



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 19TH, 2021

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

PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Judge Tijerina, LWCAMPO Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

CM. Galo made a motion to excuse members not able to participate in the meeting.

Second:	Dr. Martinez
For:	5
Against:	0
Abstain:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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 (joined the meeting at 1:50 p.m.)

Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, P.E., Private Sector

Regular members not present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., City Councilmember, District V
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
Graciela Briones, LWCAMPO
Julio Niño, LWCAMPO
Angie Quijano, LWCAMPO

Guests:

Ramon Chavez, City Engineering Department
Danny Magee, City Traffic Safety Department
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
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 meeting held on June 21st, 2021.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting held on June 21st, 2021.

Second: Cm. Galo
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-08, adopting the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Cm. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Perez
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Juan Mendive, Interim MPO Director, gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** resolution No. MPO 2021-08, adopting the FY 2022 UPWP.

Second: Cm. Galo
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-09, reaffirming support for the adjusted statewide system performance (PM3) targets.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Perez

For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mendive gave a brief presentation on the proposed item. He stated that the performance measures were established by the federal government and TxDOT developed statewide targets for said measures. MPO's are supposed to either support the statewide targets to incorporate them in their metropolitan planning process or to create their own targets. He further stated that our MPO had been adopting the statewide targets. The state had slightly modified them for the reliability targets which was done on a periodic basis when TxDOT conducted their mid-period performance review. He also mentioned that the state was adjusting the 2022 targets that they had set for the reliability performance measures. The performance measures include interstate highway level of travel time reliability, non-interstate highway system travel time reliability, and truck travel time reliability.

Mr. Mendive stated that the MPO was seeking the Committee's support to either reaffirm the adjustments made to the targets and adopted by the state or to establish its own in the future.

Dr. Martinez asked if there was anything additional that the MPO Policy committee should look at regarding said performance measures and if they were adequate to be incorporated in the MPO locally.

Mr. Mendive stated that the MPO staff was recommending the approval to reaffirm and support said performance measures.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2021-09, reaffirming support for adjusted statewide system performance (PM3) targets.

Second: Cm. Galo (for discussion)

Cm. Galo asked why the original target of 56.6% for the travel time reliability was so low. He asked for clarification of what exactly a statewide performance target was.

Mr. Mendive answered that for the travel time reliability, the figure provided was the percentage of person per miles traveled on the interstate system and rated as reliable. He also mentioned that TxDOT had a very technical process and based on the current data and the way the system was performing in terms of time reliability, the target was adjusted to 70%. He further said that when projects were being planned and selected,

MPO's needed to make sure that those projects were working towards meeting said specific targets.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated that the reliability factor numbers went into equations that determined funding and there were also mechanisms through some of TxDOT's funding programs. He further stated that TxDOT could provide a more detailed presentation of how the numbers would get calculated and would also be able to pull a report with actual scores for the major corridors that impact the region and the MPO area.

Dr. Martinez asked if the committee would adopt measures that are not being met, would it impact the ability to get future funding for certain projects.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **table** the item and to bring back a presentation.

Second: Judge Tijerina

Mr. Mendive informed the committee that there was a deadline to adopt said targets that needed to be met.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **withdraw** his motion to table this item.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **withdraw** his second for tabling the item.

Mr. Jed Brown, RMA Chairman, stated that based on the way the item was worded, the committee would be able to adopt the item with the word 'consider' and would still be able to meet the requirements.

David Salazar, TxDOT, joined the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Mr. Salazar stated that based on the target goals that were established, he agreed with recommending to move forward with the item as it was presented, and recommended approval.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2021-09, reaffirming support for the adjusted statewide system performance (PM3) targets.

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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.

Discussion was done on the proposed item.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to change the regularly scheduled MPO meetings to every 3rd Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Second: Judge Tijerina (for discussion)

Judge Tijerina made a motion to withdraw his motion for second.

Motion dies for lack of second.

Cm. Galo made a motion to change the regularly scheduled MPO meetings to every 3rd Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 5
Against: 1 (Cm. Perez)
Abstained: 0

Motion carried

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

Cm. Galo made a motion to combine items IV-E and V-A together.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering, reported that all the information provided by the consultant regarding the Reuthinger section of the project, under Webb County responsibility, had been submitted and is under TxDOT review.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, confirmed the files requested had been submitted and were complete. He further stated TxDOT was already working on the pending

environmental clearance items and estimating an eight to ten-month window to get the environmental clearance completed. He also stated TxDOT already had their consultant on board and had started the plan development for the project as well. He further mentioned that according to the timeline, plans were going to be concurrently developed to reach the target date of August 2023.

