

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2017 MEETING

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

Mayor Saenz, LUTS Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
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 Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII

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
Rosa Soto, Transit, El Metro

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Gabriel Lopez, TxDOT

Robert Casarez, TxDOT
Anna Lydia Benavides, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Rolando Ortiz, Killam Development
Antonio Rodriguez, HTNB, Inc.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Neither the Committee nor the Director had any new business to report.

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 March 20, 2017.

C.M. Balli made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting of March 20, 2017.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Alvarez made a motion to **move up** item #E.

Second: C.M. Montemayor

For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion with possible action on:

1. **Removal of project CSJ 0086-14-077 intended to provide for construction of an interchange at the international airport. Purpose of amendment is to remove the project from the 2017-2020 STIP (FY 2018). Proposed letting date will be determined in accordance with “ready to let” definition once more information is made available regarding ROW and Utility coordination efforts.**
2. **Removal 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 remove the project from the 2017-2020 STIP (FY 2020). Proposed letting date will be determined in accordance with “ready to let” definition once more information is made available regarding ROW and Utility coordination efforts.**

C.M. Alvarez stated TxDOT herewith requested to remove said projects from the 2017-2020 STIP. He stated TxDOT has been working with their R.O.W. Division to develop an updated project timeline. Latest timeline analysis reveals that R.O.W. acquisition will require more time than was previously estimated. He stated that TxDOT anticipated projects would later be added to the 2019-2022 STIP. Properties that would pose the greatest challenge were the National Guard Armory, UISD, the Holiday Inn Express, and the Airport properties.

C.M. Alvarez made a motion to **approve** item E-1 and 2.

Second: C.M. Montemayor
For: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Montemayor stated since item E was already discussed and approved, agenda item B-3 and B-4 do not need to be discussed.

- B. Receive public testimony, initiate an additional 10 day public review and comment period, and approve Resolution No. MPO 2017-02, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), conditional to receipt of no significant comment:**

1. **Addition of project CSJ 0018-06-183 intended to provide for the construction 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 total project cost of \$35,121,000. Proposed project letting date is FY 2019 (August, 2019).**

C.M. Alvarez made a motion to **approve** item B-1.

Second: C.M. Montemayor
For: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

2. **Addition of project CSJ 0922-33-900, also identified as the River Vega Multi-Use Hike and Bike Trail, intended to provide for the construction of a hike and bike trail from Anna Park to the LCC Campus, with an estimated total project cost of \$815,798. Proposed project letting date is October 2018 (FY 19).**

C.M. Balli made a motion to **approve** item B-2.

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

Motion carried unanimously

3. **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.**
4. **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.**

The committee took no action on items B3 and B4.

5. **Administrative Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-093 intended to construct a grade separation at the Calton Road/Santa Maria intersection. Purpose of**

the amendment is to move letting date from August 2017 (FY 17) to October 2017 (FY 18).

C.M. Balli made a motion to **approve** item B-5.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Montemayor stated since item E was already discussed and approved, item C. 1 (a) and C. 1 (b) do not need to be discussed.

C. Receive public testimony, initiate an additional 10 day public review and comment period and approve Resolution No. MPO 2017-03, adopting the following proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), conditional to receipt of no significant comment:

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).**

The committee took no action on item C. 1 (a) and (b).

- 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)

C.M. Balli made a motion to **approve** item C 1. (c).

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

Motion carried unanimously

- 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) **Adding of project CSJ 0922-33-900, also identified as the River Vega Multi-Use Hike and Bike Trail, intended to provide for the construction of a hike and bike trail from Anna Park to the LCC Campus, with an estimated total project cost of \$815,798. Proposed project letting date is October 2018 (FY 19).**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** item C. 1. (d), (e), and (f).

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

Motion carried unanimously

- g) **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.**

C.M. Balli made a motion to **approve** item C. 1. (g).

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	5
Against:	0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

- 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.**

C.M. made a motion to **approve** item C. 2.

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

Motion carried unanimously

- 3. Remove Tables 12-11, 12-12, 12-13, 12-14, 12-15, entitled Category 2, 7,8,9, and 10 Roadway Projects respectively Table 12-12 , entitled Category 7 Roadway Projects,**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** the item.

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

Motion carried unanimously

- D. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2017-04, adopting the proposed re-approval of the Public Participation Plan (PPP).**

C.M. Balli made motion **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2017-04, adopting the proposed re-approval of the PPP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

- F. Discussion with possible action regarding the remaining 8 million dollars in Category 2 funds.**

TxDOT requested to table the item.
Judge Tijerina made a motion to **table** the item.

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

Motion carried unanimously

G. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering stated the project would be temporarily paused during the current negotiations with the Reuthinger property owners.

H. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, gave a construction update and stated the following: the Spur 400 project was 70% complete, the Loop 20/KCS project was 40% complete, the Loop 20/International project was 37% complete, the FM 1472/Mines Road project was 45% complete and the Overlay project was 25% complete.

The Mayor requested an item be included on all future agendas wherein TxDOT would give a construction update.

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

A. Presentation by El Metro on transit funding needs including but not limited to: new buses and the automated fare card system.

Claudia San Miguel gave a brief presentation on the item. In general, her presentation focused on the need for new buses and paratransit vans due to obsolescence of the majority of the current stock.

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

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, stated the RMA's internal audit had been completed. He also stated the environmental process for the Vallecillo Road was ongoing and should be completed by the fall of 2017.

Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson