



## MPO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

[www.laredompo.org](http://www.laredompo.org)

Meeting Date & Time: **March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022** 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: **Virtual**

### AGENDA:

1. Chairperson to call meeting to order.
2. Discussion and recommendation on the Laredo Webb County Area MPO's participation in the River Road Planning Study in collaboration with the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority.
3. Presentation by MPO staff on the results of the survey ranking TxDOT's unfunded projects list for Laredo and Webb County.
4. Update on the upcoming MPO Policy Committee meeting draft agenda.
5. Discussion of old or new business.
6. Adjournment.



# LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

## AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### River Road Planning Study

#### Summary:

The River Road project is a proposed roadway that would run parallel to Mines Rd. (FM 1472) with the goal of providing a relief route to reduce congestion on FM 1472. The project is listed on the MPO's 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) "Project Needs List" and has been previously discussed and studied over the years. Most recently, in 2020, the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) recommended the project (identified as Aquero Blvd.) in the North Laredo-Webb County Transportation Planning Study.

On October 12, 2021 the MPO Technical Committee made a recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee to support and explore the possibility of developing the River Road project and/or other relief routes for FM 1472. It was also recommended that the MPO collaborate with the RMA on the project.

During the November 17, 2021 MPO Policy Committee, the RMA presented a proposal to undertake a study in participation with the MPO, with each party sharing 50% of the cost. The total cost of the study is \$250K. The planning study would consist of the following:

- Develop a final alignment of the roadway project and determine the traffic benefits for the surrounding area. The study will investigate 2 possible alignment routes and a No-Build option.
  - Alignment will be developed with stakeholder (Private Landowners, City of Laredo, Webb County, LPD, LFD, UISD, CBP, etc.) input via workshops and public meetings
  - Environmental Constraints Mapping and Analysis to identify areas of concern to avoid in the alignment (archaeological, biological, cultural, waters of the US, etc.).
  - Traffic Analysis to determine the benefits of the movement of traffic to the surrounding roadways such as FM 1472, Killam Industrial Blvd., River Bank Road, etc.

(See attached memo for additional details.)



## MEMORANDUM

Date: December 15, 2021

**To:** Laredo and Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee  
**From:** Webb County City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority Chairman Jed Brown  
**Purpose:** Aquero Blvd. (River Road) Planning Study Background and Overview

1. The North Laredo Webb County Planning Study that was jointly funded by the RMA and the Laredo MPO Coordinated Border Infrastructure Funds (FHWA) via an Advanced Funding Agreement with the TxDOT Laredo District was completed in March 2020. *(Note: This is the only study that has been jointly funded by the WCCL RMA and the Laredo MPO).*
  - A final presentation was provided to the Laredo MPO Policy Committee in February 2020.
  - The North Laredo Webb County Planning Study is the **Master Plan for the North Area** as the limits of the Study span from North of IH 69-W to SH 255 and is bounded by the Rio Grande to the West and IH 35 to the East. It provides the following:
    - A list of projects to implement from 2021 to 2040 that will improve mobility in that entire region.
    - A schedule of when each project should be constructed over the 20-year time frame.
    - An order of magnitude construction cost estimate for each project (accounting for inflation for the forecasted construction time).
    - A map depicting all of the master plan improvements.
2. Per the schedule in the North Laredo Webb County Planning Study, the planning phase for Aquero Blvd. (River Road) would commence in 2021/2022. *(Note that the Laredo MPO funded a 2006 Study that spanned from south of Bridges 1 and 2 to FM 1472).* The study for Aquero Blvd. (River Road) would consist of the following:
  - Develop a final alignment of the roadway project and determine the traffic benefits for the surrounding area. The study will investigate 2 possible alignment routes and a No-Build option.
    - Alignment will be developed with stakeholder (Private Landowners, City of Laredo, Webb County, LPD, LFD, UISD, CBP, etc.) input via workshops and public meetings
    - Environmental Constraints Mapping and Analysis to identify areas of concern to avoid in the alignment (archaeological, biological, cultural, waters of the US, etc.).
    - Traffic Analysis to determine the benefits of the movement of traffic to the surrounding roadways such as FM 1472, Killam Industrial Blvd., River Bank Road, etc.
  - Total duration of study would be 12 months.
  - Next steps after the study would be to develop a roadway schematic for environmental clearance, identification and acquisition of ROW and identify utility conflicts.
3. Cost and Funding of the Aquero Blvd. (River Road) Planning Study

