

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2016 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, called roll and verified that a quorum did exist.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to excuse members not present.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4 (joined the meeting at 12:10 p.m.)
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 12:10 p.m.)
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Regular members absent:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:

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

State: Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Albert Ramirez, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT

County: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff
(HNTB, Inc.)
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering
Will Holik, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)
Edgar Kraus, TTI
Jing Li, TTI
Juan Sanchez, Office of Henry Cuellar

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

There was nothing to report from either the Committee or the Director.

IV. 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.

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on September 19, 2016.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting held on September 19, 2016.

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

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-11 adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Mobility:

1. **Addition of project CSJ 0086-14-910 for the development of the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) for the construction of the Jacaman Road and Airport overpasses, from US 59 to Jacaman Road, to be funded with \$4,641,030 in Coordinated Border Infrastructure Funds (CBI). Letting date is December 2016 (FY 2017).**
2. **Addition of a *grouped* project CSJ 0086-14-920 for the acquisition of Right-of-Way on Loop 20, from US 59 to the Airport Overpass, to be funded with \$4,806,663 in CBI funds. Letting date is FY 2017.**
3. **Addition of project CSJ 0086-14-077 for the construction of the Airport Overpass. The estimated project construction cost is \$14,785,990 and will be funded with \$2,430,000 in 2017 Proposition 1 funds and \$12,355,991 in Proposition 1 planning funds. Letting date is September 2017 (FY 2018).**
4. **Addition of project CSJ 0086-14-078 for the construction of the Jacaman Overpass. The estimated project construction cost is \$19,691,424 and will be funded with \$19,691,424 in 2020 in Proposition 1 planning funds as listed in the planning targets table released by TxDOT as part of the latest UTP update. Letting date is September 2019 (FY 2020).**
5. **Revision of project CSJ 0086-14-065 intended to construct an interchange facility over IH 35, from 0.330 miles west of IH 35 to 0.160 miles west of McPherson Road, with an estimated project cost of \$39.1 million dollars. \$1.0 million has been moved to CSJ 0086-14-081 to fund the addition of ITS to the project as requested by the TxDOT, Laredo District. Letting date is fiscal year (FY) 2017. Purpose of the revision is to reduce funding amounts per the latest construction estimate from \$38.1 million, to \$25,564,945, a reduction of**

\$12,535,055. Any cost overrun where the estimated federal cost exceeds 50% and results in a revised total cost exceeding \$1,499,999 will require a TIP revision.

- 6. Revision of project CSJ 0922-33-076 intended to realign Flecha Lane and Las Cruces along FM 1472. Purpose of revision is to move letting date from FY 2017 to FY 2018.**

Transit:

- 7. Addition of project intended to provide for the construction of Phase I of El Metro Bus Operations, Administration, and Maintenance Facility to be located at 1801 Jacaman Road. The estimated project construction cost is \$25,710,324 which includes \$9,875,083 from FTA and \$15,835,244 in local match. Letting date is estimated in Spring of 2017.**

Cm. Algelt asked what was the actual cost for the proposed interstate facility over IH 35.

Mr. Bratton stated the estimated total cost was \$25,564,945. He stated the available funding was being reduced and the balance was being re-allocated to the Airport and Jacaman Overpass Projects. Letting date for the interstate facility over IH 35 is January 2017.

Cm. Algelt enquired as to the status of the Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition necessary for the Flecha Lane/Las Cruces project.

Mr. Bratton stated the ROW acquisition for the Flecha Lane/Las Cruces project had entered the imminent domain process.

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

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

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Canales and Cm. San Miguel joined the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Cm. Altgelt requested El Metro present at the next Policy Committee meeting data supporting the Jacaman location as the best location for the proposed construction of El Metro Bus, Operations, Administration and Maintenance Facility.

Mr. Bratton stated he would have someone from Transit, El Metro be present at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-11, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2017-2020 TIP subject to a ten-day public review and comment period for item #7.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-12, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which are as follows:

1. Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary and Table 12-11, 12-12, 12-15, and 12-17, entitled Category 2, 7, 10 and 12 Roadway Projects, to reflect the following revisions:

- a. **Revision of project CSJ 0086-14-065 intended to construct an interchange facility over IH 35, from 0.330 miles west of IH 35 to 0.160 miles west of McPherson Road, with an estimated project cost of \$39.1 million dollars. \$1.0 million has been moved to a separate CSJ to fund the addition of ITS to the project as request by the TxDOT Laredo District. Letting date is fiscal year (FY) 2017. Purpose of the revision is to reduce funding amounts per the latest construction estimate from \$38.1 million, to \$25,564,945, a reduction of \$12,535,055. TxDOT Laredo District will return to the Policy Committee for action if an overrun occurs during bidding.**

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

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-12, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 MTP.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina and Cm. Galo left the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

D. Discussion with possible action to determine level of funding and authorize a Call for Projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Mr. Bratton stated the TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. He stated general types of projects eligible under TAP for Laredo MPO planning area include: on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, improved safety and access to schools, and boulevards and similar multi-modal roadways. The Laredo Metropolitan Planning Area includes the entire City of Laredo, and portions of Webb County. He stated project selection procedures entail an issuance of a call for projects, project submittal; project evaluation based on the selection criteria, and finally selection.

Approximately \$717,903 in TAP funds are anticipated to be available in the Laredo Metropolitan Area (for fiscal years 2015/2016/2017).

Cm. Altgelt made a motion to **approve** the item subject to utilizing the full amount \$717,903 in TAP funds and authorizing the Call for Projects.

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

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer, stated TxDOT submitted letters to the City Manager regarding the next steps on the execution of the Advance Funding Agreement for Hachar.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated Dannenbaum Engineering was also pending a Risk Assessment from TxDOT. He stated everything is going smoothly and the project is moving forward expeditiously.

F. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

1. Presentation by TxDOT on the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) Mines Road Corridor Study, Phase 3 recommendations.

Will Holik, TTI, gave a brief presentation on Phase 3 recommendations of the Mines Road Corridor Study.

Will Holik, TTI, gave a brief presentation on the Mines Road Phase 3, Study-Long Term Strategy, recommendations which were as follows:

New/Expanded Roadways

- Sara Road
 - Extend north as new developments are built
 - Realign southern end to tie into Loop 20/IH 69W frontage road
 - Upgrade traffic control
- River Bank Drive
 - Extend south of Loop 20/IH 69W
 - Extend FM 3464
 - Add lanes south of Mescalero Drive
- A F Muller Boulevard
 - Extend Aquero Boulevard
 - Increase commuter vehicle connectivity to La Bota Ranch and maintain access control
 - Remove possibility for alternate truck route
- United Avenue
 - Could connect to existing overpass on IH-35
 - Allow for expansion of existing Business Park in the area
- FM 1472
 - Increase number of through lanes
 - Convert to expressway by adding overpasses and reducing access
 - Convert to standard freeway with frontage roads and interchanges
 - Improvements require additional right-of-way
 - Limits of expansion may vary over time
- IH-35
 - Expand to 3 lanes north of Uniroyal to planned Hachar interchange

New/Expanded Interchanges

- Killam Industrial Boulevard
 - Realign east end to connect with IH 35 overpass Verde, Carriers, and Uniroyal Drives
 - Align Verde with Carriers
 - Reconfigure interchanges to reduce congestion from weaving
 - Grade separation at Uniroyal and Union Pacific railyard
- Verde, Carriers, and Uniroyal Drives
 - Shift focus from isolated interchanges to clustered interchange

- Verde, Carriers, and Uniroyal Drives
 - Focus on mobility and operations of entire area as growth occurs

Traffic Management Strategies

- Intelligent Transportation System Technologies
 - Network-wide congestion and incident monitoring and dissemination
 - Railroad crossing blockage notification
- Connected Vehicle Technologies
 - Monitor vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to vehicle
 - Infrastructure technologies to improve incident and congestion response

2. Status report on cost estimates on all Mines Road projects both currently programmed and those considered for future implementation.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated he passed out a copy of the general breakdown on the cost estimates on all Mines Road projects both currently and those considered for future implementation.

3. Status report by TxDOT on incorporation of the World Trade Bridge expansion data into the Mines Road Corridor Study.

Cm. Canales left the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

G. Presentation, discussion and possible action on FASTLANE Grant and other grant opportunities. (Juan Sanchez, Legislative Fellow, Office of U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar).

Juan Sanchez, Office of the U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar, gave a brief presentation on FASTLANE Grant. He provided the Policy Committee with the project selection process for FASTLANE which was broken down into 3 tiers. He also stated the projects are reviewed by 3 teams which are an economic analysis team, a project readiness team, and a senior review team. He stated that Laredo's application was well received and advanced to Tier 3 level, however was ultimately not selected for funding. Mr. Sanchez related a number of recommendations meant to ensure a more successful grant application. Grant application improvement recommendations included: submitting projects category over \$100 million dollar, project must be cost effective, contribute to one of the national freight goals outlined in 23 USC 150, and have national, regional benefits.

H. Discussion and possible action on priority projects for the Laredo MPO.

Due to time constraints, the Policy Committee deferred discussion of the item till their next meeting.

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

A. Status report on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.

The discussion of this item was also deferred till the next Policy Committee meeting.

B. Status report on the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc., stated the Environmental Assessment for the Vallecillo Road project was on going and the RMA anticipates completion of the environmental document by next summer.

He also stated the RMA was in the process of organizing an industry review workshop for Loop 20 pre-request for qualifications for design/build for Loop 20. City Council, Webb County and various developers and contractors will be invited. The workshop is intended to discuss the status of project and possible timeline for design/build.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Algelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by: Angie Quijano
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