

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 MEETING

### **Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
Honorable Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator  
David Salazar, TxDOT District Engineer (joined the meeting at 1:48 p.m.)

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

Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI  
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII  
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

### **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: Cynthia Collazo, City Manager's Office  
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro  
Robert Eads, City of Laredo Traffic Safety  
Robert Peña, City of Laredo Traffic Safety  
Mario Maldonado, Airport

State: Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Mike Graham, TxDOT  
Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Danny Magee, TxDOT  
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering  
Others: Julia Wallace, Laredo Morning Times  
Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff  
(HNTB, Inc.)  
Victoria Dominguez, City of Laredo Real Estate  
Ricardo Ramos, Arcadis

**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 Coordinator called roll and verified a quorum existed.

**III. CITIZEN COMMENT**

**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 comment in 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.**

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on August 20, 2018.**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2018.

Second: CM. Galo  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**B. Discussion with possible action on the River Road Project.**

Mayor Saenz stated he had reached out to Mr. Albert Muller but has not been successful. He stated CM. Altgelt will be reaching out to his son Albert Jr.

CM. Altgelt stated there was a section owned by Muller Development that needed to be dedicated in order to move forward with the River Road Project. He stated said project was an alternate route to hopefully help alleviate traffic in the Mines Road area.

Mayor Saenz stated the proposed meeting with Mr. Muller should include the City Manager.

CM. Altgelt made a motion requesting TxDOT give a presentation to the MPO Committee on funding availability for FM 1472 relief route. The presentation should include a road map for the implementation of the project, including Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition.

Second: Judge Tijerina

CM. Salazar joined the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Tony Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated the RMA was currently reviewing the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) for the proposed Transportation Planning Study.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the AFA was anticipated to be ready for execution in early October.

CM. Altgelt withdrew his motion.

Judge Tijerina withdrew his second.

CM. Galo made a motion to **move up** item V-C.

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 5

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

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

Tony Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated that the RMA would soon be considering the approval of the Los Presidentes Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E), which was approved for funding by City Council.

He stated the RMA was also reviewing the drafts of the local agreements for the Killam Industrial Turn Lane Project and the Vallecillo Road Pass Through Financing project. He



also stated the RMA would be meeting with Killam in the next week or so to finalize their commitment to the project.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the RMA would like to present to City Council on the Loop 20 South Transportation Reinvestment Zone during the meeting of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mario Maldonado, Airport Director, stated negotiations were ongoing with an engineering company for the proposed Port Study. He stated the item may move forward for City Council approval in October.

He stated the study would include all international bridge crossings, traffic studies, revenue studies, and infrastructure improvements for the port.

**C. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.**

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineer, stated TxDOT had asked the County for additional information regarding project management on the Reuthinger portion of the project. He stated the County was preparing a letter to TxDOT assigning a project manager.

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

**A. Presentation and discussion on the benefits of transferring the US 59 overpass funds to the frontage roads. TxDOT is proposing to transfer \$96.93 Million from the construction of US 59 Interchanges at Del Mar Blvd, Shiloh Dr., International Airport, Jacaman Rd, and University Blvd (CSJs: 0086-14-075,076,077,078,and 079) to the construction of US 59 Frontage Roads between US 59 and International Blvd (CSJs: 0086-14-086,087,088,and 089).**

CSJ	Description	Limits	Cons Cost (Mill)	Funding		
				Category 2 (Mill)	Category 12 (Mill)	CBI (Mill)
0086-14-075	Construction of Interchange	US 59/ Del Mar	\$ 24.10	\$ 24.10		
0086-14-076	Construction of Interchange	US 59/ Shiloh	\$ 21.50	\$ 21.50		
0086-14-077	Construction of Interchange	US 59/ Airport	\$ 14.79	\$ 12.36		\$ 2.43
0086-14-078	Construction of Interchange	US 59/ Jacaman	\$ 19.69	\$ 2.69	\$ 17.00	
0086-14-079	Construction of Interchange	US 59/ University Blvd	\$ 16.85	\$ 16.85		
			\$	\$	\$	\$
			Total 96.93	77.50	17.00	2.43

Roberto Rodriguez, Mike Graham, and Ana Duncan gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mike Graham, TxDOT stated the development of the environmental document was in progress and was awaiting 6F clearance.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT had received a proposed schematic from the County and was being updated by TxDOT consultants. He also stated the PS&E was under development and the ROW mapping was in progress, pending the environmental clearance and updated survey. Mr. Rodriguez stated the benefits of building the frontage roads prior to building the overpass included:

- Limited access to properties/business
- Additional construction cost-construction performed to connect interchanges will be demolish for next phase
- Traffic Control Plan 3

Mayor Saenz requested to revisit the item and develop cost estimates.

Mrs. Montemayor, TxDOT, stated they would revisit the item at the November meeting.

**B. Status report by TxDOT on the Outer Loop Alignment Study.**

The status report was given earlier during the meeting.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

CM. Galo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:41 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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Vanessa Guerra,  
Interim MPO Director

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Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS  
Chairperson