area; and,

WHEREAS, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), required metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes include the incorporation of performance goals, measures, and targets into the process of identifying needed transportation improvements and project selection; and,

WHEREAS, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (FAST Act), continued the requirements established by MAP-21, and stipulated that States and MPOs must: use a set of federally established performance measures, set targets and monitor progress for each of the performance measures; and,

WHEREAS, On June 21, 2018 the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) adopted three (3) targets for System Performance Measures (PM3) as indicated below:

1. Percentage of person-miles traveled on the Interstate system rated “reliable” (TTR-IH)
2. Percentage of person-miles traveled on Non-Interstate National Highway System (NHS) facilities rated “reliable” (TTR Non-IH)
3. Truck travel time reliability (TTTR) index; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) adjusted the statewide 2022 targets for System Performance Measures (PM3) according to their 2020 Mid Performance Period (MPP) Progress Report submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to either reaffirm support for the adjusted statewide targets or establish new targets for their Metropolitan Planning Area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO), that:

Section 1. The Laredo Webb County Area MPO agrees to reaffirm support for the adjusted statewide system performance (PM3) targets updated as listed below:

Adjusted Statewide System Performance (PM3) Targets

Section 2. The MPO will incorporate these targets into the metropolitan transportation planning process and utilize said targets as a tool in the planning and programming of projects:

Performance Measure	Baseline	2020 Target	2022 Target (Original)	2022 Target (Updated)
Reliability				
IH Level of Travel Time Reliability	79.6%	61.2%	56.6%	70.0%
Non-IH (NHS) Travel Time Reliability			55.4%	70.0%
Truck Travel Time Reliability (TTTR) Index	1.50	1.70	1.79	1.76

We certify that the above resolution was adopted on July 19, 2021, at a public meeting of the Policy Committee of the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO).

Juan S. Mendive
Interim MPO Director

Honorable Pete Saenz
Mayor of Laredo and Chairperson
of the LWCAMPO Policy Committee

IV-D. Discussion with possible action on changing the regularly scheduled meeting dates of the MPO Policy Committee currently held on the 3rd Monday of each month subject to the results based on the poll sent out to the Policy committee members.

IV.E. Discussion with possible action on the Hachar-Reuthinger road project.

Angelica Quijano

From: Antonio Rodriguez <anrodriguez@HNTB.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Angelica Quijano; Juan Mendive
Cc: Melisa Montemayor; Jed Brown; Doug Howland; .62804 WCCL Project Documents Control
Subject: MPO Policy Committee Packet July 19th, 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. Please include in the Policy Committee packet.

1. FM 1472 and Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes – Construction started on June 28, 2021. This project is being constructed as part of the TxDOT Project, FM 1472 from Big Bend Blvd. to Killam Industrial Blvd. The Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes section will be constructed as part of Phase 2 of the project. Tentatively, the Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes section is scheduled to commence in September 2021. It should be noted that this change in phasing was needed to accommodate the extremely long lag time for the signal poles to arrive to the project. Anderson Columbia ordered the poles in February and construction projects across the state are seeing up to months in lag time for the arrival of steel signal poles.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Brownwood) – Construction is ongoing. Our 2nd construction progress meeting occurred on 6/30/21. Regarding the Cuatro Vientos Acceleration/ Deceleration Lane project, we received comments from TxDOT. The updated Final plans are to be submitted to TxDOT the week of the 23rd of July. The project is scheduled for letting in October of this year.
3. Vallecillo Road – We are monitoring the progress of federal funding for this project.
4. Other Items – We will have our Board meeting this Thursday on the 22nd at 3 pm.

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

Antonio Rodriguez, PE
WCCL RMA GEC Deputy Program Manager
Cell (512) 800-0382

From: Angelica Quijano <aquijano@ci.laredo.tx.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:55 PM
Subject: MPO Policy Committee Packet/April 19th, 2021

Good afternoon,

Below please find website link to packet for Monday's (April 19th, 2021) MPO Policy Committee virtual meeting. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our offices. Thank you.

<http://www.laredompo.org/agendas-minutes/>

Angie Quijano-Administrative Assistant
(956) 794-1613- aquijano@ci.laredo.tx.us



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Director's Report July 19, 2021

1. The MPO Process Review has been approved and will initiate with a kick-off meeting on July 21st. Bill Frawley of Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) will be in Laredo July 21st through July 23rd to meet with MPO staff, TxDOT staff, and select MPO Policy Committee members. Additional opportunities to meet with TTI will be available over the course of the MPO Process Review. Below is an overview of the proposed sessions to occur over the next several months:
 - **July** – Kick-Off and interviews with Policy Committee members
 - **September** – Organization Chart / Hierarchy, Bylaws Review, Staffing Needs; Presentation to Policy Committee (what the MPO Process Review will entail; answer questions; establish expectations)
 - **November or December** – Fiscal Agent, Staffing Needs, Office Space
 - **February** – Policy Committee update, Bylaws Amendments, Final Recommendations
 - **April or May** – Present Final Recommendations to Policy Committee
2. The audit of the MPO by TxDOT is tentatively scheduled to begin late August or early September of 2021. Updates will be provided as they become available.
3. A letter of support was provided to the City of Laredo and El Metro for their U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE grant application. This grant application seeks funding for the El Metro North Mobility Center.