

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 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 (arrived at 2:02 p.m.)
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (arrived at 1:46 p.m.)
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII (arrived at 1:41 p.m.)
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3 (arrived at 1:36 p.m.)
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
David M. Salazar, Jr., District Engineer
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator

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
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Robert Eads, City Traffic Safety Department
Robert Peña, Traffic Safety Department
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro

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.

Juan Cruz, RMA
Luis De La Garza, Jr.

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Nathan R. 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.

Mr. Luis De La Garza, Jr., spoke to acknowledge the Mayor for his trip to Austin the previous week, and thanked him and the rest of the committee for all their hard work.

CM. Galo joined the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on March 19, 2018.

Judge Tijerina sought clarification on item IV-C, which the committee considered at the March 2018 Policy Committee meeting.

Mayor Saenz stated that clarification and discussion of the item would be given/had later in the meeting during agenda item IV-D.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** the minutes of March 19, 2018.

Second: CM. Gonzalez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve a motion initiating a twenty-day (20) public review and comment period, for the proposed draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

After reading the item and having no objections, the chairman opened the public hearing.

CM. Galo made a motion to open a public hearing.

Second: CM. Gonzalez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Galo made a motion to close the public hearing and initiate a twenty-day public review and public hearing for the proposed draft 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Second: CM. Gonzalez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion with possible action to make all necessary changes to the zoning and subdivision ordinances to posture TxDOT as best as possible to secure right of way along maintained roadways within the City of Laredo.

Mr. Bratton stated the current item was placed on the agenda as a result of discussions had at last City Council meeting. He stated that corridor maintenance and corridor preservation, along state highways, attempts to move development back, away from the Right-of-Way, so that when R.O.W. expansion occurs, the effect on to the property owners is less severe. It would also help bring the cost of the R.O.W. acquisition down.

He further stated the importance of working closely with TxDOT on this issue, to ascertain their needs, while avoiding the possibility of creating policies which could expose the City to inverse condemnation costs.

Ms. Montemayor stated that the R.O.W. agreement between the City and TxDOT, for Loop 20, from International to US 59, had been executed. She stressed that the financial liability for additional R.O.W. would be the responsibility of TxDOT. The City would be responsible for 10% of the costs, less the City's Economically Disadvantaged Counties reduction.

CM. Balli arrived at 1:41 p.m.

CM. San Miguel arrived at 1:46 p.m.

Mayor Saenz requested TxDOT present a status report on this item at the next meeting. He further requested that the item be placed on all succeeding agendas till further notice.

CM. Salazar stated TxDOT would investigate conducting future corridor studies.

CM. Altgelt joined the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

D. Clarification, discussion and possible action on Policy Committee's vote at the MPO meeting of March 19, 2018 on item IV-C.

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.

Mr. Bratton stated the item was placed on the agenda to clear up any misunderstanding regarding the motion, and action, taken at the last MPO meeting. At the previous meeting, Judge Tijerina made a motion to table the item, which was seconded by the Mayor. The motion failed due to lack of vote.

During the same meeting and immediately following Judge Tijerina's motion, CM. Altgelt then made a motion to move forward and authorize the RMA to issue a Request for Qualifications (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% would be provided by the WCCL RMA as the local match. Funding for the proposed study would 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. The motion was seconded by Mayor Saenz. The motion passed in a 4 to 1 (Judge Tijerina) vote.

Juan Cruz, General Engineering Counsel (GEC) for the RMA, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the RMA had procured the services of HNTB, Inc., thru the Professional Services Procurement Act.

Anthony Rodriguez, GEC for the RMA, stated that in general as long as HNTB is the GEC for the RMA, they would perform the engineering services for the RMA, unless the specifics of the project necessitated the use of a separate engineer.

CM. Galo expressed his concerns regarding the RMA using its general engineering consultant (GEC) to perform the Webb County/North Laredo Transportation's Planning Study.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that in this case, per the will of the MPO and RMA boards, the RMA could perform the study with its GEC, or the RMA could publish a new RFQ, with the GEC would simply oversee.

Mr. Bratton requested clarification regarding HNTB's role in all future RMA projects.

CM. Galo concurred with Mr. Bratton's question.

Mr. Cruz stated that, in general, future projects performed by the RMA would be performed by HNTB, Inc., who is the GEC for the RMA.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to authorize WCCL RMA to utilize their engineering firm HNTB, Inc., in order to satisfy the scope of services as presented on November 20, 2017, with the understanding that the Laredo MPO will reimburse up to 80% of the cost of the study at a later date with funds from the remaining 2015 CBI funds. The remaining 20% would be provided by the RMA local match.

Second: Mayor Saenz

No vote was made and no action was taken.

CM. Galo expressed his concern with the previous motion.

CM. Altgelt and CM. Galo then motioned to authorize the WCCL RMA and the MPO to enter into an agreement to conduct the study, and the MPO would reimburse up to and not to exceed 80% of 635,000 as amended.

Second: CM. Gonzalez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineer, stated the County as principal in charge of the Reuthinger section, which is the section the County is bringing forward for approval. He stated the County is working with the contractor to provide an environmental document

that would coordinate with the Hachar's section consultant hopefully resulting in a unified document. The County had selected the same consultant that the land owner's hired to develop the Hachar portion. The environmental document is estimated to be completed by December. Mr. Garcia further stated he would return to the Committee in the near future with a proposed schedule.

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

A. Status report on the River Bank Road Project.

CM. Altgelt stated he had been in contact with Mr. Joe Medina who would be sending proposed alignment maps to Mr. Albert Mueller for his review.

B. Status report by TxDOT on Loop 20 expansion project.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT had 4 consultants on board and would be preparing the PS&E, and the ROW maps.

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

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB Inc., stated the RMA had performed a high level review of Killam Industrial and Mines Road as far as proposed improvements, as a follow up of the TTI study for mid-range and long-range improvements. He also stated another project the RMA was considering was an analysis of arterial roadways in south Webb County, Laredo, in the Concord Hills area.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the RMA was working on performing a study for the Transportation Reinvestment Zone as directed by City Council action of September 2017 for the area from US 59 to Bridge 4/5. He stated the RMA should receive a draft report from the RMA's consultant the following day.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Gonzalez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Second: CM. Gonzalez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson