

Laredo-Webb County Area

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



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18TH, 2020 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Norma “Nelly” Vielma, City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Regular members not present:

Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer
(Member At Large- Currently Vacant)

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: J. Kirby Snideman, City Planning/MPO Staff
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/MPO Staff
Jason Hinojosa, City Planning MPO Staff
Claudia San Miguel, Transit
Joe Jackson, Transit
Eduardo Bernal, Transit
Rosa Soto, Transit
Brenda Elizondo, Transit
Ramon Chavez, City Engineer

State: Humberto “Tito” Gonzalez, TxDOT
Jesus Saaveda, TxDOT Laredo

Jose Emiliano, TxDOT APD
Fernando Martinez, TxDOT ROW
Sara R Garza, TxDOT

Others: Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB/WCCL RMA
Tello Rodriguez, Consultant Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Jason Rodriguez, Consultant Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Doug Howland, Consultant Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Nicholas Van Steinberg, Hachar Trust and Verde Corp.
Robert Martinez, Webb County CAA
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County
Victoria Dominguez, COL
James Flores

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

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's comments.

Mayor Pete Saenz made a motion to **move up** agenda item **V, E1**.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

1. Presentation on the draft North Laredo-Webb County Transportation Planning Study.

The Policy Committee discussed the funding status of various projects and expressed their concerns regarding the “Vallecillo” and “Hachar” projects.

Cm. John Galo requested TxDOT present updated map of the projects as they get completed.

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT mentioned that a status report of each of the projects would be given at the next meeting.

Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez made a motion to **move up** agenda item **IV, F1**.

Quorum was lost as Judge Tano Tijerina had stepped out of the meeting momentarily. Motioned carried once quorum was reestablished at 2:10 PM.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

F. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.

1. Status report by Verde Corp. representative on the right of way ownership.

Nicholas Van Steinberg, Hachar Trust and Verde Corp., informed the Policy Committee of the pending signed agreement between property owners.

Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez discussed the importance of the project as it relates to mobility in the area and to Laredo as a growing port.

Mr. Van Steinberg gave a brief update on the progress of the project including the status of the environmental assessment. The environmental document has been submitted to TxDOT for 90% review and comment.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held January 21, 2020.

Mayor Pete Saenz made a motion to approve the minutes of January 21st, 2020.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2020-01, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the MPO By-Laws and Operation Procedures.

Mayor Pete Saenz made a motion to open the public hearing.

Kirby Snideman, MPO Director, provided a brief summary of the proposed changes to the By-Laws, which included:

1. Minimum quorum needed on future meetings, reduced from five to four members.
2. Name change from “Laredo Urban Transportation Study” to the “Laredo and Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization”.
3. TxDOT District membership to be converted to a “Member at Large” which will be appointed by the Committee at a later date.

Mayor Pete Saenz requested clarification on the number of members of the Policy Committee required for action on future items decisions.

Kirby Snideman, MPO Director, clarified that a majority of Policy Committee members present would be required to take action of all future proposed items once the item was approved.

Mayor Pete Saenz made a motion to close the public hearing and approve the item.

Second: Cm. Dr. Martinez
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2020-03, adopting and supporting the Texas Department of Transportation’s 2020 targets for the five federal Safety Performance Measures.

Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez made a motion to open a public hearing.

Second: Mayor Saenz
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pete Saenz requested clarification on the item.

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, informed the Policy Committee that adopting TxDOT goals was intended to enhance performance based, data driven transportation planning. TxDOT Safety targets are presented to for the Policy Committee for adoption on a yearly basis.

Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez requested to see the progress of the project perhaps in the future, hopefully quarterly.

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, agreed that once the process and policies are properly implemented, the progress of selected projects towards meeting the safety targets would be more easily monitored.

Cm. Dr. Marte Martinez made a motion to approve the item.

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

Motion carried unanimously

D. A motion to authorize the amendment of the approved tri-party Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) between the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Texas Department of Transportation and el Metro (the Laredo Public Transportation Operator) as required by 23 CFR 450.314(h), in order to attach Appendix A, Safety Performance Measures and Targets, and Appendix B, Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures and Targets, per Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) recommendation, resultant from the recent mock certification review, to include currently adopted PM-1/PM-2/PM-3 performance measures and targets, meant to assure that the agreement is a living document to be updated periodically with the newly established performance measures and targets as the Policy Committee adopts them.

The Policy Committee requested further clarification on the item.

Kirby Snideman, MPO Director, informed the Policy Committee that the items was an update to the current agreement between the City, the State and Transit, was intended to attach appendices to the document to memorialize the PM1, PM2, and PM3 targets adopted.

Mayor Saenz made a motion to **approve** the item.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Discussion and possible action on truck parking areas “truck parks,” and any matters incidental thereto. (Mayor Saenz).

The Policy Committee discussed the ongoing issue of trucks parking along local streets while waiting to enter their final destinations. Further investigation is necessary to develop appropriate solutions.

The item was proposed to be placed on the agenda of the City Council and the next MPO agenda for further discussion. Policy Committee request the MPO further research the item and return to the Committee its recommendations.

Mayor Pete Saenz requested the item be placed on the next meeting agenda.

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

A. Update by TxDOT on the re-designation of IH-35 south of Victoria Street (also known as the “Four Block area”) including the State’s position on said re-designation, and any matters incidental thereto. (Dr. Marte Martinez)

Humberto Gonzalez informed the Policy Committee of the ongoing investigation into the possible reclassification of the corridor and suggested further discussion in order to better understand the operational impact to the corridor, should the corridor be reclassified.

B. Status report on the ongoing Active Transportation Plan. (Cm. Altgelt)

No discussion. Item was postponed till next Policy Committee meeting.

C. Update by Transit on its working relationship with El Aguila, the Laredo College South Campus Transit hub, and any matters incidental thereto. (Cm. Altgelt)

Judge Tano Tijerina made a motion to **table** the items **V, B & C** till next meeting due absence of George Altgelt.

Second: Cm. Dr. Martinez
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

D. TxDOT Project updates.

Jesus Saaveda, TxDOT Area Engineer, informed of the Policy Committee of the status major TxDOT projects, which were:

- Project: IH35/Lp20 (Interchange)
Current phase: Pavement repairs, painting.
Est. project completion date: Substantially Completed January 2020
Complete = 99%
- Project: SH 359, (Overlay)
Current phase: Working on rail upgrade
Est. project completion date: May 2020
Complete = 97%
- Project: Overlay project various locations (Mill/Inlay)
Current phase: Upgrading rail and riprap (All City Limits locations completed)
Est. project completion date: May 2020
Overall Project Complete = 91%
- Project: US 83 North, (Rehabilitation)
Current phase: Just shift traffic to Phase II, step I
Est. project completion date: December 2022
Complete = 16%
- Project: FM 3338, (Rehabilitation/Widening)
Current phase: Extending structures
Est. project completion date: September 2022
Complete = 8%

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT informed the Policy Committee of the current discussions with the developer from Antler Crossings regarding the use of land for the TxDOT project.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Galo made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

Second: Cm. Dr. Martinez

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

J. Kirby Snideman,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson