

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 2015 MEETING



### **I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

### **II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL**

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

Cm. Galo made a motion to excuse Cm. Vela.

Second: Judge Tijerina  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

#### **Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI  
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District IV  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT  
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT

#### **Regular members not present:**

Honorable Roque Vela, Jr., City Councilmember, District V

#### **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  
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
- State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
- Others: Rolando Ortiz, Killam Development LLC  
Danny Tijerina, Killam Development LLC  
Jose Ceballos, Totem LLC  
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)  
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Oscar Lopez, RMA  
Steve La Mancha, RMA  
Eric Davila, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Judd Gilpin, Gilpin Engineering

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

There was nothing to report from the Director nor the Committee.

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on March 16, 2015.**

Cm. Galo made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2015.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**2. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-03 adopting the proposed revision of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).**

Ms. Vanessa Guerra gave a brief presentation on the proposed revision of the 2015-2040 TIP.

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

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no input from the public.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **adopt** the proposed revision of the 2015-2040 TIP.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Cm. Galo asked if the right of way (ROW) on the overpass and Spur 400 has been secured.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated TxDOT is the process of finalizing all the ROW acquisition documentation and the project will let for bid on August 2015.

**3. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-04 adopting the proposed revision of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).**

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

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no input from the public.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **adopt** the proposed revision of the 2015-2040 MTP.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**4. Receive public testimony, accept the Congestion Management and Delay Study and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the selected Congestion Management Process (CMP) network and performance measures.**

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

Second: Judge Tijerina  
For: 8  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to close the public hearing, accept the Congestion Management and Delay Study and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the selected Congestion Management Process (CMP) network and performance measures.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**5. Discussion with possible action on allocating monies for signal timing improvements.**

Mr. Bratton stated at the last MPO meeting, Mr. Steve Taylor from CoPLAN LLC, gave a presentation on the Congestion and Delay Study. He stated some MPO's put monies aside to promote signal light resynchronization, repair, and/or maintenance. The monies may be used to perform signalization studies which are intended to increase roadway efficiency. The Policy Board would decide how much money to put aside for said studies and if the City of Laredo or TxDOT would be handling it on their lighting systems.

Cm. Galo requested information on what funding sources could be used for the signal timing improvements to be presented at the next Policy Board meeting.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated Texas Transportation Institute is doing a study on the Mines Road Area. She stated those signal lights are the responsibility of the City.

Mr. Bratton stated if the MPO would do a study on signal timing, the study would be on all other signal lights besides the Mines Road area.

Cm. Balli requested Staff to identify an approximate cost for the signals proposed for synchronization for the next Policy Board meeting.

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

### **1. Presentation by Killam Development LTD on Vallecillo Road.**

Rolando Ortiz and Danny Tijerina of Killam Development LTD, gave a brief presentation on Vallecillo Road.

Mr. Rolando Ortiz stated the length of the road would be approximately 15,370 feet. He also stated the approximate cost to construct would be 7 million, which would not include the design and the overpass connecting it to Interstate 35.

Mr. Ortiz stated if the funding were available, the right of way (ROW) dedication would not be a problem.

Mr. Bratton stated the City or RMA have the authority to build roads.

Melisa Montemayor stated TxDOT is always ready to help.

Mr. Bratton suggested the City may consider putting the project in their Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and searching for funding within their budget. He also suggested funding could also be made available through the RMA.

Mr. Bratton stated that next steps may include a meeting with the different entities to decide which would be taking the lead on the project.

Mr. Bratton stated the Hachar Parkway Project is estimated at 23 to 24 million dollars but would also have additional costs for added extensions.

Cm. Galo asked if the City, County, or the RMA decided to do a design/built on TxDOT roadway, how fast could it be done.

Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated if there would be an overpass, the issue would be the environmental documentation. He stated the timing would probably be the same as the Hachar Parkway Project. He stated the environmental documentation itself would take about eight months to a year. If environmental documentation were not necessary and funding were available, design could start right away.

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, suggested getting the exact costs of the project first and then having another meeting with all entities to determine who would take the lead on the project.

Cm. Galo asked if the project could be constructed in phases. TxDOT stated that it could. Cm. Galo also stated that if an overpass is not needed, he suggested moving forward with the project.

Cm. Galo left the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

### **2. Discussion and status report on the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).**

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, stated the primary project was Interstate 69 and about to start the first project with TxDOT, which is the main lanes over IH 35 over Loop 20. He stated the rest of the I-69 project is lacking funding. The funding sources have yet to be determined.

Cm. San Miguel asked how much time it would take to complete Vallecillo Road Project.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated that if the project were to be constructed, according to state procedures, it would take approximately 18 to 24 months.

Mr. Soto informed the Policy Board that the RMA has a new appointee. His name is Mr. Paul Saenz and he is representing District V and VI. He stated the RMA is still pending a representative from District VII and VIII.

He also stated that general legal counsel was recently hired and is working on the operating and procurement procedures.

Mr. Soto stated the RMA is working on transferring the vehicle registration fees from the County to the RMA. They are working on a contract and will present it to TxDOT for a possible matching fund.

**3. Discussion and status report on the Toll Feasibility Study for the main lanes over Interstate Highway 35 project.**

Ms. Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the study is not complete but it is underway. TxDOT has not been given a timeline of when it will be completed. Mrs. Montemayor stated TxDOT would try to have more information in time for the next Policy Board meeting.

**4. Report on the meeting held by Webb County, the RMA, and TxDOT on the Reuthinger property.**

Judd Gilpin, representing the Reuthinger property, stated all entities attended the meeting. He stated he had met with the Reuthingers and evaluated possible alignments for Hachar Roadway. He stated alignment possibilities connecting to IH 35 have been discussed. He also stated the Reuthingers have written to the Mayor and the County Judge stating they will provide the ROW necessary for the project and the overpass.

**5. Presentation by TxDOT on funding alternative available to fund the Hachar Parkway project.**

Ana Duncan, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the state infrastructure bank loan process. She stated the presentation was given at last month's RMA meeting.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Canales made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 7  
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

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Melisa Montemayor,  
District Administrator

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Pete Saenz,  
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson