



# LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

## AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### POLICY COMMITTEE

#### MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20TH, 2022

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 1:33 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 1:44 p.m.)

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1 (joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.)

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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

Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, Jr., P.E., Member at Large

#### **Regular members not present:**

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

#### **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

Julio Niño, LWCAMPO Planner

Jason Hinojosa, LWCAMPO Planner

Angie Quijano, LWCAMPO Administrative Assistant

**Others:**

Ramon Chavez, COL Engineering Department  
Gloria Saavedra, COL Engineering Department  
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro  
Sergio Gomez, Transit, El Metro  
Victor Linares, Ariva Co.  
Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Jed Brown, RMA  
Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc.  
Jose Ceballos  
Bill Frawley, Texas Transportation Institute

**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.

Jose Ceballos, representing Farias Development, spoke in favor of item #IV-B and stated he was in support of the River Road Planning Study. He asked for the Committee to consider moving forward with the study.

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

**A. Approval of the minutes for the meetings held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Gonzalez joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

**B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2022-04, amending the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as follows:**

- 1. Add subtask 5.6 intended to allow the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's participation in the River Road Corridor Study by programming an additional \$125,000.**

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

CM. Galo made a motion to open a public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2022-04, amending the FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Second: CM. J. Gonzalez  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**C. Receive public testimony and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the proposed draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

CM. Galo made a motion to open a public hearing and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the proposed draft 2023-2026 TIP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Galo made a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Graciela Briones, LWCAMPO Staff, gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

CM. J. Gonzalez inquired as to when the south projects, the overpass on Lomas del Sur and the connection of Espejo Molina would be considered to be moved up in the TIP.

David Salazar, TxDOT, stated the Unified Transportation Program (UTP), which is a ten-year plan, was updated, the TIP would automatically get updated. When the UTP gets updated, that would be the time to consider priority projects.

CM. V. Perez joined the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

**D. Discussion with possible action on the proposed amendments to the Planning Agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation, the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the City of Laredo (fiscal agent), and any other matters incident thereto.**

Mr. Mendive gave a brief presentation on the item. He mentioned the agreement stated the roles and responsibilities of each party. He stated that what was being proposed was for the Policy committee to have the ability to hire, evaluate, and/or terminate the MPO Transportation Planning Director. He stated the agreement as it is now, names the fiscal agent as the one responsible to hire, evaluate, and/or terminate the MPO Planning Director. He also stated that the agreement currently shows the MPO Director as the one that supervises the MPO staff but would make sure that the hiring process is detailed on the agreement.

Mr. Mendive stated the agreement would be reviewed by all three parties and would not be valid until all three parties sign.

CM. Galo made a motion to **approve** the proposed amendments to the Planning Agreement subject to the agreement being reviewed by all parties.

Second: Judge Tijerina  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**E. Discussion with possible action on a motion to approve the third version of the Laredo Transit Management Inc. (LTMI) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and Safety Performance Targets for calendar year 2022 and to incorporate into the Metropolitan Planning Process.**

Mr. Mendive gave a brief presentation on the item and stated the Technical Committee recommended approval.

CM. Galo made a motion to approve the item.

Second: Judge Tijerina  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, provided a brief report and stated everything was on schedule. They have been coordinating with the consultant and still on schedule for the development of the plan.

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

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

Jed Brown, RMA, gave a brief status update 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 began on the week of the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. TxDOT notified us on 1/11/22, that have pulled away from the work at Killam Industrial Blvd. and FM 1472. Their current focus of work is around Milo and FM 1472. The commencement of work a Killam Industrial Blvd. at FM 1472 will occur in May 2022.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Brownwood) – Construction is ongoing. Our 8<sup>th</sup> construction progress meeting was held on 3/23/22. Currently, the project is scheduled for completion in 6/24/2022. The project was delayed due to lack of

water for 2 to 3 weeks. The substantial completion date to be updated. **The project is 77% complete.**

