

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 21, 2016 MEETING

### I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

### II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, called roll to verify that quorum did exist.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **excuse** members not present.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI  
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

#### **Regular members absent:**

Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

#### **Ex-Officio Members Not Present:**

Hono 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  
Jesus Olivares, City Manager  
Claudia San Miguel, Transit El Metro.

State: 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  
Noe Hinojosa, Teleconference

**III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

Neither the Committee nor the Director has any new business to report.

**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 October 17, 2016.**

Cm. Balli made a motion to **approve** the minutes of October 17, 2016.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to **move up** item V-E.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**E. Status of FASTLANE Grant application along with funding component including discussion and possible action and any matters incident thereto.**

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to **table** the item momentarily.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to **move up** item V-D.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**D. Discussion and possible action on corridor preservation/management (setbacks) along state highways and any matters incident thereto.**

Cm. Balli made a motion to **table** item V-D and **move up** item V-E.

Second: Judge Tijerina  
For: 6  
Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**E. Status of FASTLANE Grant application along with funding component including discussion and possible action and any matters incident thereto.**

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc., stated HNTB was working on behalf of TxDOT to develop the FASTLANE Grant application. The project would consist of the 5 direct connectors, the main lanes over IH35 on Loop 20, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> main lane. Total project cost is estimated to be approximately \$160,000,000. The application will request 60 percent of the total project cost or \$96,000,000. The City of Laredo will submit the application. An additional 32 million in local matching funds would also be required and whose funding source remains to be identified.

Noe Hinojosa, Financial Advisor for Webb County, (who attended the meeting by phone), asked if there were any additional funds available from TxDOT for on system improvements.

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer, stated there may be additional funding available, however allocation/award of those funds would be decided by the Transportation Commission.

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, stated the RMA Board had agreed to contribute \$2,000,000 dollars toward the FASTLANE Grant Application.

Cm. San Miguel made a motion to combine discussion of items V-E and V-F together.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**F. Discussion with possible action to adopt a proposed Resolution in support of the City of Laredo - Webb County - TxDOT/RMA combined application for a FASTLANE Grant.**

Cm. Balli made a motion to adopt a proposed Resolution in support of the City of Laredo-Webb County-TxDOT/RMA combined application for a FASTLANE Grant.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Tijerina made a motion to **bring up** item V-D.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**D. Discussion and possible action on corridor preservation/management (setbacks) along state highways and any matters incident thereto.**

Mr. Bratton stated briefly that guidelines provided by the Texas Transportation Institute to TxDOT described the methodology used by City's and County's regarding corridor preservation. The traditional tools used by said entities to preserve transportation corridors include: zoning, comprehensive plans, setback development standards, and thoroughfare plans.

No action was had on the item.

The Committee returned to the regular agenda.

**B. Discussion and possible action on Hachar Road.**

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated the Environmental Assessment would be completed by approximately late summer 2017.

No action was had on the item.

**C. Discussion and possible action on Mines Road.**

Pete Alvarez, TxDOT, stated construction of the northbound lanes on Mines Road was scheduled to start after the holidays.

No action was had on the item.

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

**A. Report by El Metro on the future site (1801 Jacaman Road) of the Bus Operations Administration and Maintenance Facility, including information on the site selection.**

Claudia San Miguel, Transit El Metro, gave a brief presentation and provided the Committee with information on said item.

Ms. San Miguel stated in March 2003, City Council approved the purchase of the Jacaman site at the appraised value of \$ 3,250,000. The property was 100% funded by Transit Sales Tax Reserve. She also stated in 2016 the City of Laredo submitted an application to the Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grant Program. The application was successful and FTA granted a total of \$ 9,875,083. She stated the City of Laredo has been taking steps towards the construction of the new Operations and Maintenance Facility to continue to meet the needs of a growing transit-dependent community, and to ensure ongoing safety and strengthen performance.

Cm. San Miguel recommended including landscaping in the design of its upcoming projects

Mr. Bratton stated the project is a TxDOT project; however he recommended bringing back a resolution at the next MPO meeting supporting the inclusion of decorative landscaping in future TxDOT grade separation projects.

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

Mr. Bratton requested the item be tabled.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **table** the item.

Second:	Cm. San Miguel
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

**C. Status report on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.**

Roberto Murillo, City of Laredo Traffic Safety Department, stated the scope of work was submitted to TxDOT who had subsequently raised various concerns regarding the City's procurement process.

Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT stated TxDOT would review all the information provided by Mr. Murillo and give a status report to the Policy Committee in late December.

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

Ruben Soto, RMA, stated the RMA passed a 2016 Strategic Plan which would soon be posted on the RMA's website. He also stated that its Legislative Agenda was also passed.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

Second: Cm. San Miguel  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by: Angie Quijano Reviewed by: Vanessa Guerra,  
Angie Quijano MPO Staff Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by: Nathan R. Bratton, Melisa Montemayor,  
Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator

Pete Saenz,  
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson