

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2019 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano e. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Norma “Nelly” Vielma, City Councilmember, District V
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable David M. Salazar, Jr., District Engineer

Regular members not present:

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:

Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42
Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Representative, District 21
Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80

Staff (Of Participating LUTS Agencies) Present:

City: Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Robert Peña, City of Laredo Traffic Safety Department
Ramon Chavez, City of Laredo Engineering Department
Eduardo Bernal, City of Laredo Transit, El Metro

State: Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Nathan R. Bratton, Webb County

Others: Mario Peña

Monica Guajardo
Viviana Frank
Frank Rotnofsky
Gerry Schwebel
Lalo Uribe

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Vanessa Guerra, Acting MPO Director, called roll and verified that a quorum existed.

III. CITIZENS 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 the issue. Should there be more than (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.

Gerry Schwebel informed the committee about the upcoming Conversation Series. He passed out a formal invitation. He also informed the committee that he was a member of the Border Trade Advisory Council and stated they were continuing their work on the Border Transportation Master Plan.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on April 15, 2019.

Judge Tijerina made a motion **approve** the minutes of April 15, 2019.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve a motion to accept the ranking of firms that submitted proposals in response for the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued for the development of the Bicycle Master Plan, approve the selection of a professional services provider, and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.

After reading the item and having no objections, the chairman opened the public hearing.

Ms. Guerra stated approval of the item was to approve the selection of one of the selected ranking firms and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.

CM. Algelt made a motion to approve the selection of the firm Nelson NYGAARD and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion with possible action on presentation by Abrazo Partners on the City of Laredo's Boulevard of the America's Project.

CM. Salazar stated the item was not presented at the Technical Committee therefore; TxDOT was not prepared to discuss nor vote on said item.

Ms. Guerra stated the By-Laws and the Public Participation Plan require that the Technical Committee give recommendations on the final approval of plans, policies, programs, and procedures. As the item did not qualify as any of the items the committee was able to hear and discuss the presentation.

Mario Peña, Monica Guajardo, Frank Rotnofsky, and Viviana Frank, from Abrazo Partners, gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated as part of the Outlet Shoppes of Laredo, Engineering Department was provided a Traffic Impact Analysis that was provided to them with current data and future average daily traffic data. He stated said analysis has been provided to Abrazo Partner's traffic consultant.

Mayor Saenz requested to bring this item monthly as a status report.

Judge Tijerina left the meeting at approximately 2:47 p.m.

D. Discussion with possible action regarding the use of smooth hotbase for all TxDOT overlays specific to the shoulders of roads within the Webb County area.

Mr. David Salazar, TxDOT, stated that asphalt with hot mix is what is used to extend the life of the roadway.

CM. Algelt made a motion to task the Technical Committee to review the feasibility making the shoulders of more bicycle friendly, including striping and seal coats.

Second: Mayor Saenz
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion with possible action to direct TxDOT to commence a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to design a bike pedestrian facility along the west of Mines Road from Villas San Agustin to the IH 35 overpass of FM 1472.

CM. Algelt made a motion to task the Technical Committee with determining the feasibility of a shaded bicycle and pedestrian facility along the west side of Mines Road from Villas San Agustin to the IH 35 overpass.

Second: Mayor Saenz
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

F. Report by TxDOT on proposed solutions, cost estimates, and funding sources related to the Mines Road bike Tract, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities on safely cross both Loop 20 at the intersection of Del Mar, and the intersection of IH 35 and Del Mar, with discussion and possible action.

CM. Algelt made a motion to **table** the item.

Second: Mayor Saenz
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

G. Discussion with possible action on the River Road Project.

CM. Algelt informed the committee that he received a message from Mr. Joe Medina stating that Mr. Medina had met with Mr. Albert Muller.

CM. Altgelt stated it appears that they might be able to obtain 100 percent of the Right-of-Way (ROW). CM. Altgelt stated he would give an update at the next Policy Committee meeting.

H. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineer, stated the County was working with the environmental scientists to put together the unified document that is required to move forward. He stated they are tentatively scheduling the public workshops for mid-June. CM. Altgelt suggested to have said workshops either at Muller Elementary or at the Fasken Recreation Center. Mr. Perez-Garcia concurred with CM. Altgelt suggestion.

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

A. Status report by TxDOT on the Outer Loop Alignment Study.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated TxDOT was still working with their consultant Jacobs Engineering. He also stated Jacobs Engineering had started working with the utility companies to develop a constrained map and would have a draft alignment presently.

CM. Altgelt requested the consultant to give a presentation at the next MPO meeting to provide an update and update on the project.

B. Status report by TxDOT on ongoing projects.

Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave an update on TxDOT ongoing projects which included the following:

- SL 20 over KCS Railroad Grade Separation
97% work completed/anticipated completion date-July 2019
- US 59 over IH 35 Overpass
78% work complete/anticipated completion date-winter 2019
- SH 359 from City of Laredo to Duval County
45% work completed/anticipated work completion date-winter 2020
- US 83 from Dimmit County line to 3.4 miles of SH 44
Work to start on May 28, 2019/anticipated date-June 2019
- FM 1472 from 7.8 miles north of SH 255 to 2.0 miles north
97% work completed/anticipated completion date-June 2019

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

The following update was sent via email by the RMA.

1. WCCL RMA will have a Board Meeting on 05/28/19. The WCCL RMA will be authorizing Work Authorization No. 10 for the North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study. Next MPO meeting, the WCCL RMA will be providing status update on work ongoing.
2. Vallecillo road (FM 1472 to IH 35)-The WCCL RMA will be distributing the draft Inter-Local Agreement to the City of Laredo and the draft financial agreement with the Killam Company next week.
3. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills)-The WCCL RMA has provided all information to the City of Laredo. Awaiting next steps from the City of Laredo.
4. Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes-City of Laredo has requested the draft Work Authorization form the WCCL RMA. This will be provided this week.
 - The WCCL RMA is providing a list of transportation priorities for the Laredo community to TxDOT as part of the Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan effort that is currently ongoing.
 - The WCCL RMA is coordination with Mayor Saenz, the RIO Grande Partnership and the Border Trade Alliance to provide a meeting with officials from the US DOT or FHWA to push for the latest submittal of the INFRA Application Washington D.C. next month. Next steps on this item is to receive an agenda from our delegation going to D.C. and arrange a time slot to meet with the federal government representatives.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Altgelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Second: 5
 For: 0
 Against: 0
 Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

J. Kirby Snideman,
 MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
 Chairperson