

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18, 2016, 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

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

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 12:23 p.m.)
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT
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

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Albert Ramirez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering

Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff (HNTB, Inc.)
Enrique Valdez, Leyendecker, Naiser & Viera (LNV, Inc.)
Carlos Lopez, HNTB, Inc.
Greg Alvarez, Custom & Border Protection
James Fuller, Custom & Border Protection
Alberto Flores, Customs & Border Protection
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Oscar Lopez, RMA
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Rolando Ortiz, Killam Development Services

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Mr. Nathan Bratton, MPO Director, advised the committee that the certification review would be conducted the following week. Representatives from Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration would be conducting the certification review.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on March 21, 2016.

Cm. Alvarez made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 21, 2016.

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

1. **Revision of project CSJ 2150-04-067 intended to provide the design and construction of one additional travel lane (northbound) on FM 1472, from Killam Industrial Boulevard to 0.3 miles north of Mueller Boulevard, in order to:**
 - a. **Change the scope of work to add language providing for the design and partial reconstruction of the existing outside lane.**
 - b. **Increase project funding from 4.482 million to 5.782 million dollars. The additional project cost is proposed for funding thru Category 7 funds.**
2. **Addition of project CSJ 0922-33-170, further identified as the Zacate Creek**

Multi-Use Hike and Bike Trail, located along Zacate Creek, intended to provide for the design and construction of approximately 10,250 linear feet of trail, with an estimated total project cost of \$ 1,250,000.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed amendment of the TIP.

Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT, stated once the project is in the TIP, TxDOT could move forward with the development of the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA). He stated it would take approximately one month to complete the process.

Mr. Ramirez stated the increase of the project funding was intended to provide for the additional project activities as described in the TIP amendment.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the \$300,000 for the Reuthanger section of the project would be moving forward for a May Transportation Commission approval. Once the project is approved, then TxDOT would move forward with the development of the AFA.

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

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Canales made a motion to **close** the public hearing.

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-05, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which are as follows:

- 1. Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary and Table 12-11, entitled 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; and Table 13-3, entitled Federally Funded Projects and Environmental Justice Populations by:**
 - a. *Revision* of project CSJ 2150-04-067 intended to provide the design and construction of one additional travel lane (northbound) on FM 1472, from Killam Industrial Boulevard to 0.3 miles north of Mueller Boulevard, in order to:**
 - i. Change the scope of work to add language providing for the design and partial reconstruction of the existing outside lane.**
 - ii. Increase project funding from 4.482 million to 5.782 million dollars. The additional project cost is proposed for funding thru Category 7 Funds.**
 - b. *Addition* of project CSJ 0922-33-170, further identified as the Zacate Creek Multi-Use Hike and Bike Trail, located along Zacate Creek, intended to provide for the design and construction of approximately 10,250 linear feet of trail, with an estimated total project cost of \$ 1,250,000.**

Cm. Balli made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-05, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **discuss** agenda items #D, E, and G together.

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Discussion with possible action on the 2015-2040 project lists.

E. Discussion with possible action on developing a mobility priority list and financing plan.

G. Report by City Manager, Jesus Olivares.

Jesus Olivares, City Manager, stated that Anthony Garza from Dannenbaum Engineering would be presenting on the status of the Hachar Road Project.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated that the schematic is 60 percent complete. Next steps include the development of the project's scope and the execution of the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA).

Mr. Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated Proposition 7 projects have certain restrictions depending on the method of project development. He stated Proposition 7 funds are ineligible for toll roads construction.

Jesus Olivares, City Manager, stated a petition, submitted approximately a year ago, sought the authority to allow the City to impose fees on overnight commercial vehicles.

As the petition was approved, the City now has authority to impose overweight fees at World Trade Bridge.

Ruben Soto, Chairman, RMA, stated the RMA held a workshop the previous week to discuss and collaborate on the prioritization of the Loop 20 Project. The RMA is recommending that the City and the County participate in the funding of the project via a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ). The RMA also proposed the reallocation of the 39 million dollars previously allocated to the IH 35/Loop 20 project to the remaining 5 overpass projects.

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated the project cost estimate that was presented was estimated based on construction costs developed by Dannenbaum Engineering in 2015 for the IH35-US 59 Project. He stated the estimated design cost is a percentage of the construction costs.

Cm. Balli left the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **recommend** the RMA, the City and the County pledge fifty percent (50%) of the project cost or up to 150 million dollars, whichever is less, for the Loop 20 Project, to be developed according to the design/build methodology.

Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo left the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Cm. Canales made a motion to **table** agenda items F & H.

Second: Cm. Altgelt
For: 7
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

F. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

H. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

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

A. Status report by TxDOT on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.

Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT, stated the AFA is in process with the City and once the AFA is executed, TxDOT will move forward for full execution.

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

The RMA presented in the meeting during the discussion on agenda item IV-G.


VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Canales made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Second: Cm. Alvarez
For: 7
Opposed: 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