

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 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.

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 (joined the meeting at 12:17 p.m.)
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT

Regular members not present:

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
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT

Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others Present:

Salvador Mercado, Dannenbaum Engineering
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Edgar Kraus, Texas Transportation Institute
Will Holik, Texas Transportation Institute
Rocio Habib, Grupo Imagen
Nadya Anla, Grupo Imagen
Enrique Valdez, LNV
George Algelt, Council member District VII

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND COMMUNICATION

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, informed the members present a draft of the MPO Primer was handed out for review by the Committee. The document would then be presented for approval at the next Policy Board meeting. She stated the document is intended to provide the reader with a short, easy to read source of information on the MPO and its activities.

Cm. Vela requested Staff put an item on the next agenda to discuss drainage issues on IH 59 related to the Fiesta Loop area.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on June 15, 2015.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting of June 15, 2015.

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

2. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-07 adopting the proposed 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Mr. Bratton advised the members present the purpose of the revision on the TIP was to add project CSJ #0086-14-065 for the construction of a new interchange facility over Interstate 35.

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

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no public comment.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2015-07, adopting the proposed revision of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

3. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-08 adopting the proposed 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

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

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no public comment.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed 2016 UPWP. He stated the UPWP is the MPO's budget which includes costs and the proposed work tasks for the upcoming fiscal year.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2015-08, adopting the proposed 2016 UPWP.

Second: Cm. Balli
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

4. Approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-09 urging TxDOT to consider early R.O.W. acquisition of locations prone to imminent construction.

Mr. Bratton requested to table the item.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **table** the item.

Second:	Cm. Vela
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Charlie San Miguel joined the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to move up agenda item #V-1 and discuss the item jointly with agenda item #IV-5.

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

Motion carried unanimously

5. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road. (to be discussed jointly with agenda item V-1)

V-1. Status Report by TxDOT on the ongoing Mines Road Study.

Edgar Kraus, Texas Transportation Institute, gave a brief presentation on the Mines Road Study.

Mr. Kraus stated the study area included FM 1472 from Loop 20 to FM 3338 Las Tiendas. The study would be developed in 3 phases. The phases proposed included short term, mid-term and long term strategies. He stated that short term strategies concentrated on the most congested areas between Sobreretrillo Creek and Loop 20 recommendations.

6. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Mayor Saenz stated discussions are ongoing regarding the Hachar Road project.

Cm. Vela stated he was under the impression the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) loan was going to be used to fund the Hachar Road project and the County was going to participate by providing a percentage of the SIB loan.

Judge Tijerina stated that further discussion was necessary to determine possible funding sources available to fully fund the project.

Mayor Saenz suggested the County, the City and the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) meet and present possible funding strategies to TxDOT.

Cm. Vela directed Staff to develop a financial plan for the last portion of the Hachar Road.

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

- 1. Status report by TxDOT on the ongoing Mines Road Study.** (Discussed earlier in the meeting in tandem with agenda item #IV-5).
- 2. Status report by TxDOT on the eligibility of the \$600,000 in CBI funds for signal timing improvements.**

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the funding was approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The next step would be to create a CSJ number for a signal improvement project and include the project in the TIP.

3. Status report on the RMA.

Mayor Saenz stated the RMA did not have a July meeting; therefore there would be no status report from the RMA during this meeting, however the regular status report from the RMA would resume at the next Policy Committee meeting.

4. Report by TxDOT on Loop 20 improvements.

Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated the Spur 400 project will begin full construction on August 1st. On August 4th, there will be a Town hall meeting which will consist of a presentation on the construction of the project and the traffic changes.

Mr. Rodriguez also stated the KCS roadway project will also be having an August letting date.

Mayor Saenz requested a presentation on the statewide funding categories at the next Policy Board meeting.

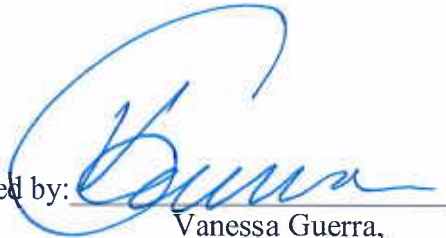
VI. ADJOURNMENT

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Second: Cm. San Miguel
For: 7
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