

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2018 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (arrived at 2:42 p.m.)
David M. Salazar, Jr., District Engineer
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator

Regular members not present:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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
Robert Eads, City Traffic Safety Department
Robert Peña, Traffic Safety Department

State: Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

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

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

III. 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.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on February 20, 2018.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2018.

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

Motion carried unanimously

B. Motion to authorize a 2018 Call For Projects for the Laredo MPO Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program, in order to allocate \$344,000 in TA federal funds, requiring a 20% match of \$86,000, totaling \$430,000 in total project costs.

CM. Algelt made a motion to authorize a 2018 Call For Projects for the Laredo MPO Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program, in order to allocate \$344,000 in TA federal funds, requiring a 20% match of \$86,000, totaling \$430,000 in total project costs.

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion with possible action for authorizing the WCCL RMA to move forward with the North Laredo/ Webb County Transportation Planning Study as presented on 11/20/17 before the Laredo MPO Policy Committee with the understanding that the Laredo MPO will reimburse the WCCL RMA for up to 80% of the cost of the study at a later date with funds from the remaining 2015 Coordinated Border Infrastructure program. The remaining 20% will be provided by the WCCL RMA as the local match. The cost of the study is estimated at \$635,000.

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the scope of services presented at the November 20, 2017 was to look at the area North of Loop 20, along Camino Columbia and IH 35 and account all the studies that have already been done and use MPO transportation model to do a 20-25 year traffic projection.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to **authorize** the WCCL RMA to move forward and go out on RFQ, pursuant to the Texas Procurement Act, and the competitive bidding process, for the North Laredo/ Webb County Transportation Planning Study, as identified in the scope of services presented on 11/20/17 before the Laredo MPO Policy Committee with the understanding that the Laredo MPO would reimburse the WCCL RMA for up to 80% of the cost of the study at a later date with funds from the remaining 2015 Coordinated Border Infrastructure program. The remaining 20% will be provided by the WCCL RMA as the local match. Funding for the proposed study will be determined, after completion of the RFQ process, when the RMA is required to return to the Policy Committee to present the proposed study's costs for funding allocation and approval.

Second: Mayor Saenz
In Favor: 4 (Mayor, CM. Altgelt, CM. Salazar, CM. Montemayor)
Opposed: 1 (Judge Tijerina)

Motion carried

D. Discussion and possible action on a set-back development policy on Loop 20, Mines Road and other major arterials.

Mr. Bratton stated he has been in contact with the City Attorney regarding some legal issues. He has also contacted the District Engineer in order to speak with the Dallas District Engineer to talk about the set-back development in Dallas, Texas.

The Mayor requested to bring back the agenda item to the next MPO meeting.

E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineer, stated the County has selected a consultant for the Reuthinger project and has received approval from Commissioner's Court to move forward with negotiations.

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

A. Status report on the River Bank Road Project.

Mayor Saenz stated he spoke to Mr. Albert Muller, Sr. and stated the people on Muller subdivision are against the project. He stated he will be contacting Mr. Muller so he and CM. Algelt can meet with him to have more discussion.

Mayor Saenz requested to bring back the agenda item to the next MPO committee meeting.

CM. Algelt joined the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

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

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated that on the Vallecillo Road project, the RMA was still in discussion with the landowners regarding Pass Through Finance. He stated the RMA has approached the Killam Company for possibly partnering with the RMA in regard to the financing.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the RMA is currently working on the Loop 20 Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) Study from US 59 to US 83. He stated the RMA would be meeting with the developers to discuss future plans. He also stated the RMA's intentions are to complete a draft study by the end of next month.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the RMA had offered to help with the proposed improvements at Killam Industrial Boulevard and Mines Road. He stated the RMA would help to accelerate with the implementations proposed on the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Study.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Algelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Nathan R. Bratton
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson