Laredo Urban Transportation Study

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

City of Laredo
City Hall Council Chambers
1110 Houston Street: Laredo, Texas
August 17th, 2015
12:00 noon

MEETING AGENDA

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (No action required)

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on July 20, 2015.
2. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10 day public review and comment period for the proposed amendment(s) to the MPO By-Laws.
3. Motion to approve and accept the MPO Primer.
4. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.
5. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

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

1. Presentation by Kansas City Southern (KCS) to introduce the concept of a "Secure Border Railroad Corridor" which will provide an overview of the railroads efforts to eliminate blocked crossings, improve the efficiency of train traffic through the Laredo/Nuevo Laredo Gateway, and support the objectives of customs' authorities on both sides of the border.
2. Presentation by TxDOT on statewide funding categories.
3. Status report by TxDOT on the eligibility of the $600,000 in CBI funds for signal timing improvements.

4. Status report by TxDOT on drainage issues on IH 59 along the Fiesta Loop area.

5. Status report on the RMA.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED AT THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1110 HOUSTON STREET, LAREDO, TEXAS, AT A PLACE CONVENIENT AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES. SAID NOTICE WAS POSTED BY AUGUST 14, 2015, BY 12:00 P.M.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services are requested to contact Ms. Vanessa Guerra, City Planning at (956) 794-1613 at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The accessible entrance and accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall and can be accessed through the Victoria Ave. entrance.

The Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee is comprised of the following members:

CITY OF LAREDO REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr., City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI

LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

COUNTY OF WEBB REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4

STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Ms. Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator
Mr. Albert Ramirez, P.E., Transportation Planning and Development Director

***** EX-OFFICIO *****

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

Nathan R. Bratton
MPO Director

Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary

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-1and 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

LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
ACTION ITEM

DATE: 8-17-15	**SUBJECT:** A MOTION Receive public testimony and initiate a 10 day public review and comment period on the proposed amendment(s) to the MPO By-Laws. Revision 8
INITIATED BY: TxDOT	**STAFF SOURCE:** Nathan Bratton, Director of Planning

PREVIOUS ACTION:
On June 9th, 1994, the MPO Policy Committee adopted the LUTS Bylaws which were subsequently amended on July 23, 1997, July 21, 2007, June 14, 2012, August 13, 2013, and on October 20th, 2014.

Background:
TxDOT has requested the MPO Bylaws be revised such that the District Engineer and the District Administrator are identified as TxDOT's representatives on the Policy Committee. The TxDOT Laredo District Director of Transportation Planning and Development would no longer represent TxDOT on the Policy Committee.

Listed below are the proposed revisions:
Section 2.1(a), shall be revised as follows (*see attached Exhibit A*):

State of Texas: ~~The person designated as the Director of the Laredo District by the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation i.e. the District Engineer or the District Administrator~~
~~TxDOT Laredo District Director of Transportation Planning and Development~~

TxDOT District Engineer
TxDOT District Administrator

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The LUTS Technical Committee recommends approval.	**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**: Staff recommends approval.

(e) To use federal transportation planning funds, as well as in-kind matching funds as authorized by the Texas Transportation Commission, to develop and maintain a comprehensive regional transportation planning program in conformity with requirements of 23 USC 135 and 49 USC 5303.

(f) To adopt a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the metropolitan planning area that will complement the Statewide Transportation Plan required by state and federal laws, a Transportation Improvement Program and a Unified Planning Work Program and such other planning documents and reports that may be required by state or federal laws or regulations.

(g) To establish one or more advisory committees to assist in the transportation planning process and/or assist in promoting the implementation of approved plans. The Policy Committee may create ad-hoc committees or other technical subcommittees.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP, TERMS AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 2.1 Membership and Qualifications

(a) The Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) shall be comprised of a Policy Committee and a Technical Committee. The Policy Committee shall include the following members:

City of Laredo:	Mayor (Chairperson) Two City Councilmembers, as appointed by the Mayor in his/her sole discretion.
Laredo Mass Transit Board	One Laredo Mass Transit Board member as appointed by the Board's presiding officer/Mayor in his/her sole discretion.
County of Webb:	County Judge (Vice-Chairperson) Two County Commissioners as appointed by the Webb County Judge in his/her sole discretion.
State of Texas:	~~The person designated as the Director of the Laredo District by the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation i.e. the District Engineer or the District Administrator~~ ~~TxDOT Laredo District Director of Transportation Planning and Development~~ TxDOT District Engineer TxDOT District Administrator

Texas Department of Transportation®
1817 BOB BULLOCK LOOP •LAREDO, TX 78043 • (956) 712-7400 FAX (956) 712-7401

August 11, 2015

Mr. Nathan Bratton
Planning Director
1120 San Bernardo Ave
Laredo, TX 78041

Dear Mr. Bratton:

The Laredo District respectfully requests the modifications of the Bylaws and Operating Procedures for the Laredo Urban Transportation Study under Article II, Section 2.1(a) to reflect the following titles for the State of Texas:

State of Texas: The person(s) designated as the Directors of the Laredo District by the Executive Directors of the Texas Department of Transportation, i.e. the District Engineer and TxDOT Laredo District Administrator

Attached please find page 4 of the bylaws that illustrates our request. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Melisa Montemayor,
Laredo District Administrator

BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES
LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

State of Texas: The person(s) designated as the Director(s) of the Laredo District by the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation i.e. the District Engineer and ~~or the District Administrator~~ Dist. Administrator ~~TxDOT Laredo District Director of Transportation Planning and Development~~ ~~Administrator~~

*** EX-OFFICIO ***

State of Texas: State Senator(s)
State Representative(s)

(b) Members shall serve until a replacement is qualified pursuant to section 2.1 Subsection (e).

(c) The Mayor of the City of Laredo shall appoint the two City Councilmembers that represent the City of Laredo.

(d) Laredo Mass Transit Board's presiding officer/Mayor shall appoint one member to represent the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

(e) The County Judge of the County of Webb shall appoint the two County Commissioners that represent the County of Webb.

(f) Appointments to the Policy Committee shall be for a period of two years. A member may be reappointed with no limitation to number of terms, except that such term will not continue in the event an officer becomes ineligible for membership on the Policy Committee.

Section 2.2 Meetings, Quorum and Voting

(a) The Policy Committee shall meet at least twice per year or as often as necessary to fulfill its purposes.

(b) Fifty percent of the voting membership plus one member shall constitute a quorum.

(c) The use of proxies by the voting members of the Policy Committee is prohibited.

d) The official actions of the Policy Committee shall be by affirmative action of the majority of the voting membership present and voting at public meetings. All meetings are to be held as open meetings as defined in Chapter 551, Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act), and the Transportation Planning Director of the MPO shall insure that the written notice of the meeting is posted at City of Laredo City Hall and Webb County Commissioners Court Building at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Additionally, the

Vanessa Guerra

From: Vanessa Guerra
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Alberto Ramirez
Cc: Nathan R. Bratton; 'Martha Cantu'
Subject: RE: Modification to Bylaws and Operating Procedures w/attachment

Good afternoon Albert,

I have discussed the proposed Bylaws revision request with Nathan. The MPO's concern is that the language is not specific enough as to the number of Directors. For example, as written the language could refer any number of Directors including 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.). The MPO proposes the existing language be eliminated and the two positions be simply listed as indicated below:

State of Texas: ~~The person designated as the Director of the Laredo District by the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Transportation i.e. the District Engineer or the District Administrator~~
~~TxDOT Laredo District Director of Transportation Planning and Development~~

TxDOT District Engineer
TxDOT District Administrator

Please call me as soon as possible to discuss. Thank you. V.

From: Martha Cantu [mailto:Martha.Cantu@txdot.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Vanessa Guerra
Cc: Alberto Ramirez
Subject: Modification to Bylaws and Operating Procedures w/attachment

Sent on behalf of Alberto Ramirez, Director of TP&D

Attached please find a letter requesting modification of the Bylaws and Operating Procedures for the Laredo Urban Transportation Study under Article II, Section 2.1(a) to reflect the following title for the State of Texas.

****
Martha Cantu
Open Records Coordinator
Texas Department of Transportation
Laredo District Office
1817 Bob Bullock Loop
Laredo, Texas 78043
Office: 956.712.7420
martha.cantu@txdot.gov

Talk. Text. Crash.

LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
ACTION ITEM

DATE: 08-17-15	**SUBJECT:** MOTION Motion to approve and accept the MPO Primer.
INITIATED BY: Staff	**STAFF SOURCE:** Nathan Bratton, MPO Director
PREVIOUS ACTION: None	

BACKGROUND:

The MPO has developed the document to provide the reader with a short, easy to read source of information on the MPO and its activities. The Primer is intended to give a basic understanding of the structure of the MPO, its relationship with member agencies, and its various duties and responsibilities. It is not intended as a comprehensive resource but rather a brief introduction to the organization. The primer will be placed online and made available at the MPO offices.

The draft Primer was distributed to the Policy and Technical Committee at their respective July meetings. Comments received as well as the MPO's corresponding actions are listed on page 2 of the communication.

Staff comments continued…

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:	**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**
The LUTS Technical Committee recommends approval.	Staff recommends approval.

LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
ACTION ITEM

	Public Comment	Action Taken
1	The first three overall TMA Certification findings are that the metropolitan planning process either: 1) meets federal-aid requirements, (2) substantially meets federal-aid requirements (may be subject to a few corrective actions being taken), or (3) does not meet federal-aid requirements (may be conditionally certified until several corrective action findings are remedied by TMA). (Kirk Fauver-FHWA)	The language was included as requested.
2	If a corrective action is identified by the joint FTA/FHWA review team as part of the review process, then a specific time period for remediation of the corrective action by the TMA is established upon completion of the review. If not certified, 20 percent of the TMA apportionment attributed to the Metropolitan Planning Area (highway and transit) may be withheld by FHWA and FTA [per 23 CFR 450.334(b) (2)]. (Kirk Fauver-FHWA)	The language was included as requested.
3	The acronym for FHWA is missing from Page 10. (Kirk Fauver-FHWA)	Acronym was added.
4	The use of public involvement plans have now changed to PPP's (Public Participation Plans). (Kirk Fauver-FHWA)	The language was revised as requested.
5	The use of CMS (Congestion Management Systems) has been updated to CMP (Congestion Management Process). (Kirk Fauver-FHWA)	The language was revised as requested.
6	In your table of contents you should add the MPO Funding Categories that are allocated to the MPO as a result of their new TMA status. For example, Cat 7 & 9. (Sara Garza-TxDOT)	The section was included as requested.
7	As described in your financial plan of the MTP, you may want to include the definitions of the new categories. (Sara Garza-TxDOT)	The definitions were included as requested.
8	On page 3, please change Public Involvement Process (PIP) to Public Participation Process (PPP). (Kirk Fauver-FHWA)	The language was revised as requested.

Vanessa Guerra

From: Kirk.Fauver@dot.gov
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Angelica Quijano
Cc: Vanessa Guerra; Nathan R. Bratton; raymond.sanchez@txdot.gov; Sara.Garza@txdot.gov; Michael.Leary@dot.gov; Jose.Campos@dot.gov; Tom.Bruechert@dot.gov
Subject: RE: Draft MPO Primer

Angelica/Vanessa;

Thanks for the opportunity to review the draft MPO primer again, I would suggest the following:

1. On page 3, please change public involvement process (PIP) to Public Participation Process (PPP);
2. During the MTP discussion, please disclose the need to have a 25-year financial summary for Management & Operations (M&O) for both highway and transit modes;
3. Please include some discussion of the MAP-21 performance-based planning and programming requirements within this brochure to make it current, just listing the performance measures from the Act would be sufficient;
4. There is no clear discussion of what a title 23 USC law is, versus a CFR regulation, versus a policy or guidance.

Regards,

Kirk D. Fauver
Environmental Coordinator-Urban Transportation Planner
FHWA Texas Division

PH: (512) 536-5952
FAX: (512) 536-5990
e-mail: kirk.fauver@dot.gov

From: Angelica Quijano [mailto:aquijano@ci.laredo.tx.us]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:43 AM
To: Fauver, Kirk (FHWA)
Cc: Vanessa Guerra; Nathan R. Bratton
Subject: Draft MPO Primer

Hello Mr. Fauver,

Attached please find draft MPO Primer with comments received. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact our offices. Thank you.

Angie Quijano
City of Laredo Planning Dept.

Vanessa Guerra

From: Sara Garza <Sara.Garza@txdot.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 2:04 PM
To: Vanessa Guerra; Nathan R. Bratton
Cc: Raymond Sanchez Jr
Subject: RE: MPO PRIMER - 7-24-15 - DRAFT.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

Good information! In your table of contents you should add the MPO Funding Categories that are allocated to the MPO as a result of their new TMA status. For example Cat 7, & 9. As described in your financial plan of the MTP , you may want to include the definitions of the new categories. Thanks

---

From: Vanessa Guerra [mailto:vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 4:32 PM
To: Ana Duncan; Andres Castaneda; Arturo Dominguez; Carlos Rodriguez; Claudia San Miguel; Danny Magee; Eduardo Alvarez; Eloy Sanchez; Esteban Rangel; Jose L. Flores; Jose Santos; Juan E. Rodriguez; Kirk Fauver (E-mail); Luis Perez Garcia; Mario Maldonado; Marissa Montoya; Martha Palacios; Michael Barron (mbarron@uisd.net); Nathan R. Bratton; Rafael Vidaurri (rvidaurri@webbcountytx.gov); Randy Aguilar; Rhonda Tiffin (rhonda@webbcountytx.gov); Robert F. Peña; Robert Martinez; Roberto Murillo; Roberto Rodriguez III; Rogelio Rivera; Rosie C. Silva; Sara Garza
Cc: Nathan R. Bratton; Robert F. Peña; Roberto Murillo; Gloria M. Landin
Subject: MPO PRIMER - 7-24-15 - DRAFT.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

Good afternoon Technical Committee Members,

For anyone who was unable to attend the last meeting of the Technical Committee, attached for your review and comment is the Draft Laredo MPO Primer. The document is intended as quick reference material on the MPO and its activities. Please review the document and send your comments by July 31st, 2015. Thank you.

Vanessa Guerra
Planner III : City of Laredo Planning Department : Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization : 1120 San Bernardo Ave. : P.O. Box 579 : Laredo Texas 78042-579 : Main: 956-794-1613 : Dir.: 956-794-1604 : Fax: 956-794-1624 : vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us

Vanessa Guerra

From: Kirk.Fauver@dot.gov
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2015 11:24 AM
To: Vanessa Guerra
Cc: raymond.sanchez@txdot.gov; Sara.Garza@txdot.gov; Michael.Leary@dot.gov; Jose.Campos@dot.gov; Nathan R. Bratton
Subject: Laredo MPO Primer- FHWA Comments (07-27-15)

Vanessa;

For the draft Laredo MPO Primer, there are actually three possible certification findings associated with the joint TMA Certification Review process. The first three overall TMA Certification findings are that the metropolitan planning process either: (1) meets federal-aid requirements, (2) substantially meets federal-aid requirements (may be subject to a few corrective actions being taken), or (3) does not meet federal-aid requirements (may be conditionally certified until several corrective action findings are remedied by TMA).

If a corrective action is identified by the joint FTA/FHWA Review Team as part of the review process, then a specific time period for remediation of the corrective action by the TMA is established upon completion of the review. If not certified, 20 percent of the TMA apportionment attributed to the metropolitan planning area (highway and transit) may be withheld by FHWA and FTA [per 23 CFR 450.334(b)(2)].

Regards,

Kirk D. Fauver
Environmental Coordinator-Urban Transportation Planner
FHWA Texas Division

PH: (512) 536-5952
FAX: (512) 536-5990
e-mail: kirk.fauver@dot.gov

Vanessa Guerra

From: Kirk.Fauver@dot.gov
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Vanessa Guerra
Subject: RE: MPO PRIMER - 7-24-15 - DRAFT.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

Vanessa;

-the acronym for FHWA is missing from page no. 10; -the use of public involvement plans have now change to PPPs (public participation plans); -the use of CMS (congestion management systems) has been updated to CMP (congestion management process); -their are other potential recommendations that may arise from FTA/FHWA TMA Certification Reviews (I will send you some additional examples).

Thanks,

Kirk F>

From: Vanessa Guerra [vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2015 5:32 PM
To: Ana Duncan; Andres Castaneda; Arturo Dominguez; Carlos Rodriguez (carlos.g.rodriguez@txdot.gov); Claudia San Miguel; Danny Magee; Eduardo Alvarez; Eloy Sanchez; Esteban Rangel; Jose L. Flores; Jose Santos; Juan E. Rodriguez; Fauver, Kirk (FHWA); Luis Perez Garcia; Mario Maldonado; Marissa Montoya; Martha Palacios; Michael Barron (mbarron@uisd.net); Nathan R. Bratton; Rafael Vidaurri (rvidaurri@webbcountytx.gov); Randy Aguilar; Rhonda Tiffin (rhonda@webbcountytx.gov); Robert F. Peña; Robert Martinez; Roberto Murillo; Roberto Rodriguez; Rogelio Rivera; Rosie C. Silva; sara garza
Cc: Nathan R. Bratton; Robert F. Peña; Roberto Murillo; Gloria M. Landin
Subject: MPO PRIMER - 7-24-15 - DRAFT.pdf - Adobe Acrobat Professional

Good afternoon Technical Committee Members,

For anyone who was unable to attend the last meeting of the Technical Committee, attached for your review and comment is the Draft Laredo MPO Primer. The document is intended as quick reference material on the MPO and its activities. Please review the document and send your comments by July 31st, 2015. Thank you.

Vanessa Guerra
Planner III : City of Laredo Planning Department : Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization : 1120 San Bernardo Ave. : P.O. Box 579 : Laredo Texas 78042-579 : Main: 956-794-1613 : Dir.: 956-794-1604 : Fax: 956-794-1624 : vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us

MPO PRIMER

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE MPO

DRAFT

JANUARY 2015

LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
metropolitan planning organization

Table of Contents

Evolution of Transportation Planning and the MPO

- Invention of Automobile in 1893.
- Automobile venturing out of cities in 1904.
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1925: Adopted the US Numbered Highway System.
- Completed the construction of two-lane roads connecting major population centers by early 1930's.
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1934: Funds created for survey, engineering and economic analysis of future highway construction.
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944: Created Federal-Aid Primary and Federal-Aid Secondary Systems of Highways. Formula allocation of funds (area, population, postal route miles).
- Highway Revenue Act of 1956: Created Highway Trust Fund
- Housing Act of 1961: The act permitted federal aid to facilitate comprehensive planning for urban development, including ***coordinated transportation systems on continuing basis.***
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962: First act to mandate urban transportation planning as a condition of receiving federal funds in urbanized areas. Required that approval of any federal-aid highway project in an urbanized area of 50,000 or more in population be based on a ***continuing, comprehensive urban transportation planning process carried out cooperatively by state and local governments*** (3C Planning Process).
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973. Established MPO's responsible for comprehensive transportation planning in urban areas. Increased the role of local officials in the selection of urban highway projects and broadened the scope of transportation planning.

Designation of the MPO

A Metropolitan Planning Organization shall be designated for each urbanized area of more than 50,000 population by ***agreement among the Governor*** *and* ***units of general purpose local government*** which together represent at least 75 percent of the affected population or in accordance with procedures established by applicable State and local law (23 U.S.C. 134 (d)).

Transportation Management Area (TMA) MPO

A Transportation Management Area (TMA) MPO is an MPO for an urbanized area with a population of over 200,000 (as determined by the latest decennial census) or other areas when TMA designation is requested by the Governor and the MPO (or affected local officials), and officially designated by the Administrators of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The TMA designation applies to entire metropolitan area (23 CFR 450.104 and 23 CFR 450.306 I).

Funding Categories

The following statewide funding categories are selected and ranked by TMA MPOs in consultation with TxDOT:

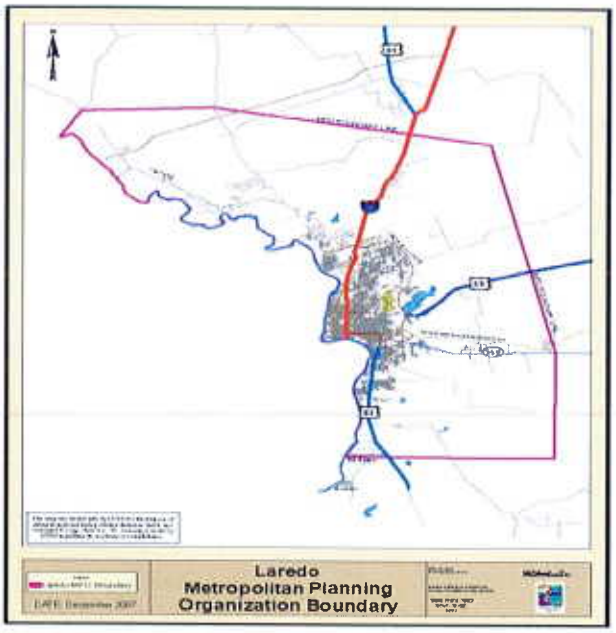
Category 2 – Metropolitan and Urban Corridor Projects – Mobility and added capacity projects along a corridor that improve transportation facilities in order to decrease travel time and level or duration of traffic congestion and to increase the safe and efficient movement of people and freight in metro and urban areas.

Category 7-Metropolitan Mobility/Rehabilitation -Addresses transportation needs within the metropolitan area boundaries of Metropolitan Planning Organizations having urbanized areas with populations of 200,000 or greater.

Category 9-Transportation Enhancements and Transportation Alternatives-Addresses projects that are above and beyond what could normally be expected in the way of enhancements to the transportation system, including the cultural, historic, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure.

Boundary of the MPO

The metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundary shall, as a minimum, cover the ***urbanized areas and the contiguous geographic area likely to become urbanized within the twenty-year forecast period*** covered by the metropolitan transportation plan. (23 CFR 450.312 (a)).



Who is the MPO

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) refers to the policy board of an organization created and designated to carry out the metropolitan planning process (23 CFR 450.104). The voting members of an MPO policy body must include ***representation of local elected official, officials of agencies that administer or operate major modes or systems of transportation, and appropriate state officials*** (23 CFR 450.310 (d)).

~~Public Involvement Process~~

Public Participation Plan

The Metropolitan Planning Process shall include a proactive public involvement process for early and continued involvement of the public in developing plans and TIPs (23 CFR 450.316.)

Agreements

- The MPO, the State(s), and the public transportation operator(s) shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process.

- These responsibilities shall be clearly identified in written agreements among the MPO, the State(s), and the public transportation operator(s) serving the MPA. To the extent possible, a single agreement between all responsible parties should be developed. (23 CFR 450.314 (a)).

- The written agreement(s) shall include specific provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to the development of financial plans that support the metropolitan transportation plan (see § 450.322) and the metropolitan TIP (see § 450.324) and development of the annual listing of obligated projects (see § 450.332).

Role of the MPO

As stipulated in 23 CFR 450.300 (a), the Metropolitan Planning Organization, in ***cooperation with the State and local transit service operators,*** shall be responsible for carrying of the ***Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process*** which involves:

- Considering and reflecting the MPO Planning Factors (Map-21) or Planning Areas (SAFETEA-LU). (See Appendix A for a listing of these Factors or Areas)

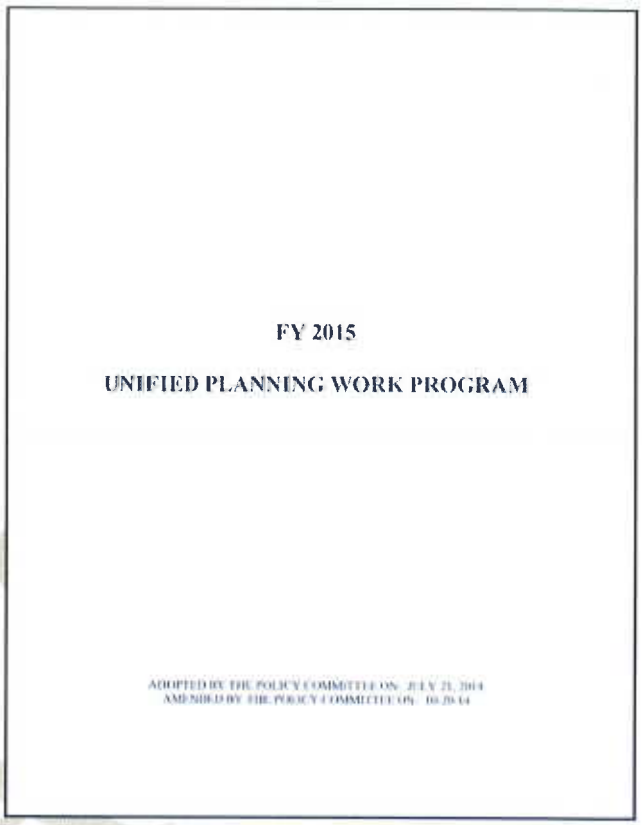
- Having a proactive Public Participation Plan (PPP).

The MPO in conjunction with the State and local transit should cooperatively develop:

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
- Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

According to 23 CFR 450.308 (c), in TMA's, the MPO in cooperation with the State and operators of publicly owned transit shall develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that:


FY 2015

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

- ***Discusses the planning priorities*** facing the metropolitan area.
- Describes all metropolitan transportation and transportation related ***air quality planning activities.***
- ***Documents planning activities*** to be performed with both the Federal Highway Administration planning **(PL Funds)** and the Federal Transit Administration funds **(Section 5303)** planning funds.
- The Unified Planning Work Program, approved by the MPO, contains:
    - Annual or biannual budget of the MPO.
    - Essential tasks to maintain certification.
    - Various planning studies with their objectives, the expected product, and relationship of the study to the transportation planning process.
    - Participating agencies' responsibilities for carrying out each study.

The Unified Planning Work Program, as the name suggests, is a planning document and does not contain any <u>transportation improvement projects.</u>

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Metropolitan Planning Organization, in cooperation with the State and affected transit operators, shall:

- ***Develop*** a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- ***Update*** the TIP at least ***every two years.***
- Provide reasonable opportunity for ***public participation***.
- Develop a TIP to cover a period of not less than ***three years***, but may cover a longer period.
- Develop a TIP that is ***financially constrained***.
- Include only projects for which ***construction and operation funds can reasonably be expected.***
- Include the ***projects that are consistent with Metropolitan Transportation Plan.***
- Include ***all regionally significant transportation projects for which the FHWA or the FTA approval is required*** whether or not the projects are funded with federal funds.

LAREDO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

FY 2015-2018

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM
(TIP)

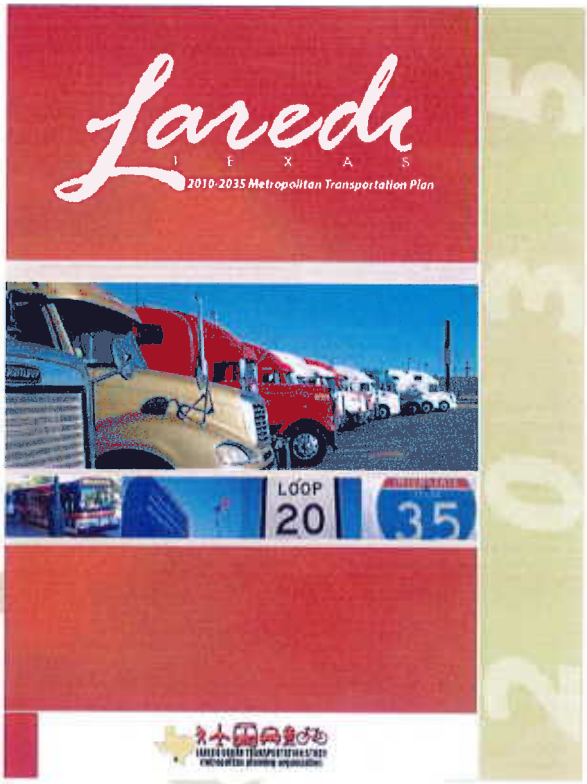
Public Meeting Date(s): March 17, 2014, April 21, 2014

Approved by Policy Committee: April 21, 2014

Amended on:

- Include in the TIP, the criteria and process for ***prioritizing*** implementation.
- ***Approve*** the TIP and any amendments to it.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)



The Metropolitan Planning Organization shall prepare, and update periodically, a long-range plan (a ***Metropolitan Transportation Plan***) for its metropolitan area (23 U.S.C. 322 (f)). This plan shall, at a minimum:

- ***Identify transportation facilities***: major roadways, transit, multimodal, and intermodal, facilities that should function as an integrated system.
- ***Identify pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities*** in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 217 (g).
- Emphasize ***facilities of national and regional importance.***
- ***Consider planning elements or areas, or factors*** in formulating a 20 year plan.
- Consider the area's ***comprehensive land use plan, housing goals, linking low income households with employment opportunities, and the area's social, economic, environmental and energy conservation goals and objectives.***
- Consider the results of the Congestion Management Process in TMA's.
- Include a ***financial plan*** to implement the MTP listing ***public and private resources*** including value capture, tolls and congestion pricing.
- Assess capital investment and other measures necessary to ***ensure the preservation of existing transportation system*** and make the most efficient use of the existing transportation system to ***relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the mobility of people and goods.***
- Indicate proposed ***transportation enhancement activities.***
- ***Coordinate with clean air act agencies*** in metropolitan areas that in non-attainment for zone and carbon monoxide.
- Ensure ***participation by interested parties.***
- Include all transportation improvement projects for the next 25 years.

- Include the Short-Range (10 years), Long-Range (10-20 years), and Unfunded Projects (over 20 years).

- Be updated every 5th year.

- Include a financial plan that demonstrates the consistency of proposed transportation investments with already available and projected sources of revenue.

- Include a 25 year financial summary for Management and Operation (M&O) for both transit and highway modes.

- Be approved by the Transportation Policy Committee, including any revisions.

In TMA's, the MPO must comply with the additional requirements applicable to such areas regarding:

- ~~Congestion Management System~~
- Congestion Management Process

- Project Selection Criteria.

- Certification

~~Congestion Management System~~

Congestion Management Process

Transportation Management Area type MPO's are required to: (23 CFR 450.320)

- ***Relieve congestion*** and ***prevent congestion*** from occurring where it does not yet occur including:

- Develop a Congestion Management Process that results in multimodal system performance measures and congestion mitigation strategies that can be reflected in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the TIP.

- Consider congestion management strategies or actions which ***improve the mobility of people and goods*** of transportation.

- Provide for the ***effective management of new and existing transportation facilities*** through the use of ***travel demand reduction and operation management*** strategies shall be developed.

Project Selection Criteria

Procedures or arrangements to distribute federal transportation funds to individual jurisdictions or modes within the metropolitan area by predetermined percentage or formulas which are inconsistent with the pertinent legislative provisions. The law requires MPO's, in cooperation with the State and transit operators, ***to develop a prioritized and financially constrained TIP***, based on considerations required to be addressed as part of the planning process (23 CFR 450.324).

Certification

1. The State and the MPO shall annually certify to the FHWA and the FTA that the Planning Process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

   A. Section 134 of Title 23, U.S.C. (Metropolitan Planning), Section 8 (5303) of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607) and 23 CFR 450.334.
   B. Section 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air (42 U.S.C 7504m 4506 (c) and (d).
   C. Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI assurance executed by each State under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794.
   D. Section 1003 (b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 regarding the involvement of disadvantage business enterprises in the FHWA and the FTA funded planning projects.
   E. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended and U.S. DOT regulations "Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities" (49 CFR 27, 37, and 38).

2. The FHWA and the FTA jointly will review and evaluate the transportation planning process for each TMA (as appropriate but no less that once every four years) to determine if the process meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450.334 (b).

   A. The FHWA and the FTA will certify the MPO: ~~with or without any specified corrective actions and provide opportunities to the MPO to take corrective actions before any sanctions are imposed.~~

   1. Meets federal-aid requirements; or,
   2. Substantially meets federal-aid requirements (may be subject to a few corrective actions being taken); or,.
   3. Does not meet federal-aid requirements (may be conditionally certified until several correction action findings are remedied by TMA).

If a corrective action is identified by the joint FTA/FHWA Review Team as part of the review process, then a specific time period for remediation of the corrective action by the TMA is

established upon completion of the review. If not certified, 20 percent of the TMA apportionment attributed to the Metropolitan Planning Area (highway and transit) may be withheld by FHWA and FTA [per 23 CFR 450.334 (b) (2)].

Appendix A

MPO Planning Factors or Areas

The Transportation Planning Process involves explicit consideration, appropriate analysis, and reflections of the required planning priorities as identified by each transportation reauthorization bill and are listed below include:

SAFETEA-LU (2005) and MAP-21 Planning Factors

1. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
4. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight.
5. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
6. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
7. Promote efficient system management and operation.
8. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

TEA-21 (1998)

1. Support the **economic vitality** of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
2. Increase **safety** and **security** of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
3. Increase the **accessibility** and **mobility options** available to people and for freight.
4. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve quality of life.
5. Enhance the **integration and connectivity** of the transportation system, across and between modes for people and freight.
6. Promote **efficient system management and operation**.
7. Emphasize the **preservation** of existing transportation system.

ISTEA (1991)-16 Planning Elements

1. **Preservation** and efficient use of existing transportation facilities.
2. Consistency of transportation planning with **energy conservation** programs.
3. The need to relieve and prevent congestion.
4. The likely effect of transportation policy on **land use.**
5. Programming expenditure for **transportation enhancement**.
6. The financial and social **effects** of all transportation projects.
7. **Access** to ports, airports, intermodal transportation facilities, major freight distribution routes, and military installations.

8. **Connectivity** of roads within and outside of an MPO area.
9. Use of **management systems** to identify transportation needs.
10. **Preservation of right-of-way** for future transportation corridors.
11. Enhancement of the efficient movement of **freight.**
12. Use of **life cycle costs** for bridges, tunnels, and pavements.
13. The effects of transportation decisions on human environment including **air quality problems.**
14. Increased use of **transit** services.
15. **Security** of transit systems.
16. **Recreational travel and tourism.**

Performance Management

A key feature of MAP-21 is the establishment of a performance- and outcome-based program. The objective of this performance- and outcome-based program is for States to invest resources in projects that collectively will make progress toward the achievement of the national goals.

Map-21 establishes national performance goals for the Federal-aid highway program in seven areas: [§1203; 23 USC 150(b)]

1. **Safety** - To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads
2. **Infrastructure condition** - To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair
3. **Congestion reduction**- To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System
4. **System reliability**- To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system
5. **Freight movement and economic vitality** - To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development
6. **Environmental sustainability** - To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
7. **Reduced project delivery delays**-To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices

Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CSJ	Control Section Job Number, project numbering system used by TxDOT
CTPP	Census Transportation Planning Package
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Federal Environmental Protection Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
ISTEA	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
MAP-21	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act
STP	Surface Transportation Program, block grant program established in ISTEA to improve roads and bridges.
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the transportation act passed in 1998 to provide funds for transportation for 1998-2003 period.
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TMA	Transportation Management Area
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
UPWP	Unified Planning Work Program
U.S.C.	United States Code

Selected Definitions:

USC - The United States Code is a consolidation by subject matter of the general and permanent laws of the United State. It is prepared by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the United States House of Representatives.

CFR- the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) annual edition is the codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the departments and agencies of the Federal Government. It is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. The 50 subject matter titles contain one or more individual volumes, which are updated once each calendar year, on a staggered basis. Each title is divided into chapters, which usually bear the name of the issuing agency. Each chapter is further subdivided into parts that cover specific regulatory areas. Large parts may be subdivided into subparts. All parts are organized in sections, and most citations to the CFR refer to material at the section level.

Policy-a policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol.

A high-level overall plan embracing the general goals and acceptable procedures especially of a governmental body.

Guidance-the term "guidance" is often used to refer to non-legislative rules – that is, interpretations and policy statements. Guidance documents can be generally applicable – that is, they are intended to provide interpretations or policy statements that are applicable to the general public. They can also apply only to a particular party or parties. For example, they may respond to a request from a regulated entity who seeks guidance on how to act under a specific set of facts that the entity provides. Whether generally applicable or only applicable to a particular party, guidance documents are not legally binding on the public.

Discussion with possible action on Mines Road

Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road

Technical Committee Report(s)

1. Presentation by Kansas City Southern (KCS) to introduce the concept of a "Secure Border Railroad Corridor" which will provide an overview of the railroads efforts to eliminate blocked crossings, improve the efficiency of train traffic through the Laredo/Nuevo Laredo Gateway, and support the objectives of customs' authorities on both sides of the border.

2. Presentation by TxDOT on statewide funding categories.

3. Status report by TxDOT on the eligibility of the $600,000 in CBI funds for signal timing improvements.

4. Status report by TxDOT on drainage issues on IH 59 along the Fiesta Loop area.

5. Status report on the RMA.