



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 17TH, 2021

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

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

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 Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember, District VII (joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.)

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

Honorable Dr. Marte A. Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI

David M. Salazar, Jr., P.E., TxDOT District Engineer (joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.)

Regular members not present:

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **excuse** members not present.

Second: Dr. Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

LWCAMPO Staff present:

Juan Mendive, LWCAMPO Interim Director
Graciela Briones, LWCAMPO Planner
Jason Hinojosa, LWCAMPO Planner
Julio Niño, LWCAMPO Planner
Angie Quijano, LWCAMPO Administrative Assistant

Others:

Danny Magee, City Traffic Safety Department
Ramon Chavez, City Engineering Department
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Jed Brown, RMA
Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc.
Eddie Bernal, Transit, El Metro
Jose Almazan, UISD

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 October 20th, 2021.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20th, 2021.

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **move up** item #V-A.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

Jedd Brown, RMA, gave a brief status report on the RMA which was as follows:

1. FM 1472 and Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes – NTP for the contractor was provided by TxDOT at the end June. Currently, Anderson Columbia is working from Big Bend to South of Killam Industrial Blvd. The Killam Turn Lanes portion of the project and the northern portion of the project is scheduled to commence on the week of the 7th of December.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Brownwood) – Construction is ongoing. Our 5th construction progress meeting is scheduled for 11/23/21. Currently, the project is scheduled for completion in June 2022. The schedule by the contractor is being updated to reflect the high amount of inclement weather encountered during the summer months of 2021. Regarding the Cuatro Vientos Acceleration/ Deceleration Lane project, the project was awarded to Anderson Columbia in October 2021. We anticipate construction to commence in early 2022.
3. Vallecillo Road – We are continuing to communicate with officials from the Texas Transportation Commission and higher regarding the importance of the project to the Laredo Greater Area and the State.
4. Other Items:
 - The WCCL RMA conducted their November Board Meeting on 11/16/21.
 - The WCCL RMA is anticipating a Board meeting for the month of December.

He stated that the RMA had already selected the firm that would be working on the traffic study for the Webb County Fairgrounds project. He also stated that the RMA board had approved a resolution for the RMA to participate with the MPO on the River Road project. Details of the proposed study were provided by Mr. Brown and Ms. Montemayor.

David Salazar, TxDOT, joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.
Cm. Vanessa Perez joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Juan Mendive, Interim MPO Director, stated the he would need to check the eligibility of using transportation planning funds for the proposed River Road alternative analysis study.

David Salazar, TxDOT, asked for clarification regarding \$250,000 cost of the study which was identified as a cost-plus project.

Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc., stated the consultant would only charge their time to the project. If the project would be \$200,000 based on the rates and the time within the study, then that would be the charge. The maximum would be \$250,000.

Cm. Perez, asked if there was any past work that had been looked at particularly for said road.

Ms. Montemayor stated that the material that had been recently presented, had been a concept of what the typical section would be and would also need to look at other constraints and alternatives.

Cm. Perez asked if the expansion of the world trade bridge and outlets would be alleviating some of the traffic that is going on now. She stated she believed this project would most likely be the only way to alleviate traffic on FM 1472.

Mr. Mendive stated that the MPO supported the River Road project and the Technical Committee recommended that the MPO explore options with the RMA, but he expressed that staff needs to verify which funds could be used for the proposed study.

Cm. Ruben Gutierrez left the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to request a list of all the studies that have been done by the MPO in the past eight years.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, showed a map of a conceptual river road route study layout from 2016. He stated he would be doing a little bit or more research and try and find out if there was any additional information that they can provide to the RMA.

Mayor Saenz requested to have the River Road project item on every month's agenda.

Dr. Martinez left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

B. Discussion with possible action to provide a letter of support for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY 2021 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant application being submitted by the City of Laredo and El Metro for the construction and completion of Phase I of the Transit Administration, Operations, and Fleet Maintenance Facility.

Mayor Saenz and Judge Tijerina expressed their support for the grant application and mentioned they had both signed and submitted letters of support to El Metro.

This item was brought back later in the meeting as a formality in order to take action.

C. Discussion with possible action on the Hachar-Reuthinger Road project.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, gave a brief update and stated TxDOT was still working on the environmental clearance and was projected in about 6-8 months to have environmental clearance. He also stated that a public meeting would need to be held approximately in March of 2022 as part of the process to obtain environmental clearance.

Mayor Saenz asked for confirmation that the land owners are prepared to donate the right-of-way.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated as far as right-of-way was concerned, City Engineering had received the scan recorded deed documents from Verde Corp. and confirmed that now they are only dealing with two property owners. Mr. Chavez stated that introductory letters have been sent to the property owners as part of the TxDOT requirements.

D. Discussion with possible action on the proposal to use the sub-allocation of approximately \$2.3 million of Highway Infrastructure Programs – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (HIP-CRRSAA) funds for the Hachar-Reuthinger road project.

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

Cm. Perez made motion to approve the item.

Second: Mayor Saenz
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to move up item #IV-B.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion with possible action to provide a letter of support for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY 2021 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant application being submitted by the City of Laredo and El Metro for the construction and completion of Phase I of the Transit Administration, Operations, and Fleet Maintenance Facility.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve the letter of support for the FTA FY 2021 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Grant.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

A. Update by MPO staff of an administrative modification to the FY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect letting date changes from FY 2021 to FY 2022 on four projects:

- a. CSJ 0922-33-181 - ADA Bus Stops and Bicycle Plazas
- b. CSJ 0922-33-076 – FM1472/Flecha Lane
- c. CSJ 0922-33-093 – Calton and Santa Maria Interchange

d. CSJ 0922-33-177 – River Vega Trail

Mr. Mendive gave a brief presentation on the item and stated there was no action required. He stated the item was put on the agenda for informational purposes considering that changing the letting date within the TIP years does not require a formal revision.

VII. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Mendive gave a brief presentation on the item which read as follows:

1. On August 24, 2021, we were informed that the audit of the Laredo Webb County Area MPO by TxDOT is programmed for FY22 and should begin in November 2021. Additional updates will be provided as they become available.
2. On October 28th, MPO staff met with the consultant team helping the City of Laredo with the World Trade Bridge expansion project. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the necessary requirements to add the project to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPO continues to monitor new developments related to the World Trade Bridge expansion and the proposed International Bridge 4/5.
3. Upcoming regularly scheduled meetings:
 - Active Transportation Committee – December 1, 2021 (proposed)
 - Technical Committee – December 7, 2021
 - Policy Committee – December 15, 2021
4. MPO and El Metro staff continue meeting with the consultants conducting the Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA). This project is in the final stages, with presentations to the MPO committees tentatively scheduled for January. The COA is intended to evaluate both the current fixed route and paratransit bus services, and provide recommendations to improve the system's overall service, efficiency, effectiveness, and connectivity.
5. TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming Division – Traffic Analysis staff provided the MPO with the 2013-2045 Laredo travel demand model (TDM) to support long-range planning activities for the Laredo Webb County metropolitan planning area. MPO staff met with TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming staff from the Austin office to discuss the model and next steps to incorporate scenario planning for proposed projects. They also discussed a timeline in preparation for the transportation demand modeling activities as part of the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Judge Tijerina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously



Juan S. Mendive
Interim LWCAMPO Director



Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO
Chairperson