3. Loop 20 South (Cuatro Vientos) Acceleration/ Deceleration Lane Project - The project was awarded to Anderson Columbia in October 2021. Construction to commenced on the week of the 14th of March. Work conducted to date shows the placement of embankment for the setting of the subgrade for the widening has been completed. **Approximate percent completion is 70%.**
  4. Loop 20 South (Cuatro Vientos) TRZ Study Update – Awaiting approval of the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Laredo. Upon approval, work will commence on the TRZ Study.
  5. Springfield Phase III – NTP was provided by the City of Laredo to AZAR Services, LLC on 12/15/21. Since NTP, clearing and grubbing of the project corridor has completed. Contractor currently is working on the footing for box culverts (10x5 & 10x9), which will be poured on 4/15/22. Other work includes the placement of embankment, and placement of the 12” waterline. Substantial completion is scheduled for 8/29/2022. **The project is 46% complete.**
  6. Webb County Fair Grounds TIA – The RMA team has completed the existing conditions analysis for the study. Traffic Counts and Traffic Movement Data was collected on 3/4 and 3/5 during the Laredo International Fair and Expo. Based on the current configuration and the good traffic management Webb County staff, the entrances at the existing Fair Grounds operate at a Level of Service C or better. The next steps for the study is to commence the proposed conditions analysis based on the updated site plan received Gilpin Engineering. Prior to commencement, the RMA Team will meet with Mr. Judd Gilpin on 4/20/22 to review the existing conditions analysis and the discuss the start of the proposed conditions analysis. Following that discussion, the RMA Team will schedule a meeting with the TxDOT Laredo District to discuss the existing conditions analysis and the start of the proposed conditions analysis. Overall, timeframe for completion of the study is the end of 2022 to early 2023.
  7. River Road Corridor Study – The MPO Policy Committee approved moving forward with the Study. The WCCL RMA and the MPO are commencing discussions regarding the Inter Local Agreement for conducting the study. Once the agreement has been executed, the Study will commence. Duration of the study is estimated for 12 months.
  8. Vallecillo Road – The RMA has coordinated with US Congressman Cuellar’s Office for an updated Earmark Application for the project. The RMA will also be continuing to reach out to the Texas Transportation Commission for possible funding opportunities.
- B. Update by City of Laredo Engineering staff on the FM 1472/Flecha Ln. Realignment (CSJ 0922-33-076) and Calton Road Grade Separation (CSJ 0922-33-093) projects listed in the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

Gloria Saavedra, City Engineering, gave a brief update on the item. She stated that for the Flecha Lane project, they were still working on the environmental assessment.

She stated that for the Calton Road Grade Separation project, they had received comments from TxDOT and Union Pacific Railroad and would have the final revised plans by the end of the following month.

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

### **A. Update on the audit being conducted by TxDOT.**

Mr. Mendive stated field work for the audit conducted by TxDOT had been completed. The final report for the MPO would be expected in May and would be presenting it to the policy committee.

### **B. TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference attendance by MPO staff.**

Mr. Mendive stated the Transportation Planning Conference would be held in Houston, Texas, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. He stated Mrs. Briones and himself would be attending.

### **C. Schedule of upcoming meetings.**

Mr. Mendive stated the Active Transportation meeting was scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He also stated May was national bike month and a proclamation was scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He also stated the MPO Technical committee was scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

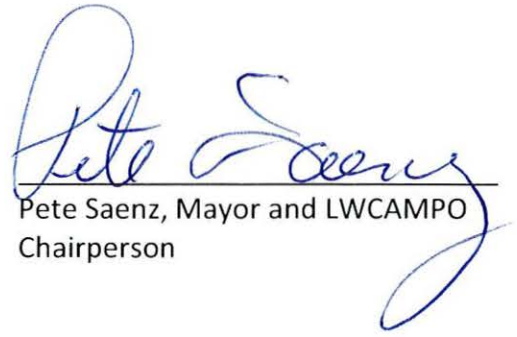
Judge Tijerina made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 p.m.

Second:	CM. Galo
For:	8
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously



Juan S. Mendive  
Interim LWCAMPO Director



Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO  
Chairperson