

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2017 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Judge Tijerina, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 01:32 p.m.

Regular members present:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m.)
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT

Regular members absent:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
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
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
Rosa Soto, Transit, El Metro
Ben Sanchez, Transit, El Metro
Sandy Esparza, Transit, El Metro
Monica Garcia, Transit El Metro
Joe Jackson, Transit, El Metro

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety

State: Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

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

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

Motion carried unanimously

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Discussion on potential meeting dates and times for a possible future MPO 101 presentation or workshop.

The MPO Director stated that the MPO in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was prepared to bring an MPO 101 presentation or workshop to the Policy Committee depending on their preferences.

C.M. Balli expressed his preference for a 4 hour workshop. He also stated the presentation should include funding mechanisms and sources.

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.

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on November 21, 2016, December 19, 2016, and January 17th, 2017.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **approve** the minutes of November 21, 2016, December 19, 2016, and January 17th, 2017.

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

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and adopt a resolution amending the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

- (1) Outer Loop Alignment Study budget reduced by \$50,000.**
- (2) Quiet Zone Study Update added.**

C.M. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Nathan Bratton, MPO Director, stated the project budget for the Outer Loop Alignment Study budget would be reduced by \$50,000 and that same amount would be added to the Quiet Zone Study.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **adopt** a resolution amending the FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion and possible action on priority projects for the Laredo MPO.

Pete Alvarez, District Engineer, stated the Texas Transportation Commission had recently allocated over 160 million new funds for projects in our area. As per usual, the new funds must be programmed in the TIP and MTP, and are being proposed for distribution as follows:

Texas Department of Transportation-Laredo District was allocated Project Specific Funds

Category 4-Connectivity Corridor-Rural-\$98.40 Mil
Category 4-Congestion Connectivity Corridor (3c)-\$27.00 Mil
Category 12-Strategic Priority-\$35.00 Mil

Projects:

CSJ-0086-14-078 (Overpass US 59/Jacaman Rd) Cost-\$19.69 Mil
Allocation Funds: \$19.69 Mil from Category 2 MPO (FY 2020)
Proposed Construction Funds: \$17.00 Mil from Category 12-Strategic Priority (FY 2020)
Proposed Construction Funds: \$2.69 Mil from Category 2 MPO (FY 2020)

CSJ-0018-06-136 (Overpass IH 35/UPRR-North of Shiloh) Cost \$54.00 Mil
Allocated Construction Funds \$0.00
Proposed Construction Funds \$18.00 Mil from Category 12-Strategic Priority (FY 2021)
Proposed Construction Funds \$9.00 Mil from Category 2 MPO (FY 2021)
Proposed Construction Funds \$27.00 Mil from Category 4-Congestion Connectivity Corridor (3c) (FY 2021)

CSJ-0018-06-183 (Direct Connector #5, West on US 59 to South on IH-35)
Allocated Construction Funds-\$0.00
Proposed Construction Funds \$30.00 Mil from Category 4-Connectivity Corridor (FY 2019)

CSJ-0018-05-089 (IH 35/Uniroyal Interchange)
Allocated Construction Funds \$0.00
Proposed Construction Funds \$65.00 Mil from Category 4-Connectivity Corridor (FY 2022)

C.M. San Miguel joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

C.M. Galo made a motion to have Staff prepare any necessary documentation, accept 62 million in new funds, and allocate 9 million dollars to the railroad overpass project.

Second: C.M. Balli

For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Discussion with possible action to require all agenda items go thru the Technical Committee before they are presented to the Policy Committee.

C.M. Galo made a motion to table the item to the next meeting.

Second: C.M. Balli
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

1. Status on the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) on the Hachar-Reuthinger Project.

Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT had requested additional information regarding the City's procurement process and TxDOT anticipated receiving the information later on that afternoon.

F. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT is moving forward with the construction process of the project. He stated TxDOT is working on the detour widening of the project. He also stated 10 percent of the project had been completed and anticipated completion date is late December 2017.

Judge Tijerina requested a status monthly report from TxDOT for all projects in the MPO.

C.M. Alvarez stated TxDOT was moving forward with the Loop 20/Spur 400 project and was 55 percent complete. He also stated the Kansas City Southern (KCS) overpass project widening was 35 percent complete. He stated the Loop 20 at International Boulevard project was 25 percent complete.

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

A. Presentation by CDM Smith, Inc., on the Five Year Transit Development Plan, the Marketing Plan, and the Asset Management Plan, including the proposed asset management performance targets.

Jenifer Palmer and Madhu Narayanasamy, CDM Smith, Inc. gave a brief presentation on the Five Year Transit Development Plan, the Marketing Plan, and the Asset Management Plan, including proposed asset management performance targets.

Ms. Palmer stated the goals of the Transit Development Plan were to identify community objectives and short-term needs, identify current and future service opportunities and analyze the bus service to maximize use of public funds. She stated recommendations included: the update of the fleet and enhancement of routes, services and amenities.

Ms. Palmer gave a brief presentation on the TDP Marketing Plan. She stated recommendations for the marketing plan included: to carry out a tagline marketing campaign; enhancing system/route brochure and ticket purchase availability, coordinating with Uber and El Aguila, and developing jury duty promotional.

Mr. Narayanasamy, CDM Smith, Inc., gave a brief presentation on the TDP Asset Management Plan. His presentation covered the following:

- The TAMP should address 3 key areas:
 - Where do we want to be in the future? - Goals
 - What do we need to do to get there? – Actions
 - What will it take to get there? – Resources

- MPO to adopt performance targets by June 30, 2017
 - The targets will be included in MPO planning process (TIP and MTP) for funding allocation
 - MPO to monitor targets and include in the performance planning efforts

He also stated the visions and goals of the Asset Management Plan were as follows:

- Use condition-based approaches, and predictive and preventative maintenance strategies, to reduce overall costs and provide a reliable transportation system.
- Provide a cleaner and safer transportation service by improving the service operations and on-time performance of vehicles through effective asset monitoring.
- Improve efficiency of the system by providing more accurate and timely data to communicate with oversight boards and customers

Mr. Narayanasamy stated the next steps for the Asset Management Plan were as follows:

- Asset inventory of El Metro in this report will be updated annually
- Annual reporting of El Metro's asset information will be conducted through the National Transit Database
- TAMP will be updated in its entirety four years

B. Status report by TxDOT and Laredo Traffic Safety Department on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety, stated the deadline for the Request for Proposals for the project is February 27th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. He stated they are moving forward with the project.

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

Ruben Soto, Chairman, RMA, stated the RMA passed a resolution which approved the inclusion of Vallecillo Road Project in the Laredo MPO/MTP Plan.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Second: C.M. Balli
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Reviewed by: _____
Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Melisa Montemayor,
District Administrator

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson