

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2017 MEETING

Prior to establishment of quorum, Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the 280 million Category 2 funds to be allocated in the Unified Transportation Plan (UTP).

Ms. Montemayor stated the 280 million would be allocated over the next ten years. She stated the funds were to be divided into different types of projects which included: bridge, mobility, and safety projects. The projects to be considered for said funds included: replacing 4 county bridges, the overpass on IH35/Milo, the overpass on airport/Loop 20 for 2018, the direct connector #5 on Milo Interchange for 2019, the overpass on Jacaman/US 59 for 2020, the grade separation on Shiloh/IH 35 for 2021, and replacing the overpass on Uniroyal.

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1: 55 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Nathan Bratton, MPO Director called roll to verify that a quorum existed.

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 1: 52 p.m.)
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Regular members absent:

Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

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: Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT

County: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering

Others: John Porter, Environmental Services
Kirk Fauver, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Discussion on possible meeting dates and times for the MPO 101 workshop.

The item was discussed after agenda item E.

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 February 21, 2017.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2017.

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

Motion carried unanimously

B. Discussion with possible action to award or reject the River Vega Multi-Use Hike and Bike Trail Project, Phase I, to be located along the river vega in west Laredo, for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). The requested amount is \$717,903.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed item. He stated the program provided funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. He stated general types of projects eligible under TAP for Laredo MPO planning area included: on-and-off road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, improved safety and access to schools, and boulevards and similar multi-modal roadways.

Mr. John Porter, Environmental Services, gave a brief presentation on the proposed hike and bike trail project.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **award** the River Vega Multi-Use Hike and Bike Trail Project submitted by the City of Laredo Environmental Services \$717, 903 in TAP program funds.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve a motion initiating a ten-day public review and comment period for the proposed 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

- 1. Addition of project CSJ 0018-06-183 intended to construct a direct connector interchange (DC#5), from 0.50 miles south of US59-SL20 to 0.50 miles east of IH35/US59-SL20, with an estimated project cost of \$35,121,000. Proposed project letting date is FY 2019 (August, 2019)**
- 2. Revision of project CSJ 0086-14-077 intended to provide for construction of an interchange at the international airport. Purpose of amendment is to revise funding amounts from \$14,785,990 in State funds to \$4,901,198 in State funds, and \$9,884,792 in federal funds. Proposed letting date will**

remain in fiscal year (FY) 2018, however the letting month is being moved from September of 2017 to August of 2018.

3. **Revision of project CSJ 0086-14-078 intended to provide for construction of an interchange from 0.50 miles south of Jacaman Road to 0.50 miles north of Jacaman Road. Purpose of amendment is to revise funding amounts from \$19,691,424 in State funds to \$3,938,285 in State funds, and \$15,753,139 in federal funds. Proposed letting date will remain in fiscal year (FY) 2020, however the letting month is being moved from September of 2019 to August of 2020.**

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **initiate** a 10 day public review and comment period for the proposed 2017-2020 TIP revisions.

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

Motion carried unanimously

D. Receive public testimony and approve a motion initiating a ten-day public review and comment period for the proposed 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

1. **Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary, Figure 12-1, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects, Table 12-11, entitle Category 2 Roadway Projects, Figure 13-1, entitled Natural Resources and Federally Funded Projects, Figure 13-2, entitled Cultural Resources and Federally Funded Projects, Figure 13-3, entitled Low Income Areas and Federally Funded Projects, Table 13-1, entitled Federally Funded Projects Environmental Assessment Results, Table 13-3, entitled Federally Funded Projects and Environmental Justice Populations; and, Figure 13-4 entitled Colonias and Federally Funded Projects by:**

