

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2018 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII (arrived at 1:36 p.m.)
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (arrived at 2:02 p.m.)
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1 (arrived at 1:40 p.m.)
David M. Salazar, Jr., District Engineer
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator

Regular members not present:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

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: Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro

State: Sara Garza, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
Janece Quiroz, TxDOT
Danny Magee, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.

Charlie Martens

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called me the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

III. 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.

CM. Altgelt joined the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Charlie Martens, citizen, requested a status report on the plan for the outer loop.

David Salazar, TxDOT, stated TxDOT was working toward developing a schematic. He stated that was the first step toward construction of the outer loop.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the preliminary alignment was developed approximately ten years ago and now TxDOT would have to reassess if that alignment was still valid. She stated that once funds become available, TxDOT may move forward with one or multiple sections of the outer loop.

Mayor Saenz requested that an agenda item be placed every month regarding the status of outer loop project.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on April 16, 2018.

CM. Galo made a motion to **approve** the minutes of April 16, 2018.

Second: CM. Altgelt
For: 6
Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Gonzalez joined the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2018-03, adopting the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

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

Second: CM. Altgelt

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Gonzalez joined the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Ms. Guerra gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

CM. Altgelt requested a status update for the Calton Grade Separation project.

Ms. Guerra stated the City Engineering Department would be able to give said update.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to direct MPO Staff to have City Engineering Department present a status report on the Calton Grade Separation project during the next MPO meeting including the specifics on any delays associated with the project.

Second: Mayor Saenz

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Altgelt requested a status update on the Hachar project.

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering, stated the Hachar portion was the City portion of the project. He stated the engineering firm is the same firm that the County selected for the Reuthinger portion. He stated he could not give any more information on the Hachar portion because it was a City project.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to **direct** MPO Staff to provide a status update on the Hachar portion of the project, including factors precipitating its delay till 2011.

Second: CM. Galo
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Galo made a motion directing the development of a cheat sheet detailing the specifics of all TIP projects including the project status. Said document would be required to be updated constantly.

Second: CM. Altgelt
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Altgelt made a motion to **bring up** item IV-F.

Second: CM. Galo
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

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

Luis Perez Garcia, County Engineer, stated the Reuthinger portion was on schedule, which was previously provided to the committee. He stated the selected consultant provided the County with their proposal. TxDOT has been provided with the proposed contract and are in the process of reviewing said document. He stated the County's Purchasing Department had provided TxDOT with the selection process used during the selection of the consultant. He also expected TxDOT to return the reviewed contracts so the County could execute the final contract with the consultant, Dannenbaum Engineering.

CM. Algelt inquired on the time frame for TxDOT to review the negotiated contract.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated TxDOT would give an update as soon as they have it.

Mr. Perez Garcia stated the next phase would be the design phase followed by the construction phase.

Ms. Montemayor stated the Reuthinger portion was not financed for construction. She stated at the moment, it has \$300,000 of Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds for the schematic and environmental phase. She stated the County was overseeing that portion of the project. She stated construction funds have not been identified.

Mayor Saenz requested to have an agenda item placed on the next meeting to discuss the financing components of the Hachar-Reuthinger project.

CM. San Miguel joined the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

CM. Galo asked for a status report on the R.O.W. acquisition for the Jacaman project.

Ms. Montemayor stated TxDOT was moving forward on the R.O.W. acquisition. She stated R.O.W. division had a consultant on board. She also stated TxDOT was actively engaging in meeting with the affected property owners. The R.O.W. required was located at the UISD food kitchen, the Armory, and the airport. She stated TxDOT had still not had confirmation from their R.O.W. division if the acquisition would be approved.

CM. Galo asked if there was a possibility that the Del Mar project could be constructed first.

Mrs. Montemayor stated Del Mar had dedicated funding but the funding was not currently available. Del Mar is programmed to be funded.

CM. Galo asked if Del Mar was ready, can the funds for Jacaman be used for Del Mar instead.

Judge Tijerina asked if projects could be added to the TIP. He would be interested in adding the Outer Loop Alignment to the TIP.

Mrs. Montemayor said yes and said the Outer Loop was already added to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Cm. Gonzalez also stated that signage would also help that area.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to have representatives from City Engineering, Traffic Safety, and R.O.W. Real Estate departments be present at every MPO monthly meeting.

Second: Cm. Galo

For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Danny Magee, TxDOT, stated TxDOT had been working with City Traffic on signage and meeting with City Traffic department every 2 weeks. The signs that CM. Gonzalez inquired on had already been ordered.

CM. Galo asked whether a signal at the entrance of Henry Cuellar Boulevard was feasible.

Mr. Magee stated he would need to check the proximity of the signal that was already in that area.

CM. Altgelt asked for Ms. Guerra to review the TIP items as they are relevant to active transportation and Mass Transit.

Ms. Guerra stated transit had programmed 12 projects in the four year TIP with approximately funding of \$16,000,000, a year.

Eddie Bernal, El Metro, gave a brief presentation on the transit projects from the 2019-2022 TIP.

CM. Algelt requested that Transit give a presentation on revenue sources available for financing currently unfunded transit needs, especially, new buses.

C. Receive public testimony and initiate a ten-day public review and comment period for the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

- 1. Amending Chapters 1-13, as indicated in attached Exhibits A and B, to achieve compliance with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).**

CM. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing and **initiate** a ten-day comment review and comment period for the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 MTP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

D. Discussion with possible action to allocate CBI funds to the North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study, pending execution of an Advanced Funding Agreement between TxDOT and the WCCL RMA.

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc., stated the RMA passed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). He stated after discussions with TxDOT and the MPO, an MOU was not needed. An Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) between TxDOT and the RMA was needed for the release of the funds.

CM. Galo stepped out of the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to change the MOU to an AFA between the RMA and TxDOT for the release of the funds for the Transportation Planning Study.

Second:	Judge Tijerrina
For:	7
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Galo stepped back into the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

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

No action was taken on this item.

Mayor Saenz sated that he would follow up with Mr. Albert Muller regarding the project.

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

A. Status report by TxDOT on corridor studies and setbacks regarding right of way along maintained roadways within the City of Laredo.

David Salazar, TxDOT, stated he would meet with Mr. Bratton to provide him information on a variety of options for corridor preservation including visiting with other MPO's.

Mayor Saenz requested this agenda item to be placed at the next MPO meeting as well as an update on the meeting between TxDOT and Mr. Bratton on corridor preservation.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Galo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Second: CM. Altgelt
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson