

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2015 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:06 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** Judge Tijerina and Cm. Ramirez.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr., City Councilmember, District V
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

Regular members not present:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Alberto Ramirez, 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
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro
Roberto Murillo, Traffic
Robert Peña, Traffic

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Andy Gonzalez, Killam Development
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering
Louis Jones, Dannanbaum Engineering
Arturo Dominguez, Kansas City Southern
Thomas Lowe, Atkins
Arturo Rodriguez, HNDB

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

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

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on April 20, 2015.

Cm. Canales made a motion to **approve** the minutes of April 20, 2015.

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

Motion carried unanimously

2. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-05 adopting the Congestion Management Process (CMP) network and performance measures.

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

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Vela made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **adopt** the Congestion Management Process (CMP) network and performance measures.

Second: Cm.Balli
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

3. Receive public testimony and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period on the Title VI Complaint Procedures and Form.

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

Second: Cm.Vela
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **initiate** a 20-day public review and comment period on the Title VI Complaint Procedures and Form.

Second: Cm.Vela
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to move up item #I-1 of the supplemental agenda.

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

Motion carried unanimously

I. SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

1. Discussion with possible action on Vallecillo Road.

Ruben Soto, Chairman, RMA, informed the Policy Board the RMA discussed the possibility of taking the lead on the Vallecillo Road project. He stated the RMA passed a resolution pending approval of the MPO Committee for the Vallecillo Road project. He stated funding for that project can be done by vehicle registration fees and also TxDOT can also match those said funds.

Brian Cassidy, legal counsel for the RMA, informed the Policy Board counties can participate in ad valorem tax incremented projects.

Cm. Galo made a motion to include the Vallecillo Road on the Transportation Improvement Project (TIP).

Second:	Cm. San Miguel
For:	6
Against:	1 (Cm. Vela)
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

(The members return to the regular agenda IV-4).

4. Discussion with possible action on the Mines Road Project.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, informed the Policy Board that Texas Transportation Institute will soon giving TxDOT a summary of the Mines Road Study findings. She stated an update on the findings of the study would be given at the next Policy Board meeting.

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

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Department, stated the City of Laredo maintains and operates 248 traffic signal lights. The signal lights maintained and operated are on IH-35 frontage road. Out of the 248 traffic lights, 154 lights are already included in some type of coordinated system. 56 of the 154 traffic lights are in the downtown area. 12 signal lights are in the Mines Road area.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the traffic signals on- system roadways other than those on IH 35 are maintained by the City of Laredo via an agreement with TxDOT.

Mr. Murillo stated signal timing improvements would be approximately \$3,000 per signal. He also stated certain adjustments could be accomplished via office control systems.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **allocate** up to \$600,000 from Coordinate Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds for signal timing improvements subject to pending approval from Federal Highway Administration.

Second:	Cm. Canales
For:	7
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

6. Discussion with possible action on the preliminary schematic for the Loop 20/I-69 corridor.

Louis Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated the schematic is in the process of being completed pending environmental approval. Mr. Jones stated the environmental process would need to be financially constrained in order to move forward with the project. Mr. Jones stated he would give an update at the next MPO meeting.

Mayor Saenz requested route alternatives and data on accidents on Loop 20 adjacent to the Laredo International Airport to be presented at the next meeting of the Policy Committee.

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

1. Presentation by Brian Cassidy, legal counsel for the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) on the legislative update and Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRIZ).

Mr. Cassidy stated TRIZ's were first developed in 2007. TRIZ's and similar financial tools were developed as alternative funding mechanisms in a climate of diminishing traditional revenue streams.

Cm. Vela left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Cm. Canales left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

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

Ms. Carol Luschen, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on Loop 20 project delivery methods, toll concepts and analysis requirements. She stated that a variety of project delivery models existed including: Design-Bid-Build, Design-Build-Finance, and Design-Build-Finance-

Operate-Maintain. The choice of project delivery model was driven by a variety of factors including need, funding availability and risk allocation. She further stated that tolling was a partial project funding mechanism which could be paired with other revenue streams to bring projects to construction far sooner than might be possible if solely using traditional revenue streams. In conclusion, she stated the Loop 20 next steps would be to set up a meeting with the District, the RMA, and the County to validate preliminary assumptions and secure feedback from the Policy Board.

3. Discussion and status report on the RMA.

Mr. Soto stated that Mr. Paul Saenz is the newest member of the RMA. Mr. Soto also stated the RMA is in the process of producing its procurement policies and will hopefully have them ready by the time of next meeting of the RMA. A draft Request for Qualifications was produced seeking financial advisory services. In conclusion, he stated job postings were publicized seeking a temporary or permanent Executive Director or consultant.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Galo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 5
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

Melisa Montemayor,
District Administrator

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson