

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2015 MEETING

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

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

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

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, 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  
Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3 (joined the meeting at 12:09 p.m.)  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4  
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

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

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI

#### **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  
Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety Department  
Robert Peña, Traffic Safety Department

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT

Albert Ramirez, TxDOT  
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering  
Enrique Valdez, LNV, Inc.  
Edward Kraus, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)  
Jing Li, TTI  
Will Holik, TTI  
Enrique Valdez, Leyendecker, Naiser & Viera (LNV, Inc.)  
Richard Ridings, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff (HNTB, Inc.)  
Riazul Mia, City of Laredo Utilities

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

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, informed the members present that the Texas Transportation Commission had issued a minute order regarding Economically Disadvantaged Counties (EDC) Program. He stated the minute order was issued based on the prevailing economic conditions in Webb County reported to TxDOT by the Comptroller. In the past, counties that are considered EDC, receive a certain percentage discount rate for the local government's participation in future TxDOT projects where federal funding is received. On a typical project, a twenty percent local match would be expected of the local government and, which, if qualifying as an EDC, a certain percentage of that 20 percent would be reduced. A county not qualifying for the EDC program would entail the local government being responsible for the entire 20 percent. The City and the County must now properly budget for those additional costs for future projects.

Cm. Galo joined the meeting at this point during the proceedings. (12:09 p.m.)

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the EDC program pertains to Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds that are eighty percent federally funded and twenty percent locally funded.

Cm. Vela asked how TxDOT gathered the information for the County to be removed from the EDC program list.

Ms. Montemayor stated an analysis was done based on the workforce of Laredo and the unemployment rate where a formula was applied based on the data gathered. The analysis is performed on a yearly basis. She also stated that if a project is on the State system, and to be funded with CBI funding, the twenty percent local match is the responsibility of the State. If a project is an off system project, and CBI funds are to be employed, the twenty percent local match is the responsibility of the local government.

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

#### **A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on September 21, 2015.**

Cm. Vela made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held on September 21, 2015.

Second: Cm. Canales  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-10 adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which include the following:**

1. ***Addition*** of project CSJ 0922-33-925, phase 1, intended to provide the preliminary engineering for the construction of a 5 lane rural roadway, from FM 1472 to 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway, estimated cost of schematic and environmental document is \$1,016,063; and,
2. ***Addition*** of project CSJ 0922-33-925, phase 2, intended to provide for the construction of a 5 lane rural roadway from FM 1472 to 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway, estimated cost of construction is \$20,890,841.
3. ***Amendment*** of the Grouped Statewide Projects definition chart by revising the Transit Improvements and Programs definition to include the following italicized language:
  - a. ***Transit Improvement and Programs- Projects include the construction and improvement of small passenger shelters and information kiosks. Also includes the construction and improvement of rail storage/maintenance facilities bus transfer facilities where minor amounts of additional land are required and there is not a substantial increase in the number of users. Also includes transit operating assistance, acquisition of third-party transit services, and transit marketing, and mobility management / coordination.***

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

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

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed revision of the TIP.

Cm. Galo made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-10 adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7

Against: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Motion carried unanimously

**C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-11 adopting the proposed 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTP), which include:**

- 1. Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary and Table 12-11, entitled Roadway projects, and Figure 12-1, entitled Federally fund Roadway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects, by:**
  - a. adding project CSJ 0922-33-925, phase 1, intended to provide for the preliminary engineering of a 5 lane rural roadway, from FM 1472 to 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway, with an estimated cost for schematic and environmental document of \$1,016,063; and,**
  - b. adding project CSJ 0922-33-925, phase 2, intended to provide for the construction of a 5 lane rural roadway, from FM 1472 to 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway, with an estimated cost of construction of \$20,890,841; and,**
  - c. adding project CSJ 0922-33-950 intended to provide the construction of 5 lane rural roadway, from 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway to IH-35 with an with an estimated total project cost of \$ 24,544,444 with an estimated 2025 year of expenditure cost of \$25,193,851; and,**
- 2. Amending Table 12-22, entitled Illustrative Projects by revising project No. 7, described as Green Ranch Parkway, intended to provide for the engineering and construction of a 2 lane that the project will now be identified as Hachar Parkway and will provide for the engineering and construction of a 10 lane freeway (mainlanes and ramps), from FM 1472 to IH-35, with an estimated 2036 year of expenditure cost of \$90,673,786.**
- 3. Amending Table 12-8, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Operations and Maintenance Costs by revising the projected revenue and cost estimates per the latest projections.**

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

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed revision for the MTP.

Cm. Galo made a motion to close the public hearing and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-11 adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTP).

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**D. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2015-12 adopting the proposed Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Project Selection Procedures.**

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

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Bratton stated the TAP provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives.

Cm. Vela made a motion to close the public hearing and adopt Resolution No. MPO 2015-12 adopting the proposed TAP Project Selection Procedures subject to revising the maximum federal funding award per project to \$1.25 million per project and pending review to determine whether all the local match requirements could be amended to 0-20 %.

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

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated Dannenbaum Engineering is moving forward with the development of the environmental and schematic documents for the section of Hachar Road from FM 1472 to Beltway Parkway. He stated it may be 12 months to 18 months till the start construction.

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

**1. Presentation by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) on the Mines Road Study and any possible action related thereto.**

Edward Kraus and Jing Li, TTI, gave a brief presentation on the Mines Road Study.

Mr. Kraus stated TTI conducted a medium-range analysis on Mines Road. He stated that examples of medium-range strategies included:

- Add through, left or right turn lanes that require no new pavement
- Additional truck U-turns within the existing right-of-way

- Additional acceleration and deceleration lanes for right-turn movements
- Consolidate and/or redesign driveways

Mr. Kraus stated the analysis included simulation experiments to test and evaluate medium-range strategies, implement strategies on top of recommended short-term strategies, and focus on corridor mobility rather than performance of each individual intersection. Travel time monitoring for morning and afternoon peaks were performed and these stimulation scenarios were presented to the Policy Board.

Conclusions and recommendations were as follows:

- Add third northbound lane between Killam and Interamerica, taper after Muller
- Improve Killam intersection
- Add third southbound lane between Muller and Interamerica Blvd.
- Provide dual eastbound to southbound right turn lanes at Interamerica Blvd.
- Optimize signal timing and phasing at all intersections with changes
- Review left-turn bay lengths based on TxDOT Roadway Design Manual at the following locations:
  - Trade Center, extend NB to WB left-turn bay to 975 ft (including storage, deceleration, and taper length)
  - Pan America, extend NB to WB left-turn bay to 1133ft (including storage, deceleration, and taper length)

Cm. Vela left the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Mr. Kraus stated upcoming efforts include the long-range strategies analysis. The anticipated completion of the remaining study work tasks is December 2015.

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

### **A. Status report by City of Laredo's Traffic Safety Department on the signal timing improvements project.**

Robert Murillo, Traffic Safety Department stated TxDOT is still working on the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) for the project. Once the AFA is approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the project will go through City Council for approval and start the procurement process to select a consultant to do the study for the intersections. Mr. Murillo stated the anticipated project completion date is August 2016.

Albert Ramirez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT is working with Mr. Murillo and will soon be meeting to discuss and identify the on verses off system roads for budget purposes in the AFA agreement.

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

Ruben Soto, Chairman of the RMA, stated the RMA adopted a resolution for bank depository services. He also stated negotiations are nearing completion for the procurement of a financial

advisor. Mr. Soto stated the RMA finalized and approved a work authorization with HNTB, Inc., for the development of the Vallecillo Project, and also authorized HNTB, Inc. to draft a work authorization for the development of the Loop 20/I-69 project.

Mr. Richard Ridings, HNTB, Inc. stated HNTB, Inc. is moving forward with the Vallecillo Project. He stated his firm is honored to be contracted for the project and is eager to be working with everyone involved with the project.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Galo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

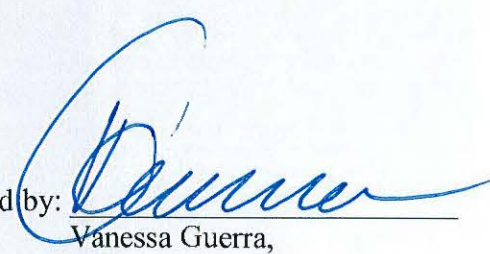
Second: Cm. Balli  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by:

  
Angie Quijano,  
MPO Staff

Reviewed by:

  
Vanessa Guerra,  
MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by:

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Nathan R. Bratton,  
MPO Director

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Melisa Montemayor,  
District Administrator

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Pete Saenz,  
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson