

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2015 MEETING



CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL:

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

Cm. Galo made a motion to **excuse** Cm. Canales.

Second: Cm. Vela
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr. City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember District VI
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District IV
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4 (joined the meeting at 12:13 p.m.)
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT
Alberto Ramirez, 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

Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Raymond Sanchez, TxDOT, TPP
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT

Others: Rolando Ortiz, Killam Industrial
Danny Magee, TxDOT
Eric Davila, Dannenbaum Engineering
Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering
Ruben Soto, Chairman, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Riazul Mia, Environmental Department

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (No action required)

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

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on January 20, 2015.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **approve** the minutes of January 20, 2015.

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

Motion carried unanimously

2. Approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-01 designating the MPO Director as the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator for the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, stated Title VI/Nondiscrimination laws require that the MPO designate a Title VI Coordinator who has the responsibility for initiating and monitoring Title VI activities. Staff recommended designating the MPO Director as the Title VI Coordinator.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2015-01 designating the MPO Director as the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator for the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

3. Presentation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on MPO Proposition 1 funding, Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funding, and project selection.

Cm. Canales joined the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Ana Duncan, TxDOT gave a brief presentation on the \$6,110,000 MPO Proposition 1 funding, the \$42,686,126 Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funding, and project selection.

The State Loop (SL) International Interchange project, the SL 20-Frontage Road Bridges over Kansas City Southern Railroad, and the FM 1472-Concrete project are all projects being proposed by TxDOT for Proposition 1 funding.

Mr. Bratton also gave a brief presentation and discussed the candidate projects for CBI funding. He stated the SL-Mainlanes over IH 35 project was being proposed for CBI funding. He stated the project would construct mainlanes over IH 35 and the Union Pacific Railroad crossing, including the connection to mainlanes at McPherson, on Loop 20.

4. Discussion with possible action on Resolution No. MPO 2015-02 supporting and recommending the allocation of the Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds (identified in the Regional Mobility Authority petition) for the construction of the main lanes over IH35 project (CSJ 0086-14-065) and the letting of said project in fiscal year 2016.

Cm. Galo inquired whether the Board could discuss Hachar Road during this agenda item.

Mr. Bratton stated that in order to discuss the Hachar Road project, the Policy Committee should return to the Director's Report agenda item where a status report could be given and a discussion could be had.

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, stated the RMA would consider the projects discussed, as well as the Hachar Loop Project during their next meeting.

Cm. Roque Vela stated the Hachar Loop project was eligible for a variety of funding strategies. As no further CBI funds would be distributed, the existing funds should be used for projects ready for construction.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2015-02 supporting and recommending the allocation of the Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds (identified in the Regional Mobility Authority petition) for the construction of the main lanes over IH35 project (CSJ 0086-14-065) and the letting of said project in fiscal year 2016.

Second:	Cm. San Miguel
For:	9
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

5. Discussion with possible action on the programming of \$6,110,000 in funds allocated to the MPO resulting from the passage of the Proposition 1 constitutional amendment.

Mr. Bratton stated the programming of said funds would need to be included in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Cm. Galo made a motion to **approve** the programming of \$6,110,000 Prop 1 funds subject to allocating the funds to SL-International Interchange Project, the SL 20-Frontage Road Bridges over KCS Railroad, and the FM 1472-Concrete Project

Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT(S) (No action required)

- **MPO Staff report on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) review findings form the Laredo “Mock” Certification**

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) “Mock” Certification review findings.

He stated the MPO was commended on several aspects of the planning process, while recommending several ways to improve the process. Staff would work on the recommendations in preparation for the final certification in August.

- **TxDOT Staff report on the status of Spur 400.**

Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the status of the Spur 400 project. He stated the project would start construction in August of 2015 and TxDOT would incorporate its construction with the frontage road over KCS Project. The frontage roads project would be constructed first.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **return** to agenda item entitled Committee and Director’s Report.

Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR’S REPORTS (No action required)

Discussion was made on the Hachar Loop Project.

Mr. Bratton stated he believed all stakeholders would be interested in understanding how to alleviate the traffic issues on the east side of IH 35 near Unitec. He stated it is appropriate for all the parties to come together and consider how to improve the future congestion and impaired access problem. The parkway would be an ideal way to improve that congestion.

Cm. Galo asked how far north from Uniroyal may the overpass be located.

Albert Ramirez, TxDOT, stated that typically the distance would have to be more than a mile apart because entrance and exit ramps need to be designed.

Cm. Galo stated he believed that any issues with the Hachar Loop Project needed to be resolved quickly in order to expedite the project.

Mayor Saenz requested all future agendas to include items to discuss the Hachar Project, and Mines Road Project, as well as an item to discuss the status of the RMA.


VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Galo made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 9
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