

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2014 MEETING

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

### **II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL:**

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

Judge Valdez made a motion to excuse members not present.

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

Motion carried unanimously

### **Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr. City Councilmember, District V  
Honorable Danny Valdez, Webb County Judge  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4 (joined the meeting at 12:30 pm)  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

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

Honorable Juan Narvaez, City Councilmember, District IV  
Albert Ramirez, TxDOT

### **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:**

Nathan R. Bratton, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Eduardo Bernal/Transit, El Metro  
Claudia San Miguel, El Metro  
Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT

**Others Present:**

Madhusudhanan Narayanasamy, CDM Smith  
Szu-han Chen, CDM Smith  
Ruben Soto Jr., Chairman, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)

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

Mr. Bratton welcomed Mr. Ruben Soto Jr., the new chairman of the local RMA, and Mr. Pete Saenz, the new elected Mayor of the City of Laredo.

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on October 20, 2014.**

Cm. Vela made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2014.

Second: Judge Valdez  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**2. Receive public testimony and approve a Motion to: accept the ranking of firms that submitted proposals in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued for the development of the Transit Development Plan, approve the selection of CDM Smith and authorize Staff to enter negotiations.**

Mr. Bratton stated the study will include the review and analysis of current operational data, including trend analysis and peer analysis; the evaluation of existing transit services and programs, the assessment of unmet transit needs and service gaps; analysis of individual and system route performance; assessment of current/future operating, capital, and matching needs with available resources; recommendations for service modifications/improvements, and guidance in the preparation of annual budgets.

The expected outcome is to update the study that was performed for the MPO in 2009 and intended to provide transit planning guidance for the years 2016 to 2021.

The RFQ was developed and published on September 18, 2014. The firms that submitted proposals were Nelson NYGAARD, Tindale Oliver and CDM Smith. The selection committee recommended the selection of CDM Smith for the performance of the project.

Staff is recommending approval of the selection of CDM Smith and to enter into negotiations.

Judge Valdez made motion to open a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

There was no input from the public.

Cm. Vela made a motion to close the public hearing and approve the selection of CDM Smith and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**3. Authorizing the execution of Amendment #2 of the contract with CoPLAN LLC for professional services related to the development of the Congestion Management Plan in order to extend contract completion date to March 31, 2015.**

Mr. Bratton stated the objective of the study is to identify congestion levels, evaluate congested locations, and develop recommendations for addressing congestion. The amendment will extend the contract completion date to March 31, 2015.

Cm. Galo made a motion to approve the execution of Amendment #2 of the contract with CoPLAN LLC to extend contract completion date to March 31, 2015.

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

- 4. Mayor Pete Saenz, in his capacity as the presiding officer of the Laredo Mass Transit Board, will appoint a member of the Laredo Mass Transit Board as a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Policy Committee.**

Mayor Saenz requested to table the item.

Cm. Vela made a motion to table the item.

Second: Judge Valdez  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

- 5. Authorizing the execution of Amendment #1 of the contract with CDM Smith for the development of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in order to extend the contract completion date to February 28, 2015.**

Mr. Bratton stated the amendment of the contract is intended to extend the contract completion date to February 28, 2015. He also informed the Policy Board that Public Meeting #3 will be held on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Laredo Public Library on Calton Rd.

Cm. Galo made a motion to approve the execution of Amendment #1 of the contract with CDM Smith in order to extend the contract completion date to February 28, 2015.

Second: Cm. Montemayor  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

- 6. Receive public testimony and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the draft 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). (Mr. Madhusudhanan Narayanasamy of CDM Smith will give a presentation on the draft document).**

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

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Mr. Madhusudhanan Narayanasamy of CDM Smith gave a brief presentation on the draft 2015-2040 MTP. He stated the last study was done in 2009 and the traffic congestion analysis is based on TxDOT's base year of 2008. The 2008 data is the latest available data from TxDOT.

Cm. Galo asked if the safety study of the plan used any data to screen the crashes involved between 2010-2012. Mr. Narayanasamy stated all crashes were detailed.

Cm. Canales joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Narayanasamy informed the Policy Board that the Laredo region is projected to receive \$241,167,989 in Federal funds over the next 25 years. He also stated that Proposition One has just passed and the funding will need to be included in the document through an amendment of the MTP at some later date.

Cm. Vela inquired on the \$6,830,000 of Category 2 funds programmed for construction for the extension of Loop 20 from US 83 to Mangana-Hein Rd.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT Administrator, stated in 2018 the Unified Transportation Plan (UTP), a ten year plan, identified 6.8 million dollars for the extension of Loop 20 from US 83 to Mangana Hein. She stated those funds could be redistributed to another priority project. The UTP may be updated on a quarterly basis. Funds in the UTP are specific for that year (2018) and cannot be used prior to that year.

Cm. Vela made a motion to recommend the MPO to move the 6.8 million in 2018 to the highest priority project.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Ms. Guerra stated when developing the project evaluation criteria, an emphasis was placed on quantitative measures.

Mr. Bratton stated that every project considered for funding was evaluated using the adopted project evaluation criteria.

The committee welcomed Mr. Ruben Soto Jr., Chairman of the RMA.

**IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT(S) (No action required)**

- **Presentation by Kevin Hall, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), on the Travel Demand Model**

Mr. Hall could not attend the meeting and made arrangements to present at the next Policy Board meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Galo made motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Second: Cm. Vela  
For: 6  
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

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Melisa Montemayor,  
District Administrator

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Pete Saenz,  
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson