

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 20, 2016, MEETING

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

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

### **II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL**

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

Judge Tijerina made a motion to excuse members not present.

Second: Cm. Altgelt  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

#### **Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII  
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (arrived at 12:13 p.m.)  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

#### **Regular members absent:**

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

#### **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: Albert Ramirez, TxDOT  
Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff  
(HNTB, Inc.)  
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)  
Mike Graham, TxDOT  
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro

**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 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 May 16, 2016 and the special meeting held on May 27, 2016.**

Cm. Altgelt made a motion to **approve** the minutes of the meeting held on May 16, 2016 and the special meeting held on May 27, 2016.

Second: Cm. Altgelt  
In Favor: 7

Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-07, adopting the proposed 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).**

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, gave a brief presentation on the proposed TIP. She stated the resolution authorized final approval of the 2017-2020 TIP. She further stated the projects programmed for the next four years are the Flecha/Las Cruces Realignment Project, Calton Grade Separation Project, Zacate Creek Hike and Bike Trail Project, and the Hachar Road Project. The proposed document programmed 12 transit projects including funding of approximately 60 million dollars.

Cm. Balli made a motion to open a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Altgelt  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no public comment.

Cm. Balli made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-07, adopting the proposed 2017-2020 TIP.

Second: Cm. Altgelt  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**C. Receive public testimony and approve a motion initiating a twenty-day public review and comment period for the proposed draft of the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to open a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Balli  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no public comment.

Mr. Bratton stated the UPWP describes and schedules work to be determined by the MPO during the 2017 fiscal year.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **initiate** a 20 day public review and comment period for the proposed FY 2017 UPWP.

Second:	Cm. Balli
In Favor:	7
Opposed:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

**D. Receive public testimony and approve a motion to accept the ranking of firms that submitted proposals in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued for the development of the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update Project; approve the selection of a professional services provider, and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second:	Cm. Balli
In Favor:	7
Opposed:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Ms. Guerra stated MPO Staff issued an RFQ for the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update. She stated the objective of the project is to collect and format all demographic necessary for input into the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model. She stated a selection committee ranked the firms that submitted RFQ proposals. The preferred firm was CDM Smith.

There was no public comment.

Cm. Balli made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **accept** the selection committee's ranking of the firms that submitted proposals in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued for the development of the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update Project; **select** CDM Smith; and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.

Second: Cm. Altgelt  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**E. Authorizing the execution of Amendment 1 to the contract with CDM Smith for the development of the Transit Plan Update in order to extend the contract completion date to February 28, 2017.**

Ms. Guerra stated the amendment would extend the contract completion date by 5 months to February 28, 2017. The extension will provide additional necessary review and approval time. No added funding would be allocated to this project.

Cm. Balli made a motion to **approve** the execution of Amendment 1 to the contract with CDM Smith for the development of the Transit Plan Update in order to extend the contract completion date to February 28, 2017.

Second: Judge Tijerina  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel arrived at the meeting at 12:13p.m.

**F. Discussion with possible action on ratification of support letter of the Border Area Nutrition Council's proposal to Transit, El Metro.**

Mr. Bratton stated the requested letter is to support the Border Area Nutrition Council's proposal to Transit, El Metro.

Cm. Canales made a motion to **approve** the support letter of the Border Area Nutrition Council's proposal to Transit, El Metro.

Second: Cm. Balli  
In Favor: 8  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**G. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project.**

**1. Status report by Dannenbaum Engineering on the alignment of Hachar Road.**

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated Dannenbaum Staff was moving forward as expeditiously as possible, such that the development of the schematic for Hachar was at 60 percent and the environmental document preparation was well underway. The execution of the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) was also in process pending TxDOT's final review.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the AFA was anticipated to be fully ready for execution within the next three weeks.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **combine** discussion of agenda items G, H, and I.

Second: Cm. Balli  
In Favor: 8  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **open** public hearing for items H and I.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
In Favor: 8  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**2. Discussion and possible action on the City of Laredo's request for funding of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project.**

- a. **Addition of project intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to I-35 (CSJ 0922-33-165 & 0922-33-166). \$1,634,277 in Category 7 Funds with a proposed.**
- b. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to Beltway parkway. \$26,796,902 in Category 7 Funds.**
- c. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-166 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from Beltway parkway to I-35. \$21,440,668 in Category 7 Funds.**

**H. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10 day public review and comment period for the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):**

- a. **Addition of project intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to I-35 (CSJ 0922-33-165 & 0922-33-166). \$1,634,277 in Category 7 Funds.**
- b. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to Beltway parkway. \$26,796,902 in Category 7 Funds.**
- c. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-166 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from Beltway parkway to I-35. \$21,440,668 in Category 7 Funds.**

**I. Receive public testimony and initiate a ten-day public review and comment period for the following proposed amendment(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation improvement Program.  
(TIP):**

- a. **Addition of project intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to I-35 (CSJ 0922-33-165 & 0922-33-166). \$1,634,277 in Category 7 Funds.**
- b. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to Beltway parkway. \$26,796,902 in Category 7 Funds.**

Cm. Canales requested the MPO Director review the timeline for the allocation of Category 7 funds and associated projects as proposed in the agenda item.

