

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2015 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District IV
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT

Regular members not present:

Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr., City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember District VI

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: Steve Taylor, CoPLAN, LLC
Eric Davila, Dannenbaum Engineering
Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering
Maruca Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering
Lalo Uribe, Webb County
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Jose Luis Neira
Rolando Ortiz, Killam Development
Jose L. Cabellos, Totem, LLC

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

Mr. Bratton stated a copy of an Attorney General opinion was submitted to the Policy Board. The opinion stated "*Absent a constitutional amendment, it is likely a court would conclude that a county may not form and operate a county energy transportation reinvestment zone, a tax increment reinvestment zone, or a transportation reinvestment zone, to the extent that doing so utilizes a captured increment of ad valorem taxes to fund a county-created tax increment reinvestment zone.*"

Cm. Galo stated the County was always aware it could not participate in the TRIZ.

Mr. Bratton stated the City would be the only entity within Webb County able to implement a TRIZ. He also stated the issue of funding the RMA is now a City and County issue.

Cm. Galo made a motion to move up item #V-2

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

2. Discussion and status of the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

Ruben Soto, Chairman, City of Laredo and Webb County RMA, stated a constitutional amendment would be an option that may be pursued to allow the County to participate in the formation of a TRIZ. He also recommended that the County could also allocate funds to the RMA on an annual basis for the construction of projects.

Cm. Galo asked Ms. Montemayor of TxDOT, if the RMA could participate in a TRIZ.

Ms. Montemayor stated implementing a TRIZ in under the jurisdiction of the City of Laredo. The City would have the option to funnel funds into any projects that the RMA is sponsoring.

Cm. Galo asked about the feasibility of tolling over Interstate 35.

Ms. Montemayor stated the RMA can propose tolling for any RMA sponsored project.

Mayor Saenz requested an update at the next meeting from TxDOT on the possible completion date of the Toll Feasibility Study of the main lanes over Interstate 35 project.

Cm. Galo also requested a map of the Hachar Parkway overlaid on an aerial as well as the status of Reuthinger property to be presented at the next meeting.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on February 17, 2015

Cm. Galo made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting of February 17, 2015.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

2. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10-day public review and comment period for the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Cm. Galo made a motion to **open** the public hearing.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no input from the public.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **initiate** a 10-day public review and comment period for the proposed amendment of the 2015-2018 TIP.

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

3. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10-day public review and comment period for the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Cm. Galo made a motion to open the public hearing.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no input from the public.

Cm. Galo made a motion to initiate a 10-day public review and comment period.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

4. Discussion with possible action on the Hachar Project, Mines Road Project, and Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRIZ) establishment.

Louie Jones of Dannenbaum Engineering stated the firm is working on completing the Environmental Study on the Hachar Project which would then be reviewed by TxDOT in advance of applying for a CIB loan.

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

1. Presentation by Steve Taylor of CoPLAN LLC, on the 2015 Congestion and Delay Study.

Mr. Bratton informed the Policy Board that the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) is working on a study of the Mines Road Area.

Steve Taylor of CoPLAN LLC gave a brief presentation on the 2015 Congestion and Delay Study. He stated that in general the local transportation system provides sufficient capacity for

current demand. He stated the first step toward congestion management would be to implement effective signal timings system wide.

Cm. Galo asked if there are any funds for on or off system road ways signals.

Ms. Montemayor stated the funds are allocated for Loop 20 and Interstate 69 but the Board could allocate CBI funds for other purposes.

Cm. Galo recommended allocating CBI funds for signal timing improvements.

Ms. Montemayor stated if that were to be done, approval from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would need to authorize the allocation of CBI funds for signal improvements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Galo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
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