- Study Cost is \$250K
    - Project Management - \$25K
    - Environmental Constraints Mapping and Analysis - \$15K
    - Public Involvement and Stakeholder Workshop - \$70K
    - Traffic Analysis and Cost Estimating - \$70K
    - Corridor Analyses and Report - \$70K
  - Study Funding
    - WCCL RMA - \$125K
    - Laredo MPO - \$125K
4. The Aquero (River Road) Corridor Study can be performed with a consultant that has been procured via a Professional Services Request for Qualifications (RFQ) pursuant and in compliance of the Texas Procurement Act.
- WCCL RMA can advertise an RFQ for 30 days and negotiate a contract with a consultant specific for this Study.
    - Oversight of the consultant would be performed by the WCCL RMA General Engineering Consultant (HNTB Corporation)
    - Duration of time between WCCL RMA Board of Directors Approval of the RFQ advertisement, advertisement duration, consultant selection, contract negotiation and award would be about 90 days.
  - WCCL RMA can also utilize the GEC to perform the study. The GEC was procured in 2015 via an advertised RFQ process pursuant and in compliance of the Texas Procurement Act.
    - WCCL RMA GEC has performed a similar function in the past to develop the North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study.
    - The question of the GEC being able to perform the study which was funded with CBI (federal dollars) was discussed by the Laredo MPO in the March 2018 and April 2018 Policy Committee Meetings.
      - WCCL RMA Legal Counsel, Juan Cruz of J. Cruz and Associates provided a presentation to the Policy Committee in April 2018 describing the Texas Procurement Act and the RFQ process that the WCCL RMA followed to select and contract the HNTB Corporation as their GEC.
      - The Laredo MPO Policy Committee passed a motion in April 2018 authorizing the WCCL RMA and the MPO to enter into an agreement to conduct the North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study with an 80/ 20 cost sharing between the Laredo MPO and the WCCL RMA. The vote passed unanimously with all present 6-0.
      - The Laredo MPO Policy Committee revised the motion in May 2018 to simply allocate the CBI funds for the North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study, pending an execution of an Advanced Funding Agreement between TxDOT and the WCCL RMA with the cost being divided 80% via CBI funds and 20% via RMA funds. The vote passed unanimously with all present 7-0.

**End of Memorandum**

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3. Presentation by MPO staff on the results of the survey ranking TxDOT's unfunded projects list for Laredo and Webb County.



## MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

www.laredompo.org

**Meeting Date & Time:** March 16th, 2022 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>

**Laredo TV:** 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 1:45 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.

### IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

- A. Approval of the minutes for the meetings held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- B. Discussion with possible action on the Laredo Webb County Area MPO's participation in the River Road Planning Study in collaboration with the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority, and any other matters incident thereto.
- C. Discussion with possible action on the Hacher-Reuthinger Road project.

## MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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

- A. Status report by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).
- B. Presentation by MPO staff on the results of the survey ranking TxDOT's unfunded projects list for Laredo and Webb County.

### 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 956-794-1613, or via email at [aguijano@ci.laredo.tx.us](mailto:aguijano@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 956-794-1613 o por correo electrónico [aguijano@ci.laredo.tx.us](mailto:aguijano@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) 794-1613 o comunicarse con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a [aguijano@ci.laredo.tx.us](mailto:aguijano@ci.laredo.tx.us).

**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:**

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Juan S. Mendive,  
LWCAMPO Interim Director

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Jose A. Valdez, Jr.  
Laredo City Secretary