- a. **Adding project CSJ 0086-14-077 for the construction of the Airport Overpass at the International Airport. The estimated project construction cost is \$14,785,990. Estimated letting date is August of 2018 (FY 2018).**
 - b. **Adding project CSJ 0086-14-078 for the construction of the Jacaman Overpass, 0.50 miles south of Jacaman Road to 0.50 miles north of Jacaman Road. The estimated project construction cost is \$19,691,424. Estimated letting date is August of 2020 (FY 2020).**
 - c. **Adding project CSJ 0018-06-136 for the construction of a railroad grade separation and widening of the main-lanes from Shiloh Dr. to 0.25 miles north of US 59/ IH 69W. The estimated construction cost is \$54,000,000. Estimated letting date August 2021 (FY 2021).**
 - d. **Adding project CSJ 0018-06-183 for the construction of direct connector interchange (DC#5), from 0.50 miles south of US 59-SL20 to 0.50 miles east of IH35/US59-SL20. The estimated construction cost is \$30,000,000. Estimated letting date is August 2019 (FY 2019)**
 - e. **Adding project CSJ 0018-05-089 for the replacement of an existing bridge, from 0.50 miles south of Uniroyal Interchange to 1.0 miles north of the Uniroyal Interchange. The estimated construction cost is \$65,000,000. Estimated letting date is September of 2021, (FY 2021)**
 - f. **Revising project #4/0086-14-058 by adding identifier CSJ 0086-14-072 and removing the Airport and Jacaman Road overpasses. Said projects will be identified separately as projects CSJ 0086-14-077 and CSJ 0086-14-078 respectively.**
2. **Amending Table 12-11 such that it will be identified as Roadway Project and will include all roadway project summaries previously listed in Tables 12-11, 12-12, 12-13, 12-14, 12-15, entitled Category 2, 7,8,9, and 10 Roadway Projects, respectively.**
 3. **Remove Tables 12-12, 12-13, 12-14, 12-15, entitled Category 2, 7,8,9, and 10 Roadway Projects respectively.**

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated there would be an 8 million surplus in Category 2 monies that would be available for programming by the Policy Committee.

C.M. Altgelt requested next month's agenda include a discussion item pertaining to the 8 million dollar surplus in Category 2 monies.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to open a public hearing.

Second: C.M. Altgelt
For: 5

Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **initiate** a 10 day public review and comment period for the proposed 2015-2040 MTP revisions.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

Mr. Bratton stated the Technical Committee reviews and/or provides recommendations on the following:

- Work programs such as the UPWP, the TIP, MTP, etc.
- Policy related items such as the Limited English Proficiency Plan, Public Participation Plan, the By Laws etc., and ,
- Planning activities such as the Travel Demand Model, the congestion management process and planning studies developed through the MPO.

Policy Committee agenda items typically not reviewed by the Technical Committee are:

- Discussion items
- Staff reports and/or project status updates requested by the Committee or a member, and,
- Action items, often time sensitive, requested by the Committee or a member such as resolutions.

C.M. Algelt made a motion to provide timely action items pursuant to the By-Laws to the Technical Committee so that the Policy Committee can be adequately counseled on policy decisions.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

As the item was not discussed earlier in the meeting, Mr. Bratton requested the Committee return to agenda item III.

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **bring back** agenda item III.

Second: C.M. Altgelt

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Discussion on possible meeting dates and times for the MPO 101 workshop.

Mr. Bratton advised the members present the MPO 101 workshop would be held on April 27th, 2017 from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the City of Laredo Council Chambers.

Kirk Fauver, FHWA, informed the members present FHWA Staff would give the MPO 101 presentation.

(Committee returned to original agenda order).

F. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated the Advance Funding Agreement for Hachar Road for the first phase of the section from Mines Road to Beltway Parkway would be on the City Council Agenda that evening for approval.

G. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

No discussion was had, nor was action taken on the item.

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

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

The RMA was unavailable to give the regularly scheduled status report, and requested said report be deferred till the next Policy Committee meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

C.M. San Miguel made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Second: C.M. Algelt

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Reviewed by: _____
Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson