

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

**Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee
City of Laredo Council Chambers
1110 Houston St. -Laredo, Texas**



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2017 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz, LUTS Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:42 p.m.

C.M. Tijerina made a motion to excuse members not present.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII (joined the meeting at 12:41 p.m.)
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT

Regular members absent:

Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:

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

Staff (Of Participating LUTS Agencies) Present:

City: Nathan R. Bratton, City Planning/LUTS Staff

Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro
Rosa Soto, Transit, El Metro
Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety

State: Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT

County: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, called roll and verified that a quorum existed.

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Neither the Committee nor the Director had any new business to report.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENT

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 comment in 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.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **move up** agenda item #I of the supplemental agenda.

Second: C.M. Alvarez
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

I. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

Discussion with possible action to move the letting date of project CSJ 0086-14-065 intended to construct an interchange facility over IH 35, from 0.330 miles west of IH 35 to 0.160 miles west of McPherson Road, with an estimated construction estimate of \$25,564,945, from March, 2017 to June, 2017, and submit as part of the February, 2017 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revision cycle.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the letting date of the project would be from March 2017 to June 2017 subject to waiting for the results of the FAST Lane Grant.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **approve** the item as presented.

C.M. Alvarez, TxDOT, requested to amend the motion by moving the letting date to July, 2017.

C.M. San Miguel withdrew his motion.

C.M. Alvarez made a motion to **approve** the item and amend the item such that the letting date for project CSJ 0086-14-065 and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project identified as CSJ 0086-14-082 was moved from March 2017 to July 2017.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **move up** agenda item #V-D.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Discussion with possible action regarding Policy Committee meeting dates and times for Calendar year 2017.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **change** the time of the Policy Committee meetings to 1:30 p.m.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Tijerina made a motion to **move up** agenda item #V-E.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Adopting a resolution supporting the inclusion of decorative landscaping in future TxDOT grade separation projects.

C.M. Alvarez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT supports the resolution but also stated the proposed landscaping would become a maintenance issue and local dollars would be needed.

Mr. Bratton recommended revision of the resolution such that Section 1 reads, “The Laredo Metropolitan Organization expresses its support for the inclusion of **low maintenance** decorative landscaping **using native species** in future TxDOT grade separation projects”.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **approve** the item as amended.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **move up** agenda item #V-C.

Second: C.M. Tijerina
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and initiate a 45 day public review and comment period for the proposed Public Participation Plan (PPP).

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to open a public hearing.

Second: C.M. Tijerina
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. San Miguel made a motion close the public hearing and initiate a 45 day public review and comment period for the proposed Public Participation Plan (PPP).

Second: C.M. Tijerina
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

H. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated Dannenbaum Engineering was working on the schematic and environmental document for the Hachar Reuthinger Project. He stated TxDOT's comments on the project's risk assessment were received. He stated the draft Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) was already prepared and the Policy Committee should receive a draft before the next Policy Board meeting. He also stated that once the environmental assessment was done, the Right of Way process may begin followed by construction.

C.M. Altgelt inquired as to the reason for the protracted length of time taken to develop and execute the AFA.

C.M. Alvarez, TxDOT, stated there were legal matters that needed to be addressed and TxDOT anticipated the AFA would be ready in the next two weeks.

C.M. Altgelt requested a status report on the AFA for the Hachar-Reuthinger Project at the next Policy Board meeting.

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

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

Ruben Soto, Chairman, RMA, stated the RMA Board inducted a new Board member, Mr. Jesus Romero, who was appointed by Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa. He stated the RMA Commission is now fully populated. He stated the RMA was undergoing an annual audit and should have a report on said audit by March, 2017. He also stated the RMA was mobilizing a field team in March to conduct the necessary field investigations required to perform the Vallecillo Road Project environmental assessment. He also stated the RMA was working on refining its financial plan by expanding its list of possible funding sources.

Due to meeting time constraints, the following agenda items were not discussed and will be placed on the next Policy Committee agenda.

- Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on November 21, 2016 and December 19, 2016.
- Discussion with possible action on the proposed update of the 2015 Kansas City Southern Railroad Quiet Zone Study.
- Discussion and possible action on priority projects for the Laredo MPO.
- Discussion with possible action to require all agenda items go thru the Technical Committee before they are presented to the Policy Committee.
- Status report on the FASTLANE Grant application.
- Status report by TxDOT on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Study.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

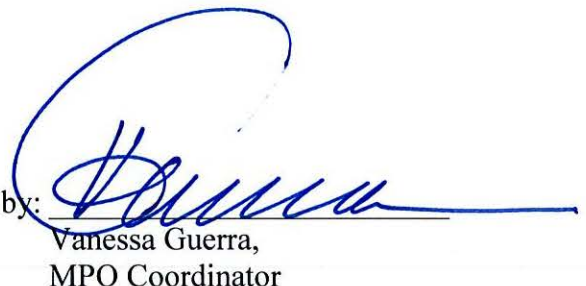
Second: C.M. Tijerina
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by:


Angie Quijano,
MPO Staff

Reviewed by:


Vanessa Guerra,
MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____
Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Melisa Montemayor,
District Administrator

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson