

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2016, MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to excuse members not present.

Second: Cm. Altgelt
In Favor: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Regular members not present:

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

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
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering
Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff (HNTB, Inc.)
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Oscar Lopez, RMA
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Rolando Ortiz, Killam Development Services

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

There was nothing to report from neither the Director nor the Committee.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers are required to fill out a witness card and submit it to the MPO staff no later than 15 minutes after the start of the meeting. The speaker 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 particular issue, they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to speak for them and the presiding officer may limit the public comments further in the interest of an orderly meeting. Speakers may not pass their minutes to any other speaker. Comments should be relevant to City business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks will be permitted.

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on April 18, 2016.

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2016.

Second: Cm. Altgelt
In Favor: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed 2017-2020 TIP.

Cm. Altgelt inquired the status of the Flecha/Las Cruces Realignment Project.

Mr. Bratton stated the project was first initiated approximately ten years ago. He stated throughout that time, there were a number of issues involving the project design and specifications, which had delayed the project on several occasions.

Cm. Altgelt made a motion to have the operative parts of MPO Staff to meet with him to review the project history and status of the Flecha/Las Cruces Realignment project.

Second: Cm. Canales
In Favor: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel made motion to open a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Canales
In Favor: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to close the public hearing and initiate a twenty-day public review and comment period for the proposed 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Second: Cm. Canales
In Favor: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, gave a brief update on the Hachar Road Project. He stated Dannenbaum Engineering was working on the environmental document, and had submitted the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) to TxDOT for execution. Subsequent to execution, an environmental scoping meeting will take place.

Cm. Algelt requested a presentation on the alignment of Hachar Road.

Anthony Garza, Dannanbaum Engineering stated he would be more than happy to give a presentation on said project.

D. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated there were no major updates on said item. He stated TxDOT had a pre-design meeting for the northbound lanes.

Cm. Altgelt inquired on Phase 3 of the Mines Road Study.

Mr. Bratton stated Staff will include a report on Phase 3 of the Mines Road Study at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Cm. Altgelt made a motion to have a status report on what has been implemented on Phase 1 and 2 of the Mines Road study as well as a status report on Phase 3.

Second:	Cm. Canales
In Favor:	5
Opposed:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

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

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

Ruben Soto, Chairman of the RMA, presented Mr. Tony Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc., who gave a brief presentation on the RMA.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the RMA had approved a number of work authorizations including those for: the Loop 20 project, a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) Feasibility Study for Webb County, general consultant services and the Fast Lane Act grant application for a grade separation/interchange on Jacaman and Loop 20. The Fast Lane Act grant application requested \$27 million dollars with a total project cost of 45 million dollars.

Cm. Algelt commented that it would be prudent to have a status report on the Feasibility Study of a TRZ on Vallecillo Road at the next meeting.

B. Status reports on US 59/Loop 20 Environmental Assessment and other related matters.

Mike Graham, TxDOT Laredo District Environmental Coordinator gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the 1472 north bound additional lane project is moving forward and is in the process of environmental clearance for an August bid letting. He stated the public comment period will end on June 9th, 2016.

He also stated the US 59 main lanes over IH 35 project was granted environmental clearance last month and was moving forward. The preliminary schematic for the US 59/ Loop 20 project from International Boulevard to Saunders Avenue is being updated and will be scheduled for a public meeting approximately at the end of July 2016. TxDOT will send letters to adjacent residential and business property owners; advertise in the newspaper, send out newsletters in advance of the public meeting.

He stated the environmental clearance for the US 59/Loop 20 project from International to Saunders may be completed by December, 2016. It will include approximately 182 acres of Right-of-Way (ROW).

Mayor Saenz requested a status report on the number of acres that are public and private in the aforementioned 182 acres of R.O.W.

Mr. Gerald Shwebel stated that Laredo should focus on Loop 20 to be a freight corridor network. He stated should consider a mixture of revenue sources to provide adequate funding for I-69, including all of Loop 20.

Cm. Altgelt inquired on the main lanes on Loop 20 over IH 35 project.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated said project was packaged with a direct connector bridge from west US 59 and south to IH 35 and is part of a Fast Lane Grant application submitted by TxDOT. He stated TxDOT expects to be informed in the near future if the application was selected for funding.

Cm. Altgelt requested a status report on the Fast Lane Grant application submitted by TxDOT on the Main Lanes on Loop 20 over IH 35 at the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Canales made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

Second:	Cm. Altgelt
In Favor:	5
Opposed:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by: Angie Quijano
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

