

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2016 MEETING

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

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

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

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, called roll to verify that a quorum existed.

Cm. Canales made a motion to excuse members not present.

Second: Cm. Balli  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (arrived at 12:08 p.m.)  
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3 (arrived at 12:18 p.m.)  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

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

Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge

#### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42

#### **Ex-Officio Members Not Present:**

**V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on July 18, 2016.**

Cm. Canales made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting held on July 18, 2016.

Second: Cm. Balli  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Balli made a motion to **move up** item #VI-A.

Second: Cm. Canales  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

**A. Presentation by Kristi Flagg, TxDOT's Project Finance Debt & Strategic Contracts Division on TxDOT's Alternative Delivery Support Tool: US 59/IH 69W Project.**

Cm. San Miguel joined the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Kristi Flagg from TxDOT's Project Finance Debt and Strategic Contracts Division gave a brief presentation on alternative project delivery methods. She stated this new tool was being used by TxDOT as a programmatic approach to determining when alternative project development strategies would be used. She stated the main goal of the tool was to support decision makers in selecting delivery methods through an objective approach driven by applicable project characteristics and weighted project goals. She stated the use of design/bid/build projects prohibited overlapping of project phases while requiring well documented project site conditions. She stated the use of design/bid project development allowed concurrent design and build phases, and had significant cost saving potential. These projects may also benefit from introduction of innovative design and construction methods.

Cm. Galo joined the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Representative Richard Raymond asked what percentage of the estimated \$382 million in the total project cost for the Loop 20 project would TxDOT be contributing to the project.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer, stated the Texas Commission makes all final decisions on funding of projects. He stated TxDOT anticipates the Texas Transportation Commission would be approving the Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) at the end of this month.

Representative Raymond requested a report containing a breakdown of the percentage of local versus TxDOT funds for projects over the past 5 years.

Cm. San Miguel also asked that the report include whether the State matched any municipality's participation amounts.

Cm. Galo informed the members' present that Texas 21 would be hosting their quarterly meeting in Laredo on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners, Mayors, and County Judges from all over the state would be attending.

Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA), reminded the Committee that the MPO panel had previously voted to support action whereby the City, the County, and the RMA would contribute up to \$150 million to the Airport and Jacaman projects. He stated the original plan was to go to TxDOT and request a similar amount in State funds.

Cm. Canales stated the proposed plan as mentioned by the RMA presupposed the approval of a required Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ). As the City Council had denied the formation of said TIRZ, the 150 million funding plan was no longer feasible. Cm. Canales requested an update on current RMA activities.

Mr. Soto stated that the RMA would continue to pursue funding solutions for the Loop 20 project. He also stated that the Vallecillo Road Project, environmental review process was well underway.

Representative Raymond stated that his office would request TxDOT administration provide information regarding TxDOT's average funding participation levels.

Pete Alvarez, of TxDOT, stated that TxDOT would provide that information at the next MPO Policy Meeting.

**B. Receive public testimony and approve a Motion authorizing the award and execution of a contract in the amount of \$97,000, with CDM Smith, for the development of the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Project.**

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

Second: Cm. Canales  
In Favor: 8

Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Balli made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** a motion authorizing the award and execution of a contract in the amount of \$97,000, with CDM Smith, for the development of the 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**C. Discussion and possible action to adopt a resolution requesting the Texas Transportation Commission allocate additional funds, including but not limited to discretionary funding, to the Laredo Urban Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization and to the Texas Department Of Transportation, Laredo District, to accelerate construction of the Jacaman Overpass and the roadway segment from U.S. Business 59 to the Airport Drive Overpass on U.S. 59/Loop 20**

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer, stated that he and Melisa Montemayor, also a TxDOT representative would abstain from voting on this item.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **adopt** a resolution requesting the Texas Transportation Commission allocate additional funds, including but not limited to discretionary funding, to the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, Metropolitan Planning Organization and to the Texas Department Of Transportation, Laredo District, to accelerate construction of the Jacaman Overpass and the roadway segment from U.S. Business 59 to the Airport Drive Overpass on U.S. 59/Loop 20.

Second: Cm. Canales  
In Favor: 6  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 2 (Cm. Alvarez, Cm. Montemayor)

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel and Cm. Galo left the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

**D. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.**

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated on June 20<sup>th</sup>, Dannenbaum Engineering received the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) from TxDOT. He stated the AFA did not reflect the federal funding as programmed by the MPO. He stated the City had contacted TxDOT regarding item. The City also requested TxDOT accept the scoping documents in anticipation of the execution of the revised AFA.

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

Albert Ramirez, TxDOT, stated the project was let the week of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, with a total estimated project cost of \$4.68 million. The project is intended to repave with concrete the intersection of Killam and Mines.

Mayor Saenz asked for status on the Signal Synchronization Project on Mines Road.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT will give a follow up at the next MPO meeting.

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

**B. Status report by TxDOT on:**

- a. public and private acreage Right-of-Way on the US 59/ Loop 20 Project; and**

Mike Graham, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the private acreage R.O.W. on the US 59/Loop 20 Project.

- b. progress of environmental review.**

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

Mr. Ruben Soto stated the RMA would give a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRIZ) presentation at the next MPO meeting.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Canales made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Second:	Cm. Alvarez
In Favor:	6
Opposed:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

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

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nathan R. Bratton,  
MPO Director

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Melisa Montemayor,  
District Administrator

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