Cm. Galo asked if TxDOT would completely take over the project and if the County had already paid all commitments.

Mr. Salazar confirmed and said TxDOT would take over.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that if there were questions regarding Webb County to remain as the responsible party that would incur additional funds. Instead, TxDOT would be taking over the work and at no additional cost to the City, Webb County, or the MPO. TxDOT would be absorbing that cost and get that work completed to expedite the process.

Cm. Galo requested status on the Right-of-Way (ROW) of the project.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated engineering staff had been working with TxDOT and the understanding was that until full environmental clearance is received, surveys and the ROW would be dedicated. He also mentioned the City did not have possession of the ROW at this time.

Cm. Galo asked if the ROW had been cleared.

Mr. Chavez stated that as per the developers, the ROW has been cleared.

Mr. Perez Garcia stated that since TxDOT would now have updates and details on the project, he requested for the item to be addressed by TxDOT. He stated Webb County would still be available if any questions arose.

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

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

Jed Brown, RMA Chairman was glad to report that FM1472 and Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes had started the previous week. He also reported that Los Presidentes was moving along rapidly. These were two projects where they are active participants. He further mentioned they were very pleased to announce that there were funds from 2014 and the RMA are putting these funds back to the community on important projects like the Vallecillo project.

Cm. Galo asked if there was a way to do gap funding through the MPO.

Mr. Salazar stated TxDOT was still awaiting the results of this year's Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) to see if additional funds are available. He recommended to wait until all funds were appropriated within TxDOT by August 2021.

Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc., stated the RMA had a project in the transportation infrastructure (T&I) earmark listing that is on top of Congressman Cuellar's list. Ms. Montemayor recommended to wait until the T&I earmarks are selected so then Vallecillo Road would be funded.

Mr. Brown stated the RMA had a project with the City of Laredo and had assisted with \$2M to help the City build a phase of the Springfield Avenue extension. He further mentioned this project was structured in several phases and the one the RMA was participating in, did not tie to Bob Bullock Loop 20, but it was the phase immediately south, from Shiloh north to where Springfield Ave. dead ends.

Cm. Dr. Martinez, asked TxDOT about a previous conversation discussing deceleration-acceleration lanes to connect Springfield to the Loop.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated bids for construction of Phase 3 of this project were currently out and were due July 29th.

Mr. Chavez also stated Phase 4 of the project on Sandia St. to Loop 20 was not yet designed, only schematics. He also mentioned Phase 2 from Mary Help of Christians School to International Blvd. was under design and would depend on funding in order to move forward.

Mr. Brown provided an RMA status report via e-mail which read as followed:

- 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 would 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.*

Cm. Perez thanked Mr. Brown and the RMA for their commitment to District VII. Especially on the efforts to alleviate the congestion in certain areas and hopefully the funds are found for Vallecillo.

VI. DIRECTOR's COMMENTS

Mr. Mendive stated that at the last MPO meeting, the committee voted to initiate an MPO Process Review for transitioning the MPO to be more independent. He stated Mr. Bill Frawley from the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) would be in Laredo from July 21st-23rd. Mr. Frawley would be meeting with MPO Staff, TxDOT Staff, Mayor Saenz, City Managers and County Judge, Tijerina. Mr. Frawley would also be in Laredo in September and would be reviewing the chart hierarchy, Bylaws, staffing needs and would provide a presentation to the committee. In November or December, he would start to look more into the fiscal agent, staffing needs, and office space. By February 2022, he would have an update for the Policy committee and have a final presentation in April or May of 2022 the latest.

Mr. Mendive also reported that at the last meeting the committee voted for TxDOT to do an audit for the MPO. He stated that was tentatively scheduled for late August or early September and would provide updates as they are available.

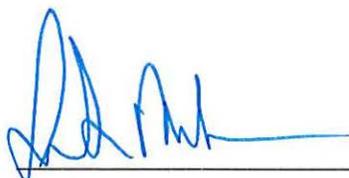
Mr. Mendive mentioned that LWCAMPO had provided a letter of support to the City of Laredo and El Metro for the U.S. Department of Transportation race grant application to seek funds for El Metro north mobility center.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Judge Tijerina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Second: Cm. Galo
For: 6
Against: 0

Motion carried unanimously



Juan S. Mendive
Interim MPO Director



FOR: Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO
Chairperson