The MPO Director stated the development of Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) for both segments would begin in February of 2017. The construction of the portion of Hachar Roadway from FM 1472 to Beltway Parkway would commence in 2019 or thereabouts; and the Roadway section of Hachar known as the Reuthinger segment would begin construction in 2022.

The meeting recessed at 12:25 p.m. due to a power failure.

The meeting reconvened at 4:05 p.m., June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (the same day).

**Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
 Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
 Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
 Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

**Regular members absent:**

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge

**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: Albert Ramirez, TxDOT  
Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff  
(HNTB, Inc.)  
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)  
Mike Graham, TxDOT  
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro

**G. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project.**

1. **Status report by Dannenbaum Engineering on the alignment of Hachar Road.**

**H. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10 day public review and comment period for the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):**

- a. **Addition of project intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to I-35 (CSJ 0922-33-165 & 0922-33-166). \$1,634,277 in Category 7 Funds.**
- b. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to Beltway parkway. \$26,796,902 in Category 7 Funds.**
- c. **Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-166 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the**



**Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from Beltway parkway to I-35.  
\$21,440,668 in Category 7 Funds.**

- I. Receive public testimony and initiate a ten-day public review and comment period for the following proposed amendment(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation improvement Program.  
(TIP):**
- a. Addition of project intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to I-35 (CSJ 0922-33-165 & 0922-33-166). \$1,634,277 in Category 7 Funds.**
  - b. Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide funds for Construction Engineering, Contingencies, and Construction of the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to Beltway parkway. \$26,796,902 in Category 7 Funds.**

Cm. Altgelt made a motion to close the public hearing, initiate a ten day public review and comment period for both the proposed revisions of the 2015-2040 MTP and the 2017-2020 TIP; and designate and commit 100% of Category 7 funds to the Hachar-Reuthinger Project as described in agenda items G, H, and I.

Second: Cm. Canales  
In Favor: 8  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**J. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.**

**I. Update on status of implementation of recommendations resulting from Phase 1 and 2 of the Mines Road Study.**

Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety Department Director, stated the approved resolution authorizing the execution of the AFA on the Mines Road Synchronization Project, was proposed for revision due to concerns expressed by TxDOT regarding certain financial language included in the previous resolution. He also stated that improvements implemented on Mines Road have already diminished congestion. He further stated his department was working on signal timing improvements on Mines Road, US 59 and US 83.

Albert Ramirez, TxDOT, stated that in August 2016 TxDOT would let/initiate the procurement of professional construction services for the widening of FM 1472 from Killam to 0.3 miles north of Muller.

**K. Discussion and possible action to delay CSJ-0086-14-065 (Loop 20 main lanes over I-35) and re-appropriate CBI funds to other Loop 20 projects.**

Cm. Canales expressed his concerns regarding the proposed delay of the project.

Ruben Soto, RMA, explained the funds currently allocated to the project would be temporarily committed to a funding request proposal to be submitted to the Texas Transportation Commission. The funding request would include funding for all improvements on Loop 20 necessary to upgrade the corridor to interstate standards.

Cm. Canales reiterated his concerns regarding the delay of the main lanes project.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer, stated that TxDOT planned to submit a Fast Lane Grant application for the Loop 20 main lanes over IH 35, and a direct connector west bound to south IH 35. He stated the total cost of those two projects would be approximately \$60 million dollars. The Commission is anticipated to come to a decision in late August or possibly September of 2016.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **delay** the project to a December 2016 letting subject to whether or not TxDOT was awarded the Fast Lane Grant funds, and authorize Staff to submit the necessary TIP revisions accordingly.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
In Favor: 8  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

No discussion or action was taken on the remaining agenda items due to meeting time constraints.

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

**A. Presentation by El Metro on the current status of fleet replacement and capital funding.**

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

- 1. Report on Feasibility Study of a possible Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) on Vallecillo Road.**
- 2. Status of the RMA's FASTLANE Grant.**
- 3. Status of the Loop 20 project.**

**C. Status report by TxDOT on public and private acreage Right-of-Way on the US 59/ Loop 20 Project.**

**D. Status report by TxDOT on the Fast Lane Grant application submitted for the Main Lanes on Loop 20 over IH 35.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Balli made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Second: Cm. Altgelt  
In Favor: 8  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by:  Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angie Quijano  
MPO Staff  
Vanessa Guerra,  
MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan R. Bratton,  
MPO Director  
Melisa Montemayor,  
District Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Saenz,  
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson