

# Laredo Webb County Area (LWCA)

## Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Virtual Meeting via Webex



**LIVE WEB LINK:** <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>  
**PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL:** Spectrum TV channel 1300

### MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL AUGUST 17TH, 2020 MEETING

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

Honorable Pete Saenz, City of Laredo Mayor and LWCAMPO Chairperson  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer  
Honorable Norma “Nelly” Vielma, City Councilmember, District V  
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

#### **Regular members not present:**

Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
(Member At Large- Currently Vacant)

#### **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 LWCA Agencies) Present:**

City: J. Kirby Snideman, City Planning/LWCAMPO Staff  
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LWCAMPO Staff  
Jason Hinojosa, City Planning/LWCAMPO Staff  
Juan Mendive, City Planning/LWCAMPO Staff  
Graciela Sosa-Briones, City Planning/LWCAMPO Staff  
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LWCAMPO Staff  
Riazul Mia, City Manager’s Office  
Ramon Chavez, City Engineering Department  
Danny Magee, City Traffic Safety Department

State: Humberto “Tito” Gonzalez, TxDOT  
Roberto Rodríguez, TxDOT

Others: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering  
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering  
Antonio “Tony” Rodríguez, HNTB, Inc.  
Martha Palacios  
Lalo Uribe

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

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL**

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

**III. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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 on 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.

Kirby Snideman, MPO Director, stated no comments had previously been received and suggested to wait for possible comments from the public via telephone call.

There were no citizen’s comments.

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**A. Approval of the minutes for the virtual meeting held on July 20th, 2020.**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**B. A Motion to accept the ranking of firms that submitted proposals in response to the BID INVITATION issued for the development of the MPO Website Redesign Project, approve the selection of SGS Technologie L.L.C., and authorize execution of a contract in the amount of \$13,080.**

Kirby Snideman, briefly presented this item. He stated that the evaluation process was developed in compliance with the procurement requirements and we received a total of eight (8) submittals. He further mentioned a committee was formed by three evaluators which they took into consideration the scope of work as well as the proposed fee, and, recommended SGS Technologie, L.L.C. for the development of the project.

CM. Galo stated he was not totally familiar with the scope of work but, he would support the item and staff recommendation for the selection of company, as presented.

CM. Galo made a motion to **accept** the ranking of firms that submitted proposals in response to the BID INVITATION issued for the development of the MPO Website Redesign Project, **approve** the selection of SGS Technologie L.L.C., and **authorize** execution of a contract in the amount of \$13,080.

Second by Judge Tijerina

For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**C. Discussion with possible action on the repair of IH 35 Del Mar Access Road and underpass surface. (CM. Altgelt).**

Mayor Saenz asked if this item could be tabled as CM. Altgelt was not in attendance.

David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer, stated the objective for the MPO was to approve future funding and/or future projects. This item was considered a maintenance issue and would be addressed as part of the pavement and preservation plan which has already been approved for the District. The project was scheduled for March, 2021.

Danny Magee, City Traffic Safety Department, mentioned TxDOT had already presented the Traffic Control Plan for this project, for their review.

CM. Galo made a motion to **table** this item, time uncertain.

Second by Judge Tijerina

For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**D. Motion to add TxDOT Director of Transportation Planning & Development, Humberto Gonzalez Jr, P.E. into the vacant At-Large position on the MPO Policy Committee. (CM. David Salazar).**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve appointment of Humberto Gonzalez Jr, P.E. into the vacant At-Large position on the MPO Policy Committee

Second by Dr. Marte Martinez

For: 7

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.**

Guillermo Cuellar, Assistant Webb County Engineer provided a brief update. He stated they were currently working on the environmental aspect. They had finished coordination with Texas Parks and Wildlife, and had some traffic noise technical reports currently under TxDOT review.

Mayor Saenz, mentioned Mr. Salazar from TxDOT had approached the city regarding the co-sharing funding sources. He further mentioned that for the Hachar portion, the city had committed \$4.1 Million. However, some financial aspects for the Reuthinger side, were still pending to be resolved.

David Salazar from TxDOT stated that there was no Advance Funding Agreement with the County and unfortunately, the existing Advance Funding Agreement with the city didn't allow to be carry over into future affidavits with the County. He further mentioned there were options available that would like to discuss with Judge Tijerina specifically for the 3-mile section of their portion of the project.

Judge Tijerina stated he agreed and, was willing to meet with Mr. Salazar as it was in their best interest to review the formula to reduce the financial obligation.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated that in regards to the Right-of-Way title issues, he had been in communication with Mr. Nicholas Van Steenberg representing the Hachar Trust and everything looked on track. He further mentioned there were plans to have a discussion with their attorney for final edits to the document.

Mayor Saenz asked Mr. Chavez to prepare a status report for the next meeting.

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

**A. Status report by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)**

Tony Rodriguez, HNTB Inc., gave a brief report on the status of the projects led by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

Regarding the Killam Industrial Boulevard Turning Lane project, the Plans, Specification and Estimates (PS&E) were at 100% completion, comments were received from the Laredo District and planned to be addressed the following week to stay on track for the November letting.

In regards to the Utilities, they were on track for clearance by August, 2020, with the exception of the gas line which would probably take until September, 2020.

The Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills) project was being developed in coordination with the City of Laredo and Webb County Drainage District (WCDD). The plans received were at 95%, and planned to be submitted for letting in September, 2020. Construction is anticipated to commence early 2021.

In regards to the Vallecillo Road project, the geotechnical studies were being completed and planned to begin the traffic studies by the end of August, 2020.

The Springfield Rd. project, they were in the process of developing a draft of interlocal agreement to be presented to the City for co-sharing funding participation.

Next Board meeting would be scheduled for September, 2020.

Mayor Saenz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting if there were no additional questions or further business to be discussed.

**A. ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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J. Kirby Snideman  
MPO Director

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Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCAMPO  
Chairperson