

Laredo Urban Transportation Study



Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

**City of Laredo City Hall
City Council Chambers
1110 Houston Street
Laredo, Texas
December 15, 2014
12:00 noon**

MEETING AGENDA

- I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL:
- III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (No action required)
- III. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION
 1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on November 17, 2014.
 2. 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.
 3. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2014-08 adopting the proposed 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). (Mr. Szu-han Chen and Charlie Sullivan of CDM Smith will give a presentation on the final document).
- IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT(S) (No action required)
 - Presentation by Michael Schofield and Kevin Hall, of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), on the Laredo Travel Demand Model
- V. ADJOURNMENT

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED AT THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1110 HOUSTON STREET, LAREDO, TEXAS, AT A PLACE CONVENIENT AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES. SAID NOTICE WAS POSTED BY DECEMBER 12, BY 12:00 NOON.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services are requested to contact Ms. Vanessa Guerra, City Planning at (956) 794-1604 at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The accessible entrance and accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall and can be accessed through the Victoria Ave. entrance.

The Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee is comprised of the following members:

CITY OF LAREDO REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr., City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Juan Narvaez, City Councilmember, District IV

LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD

Vacant

COUNTY OF WEBB REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Danny Valdez, Webb County Judge
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4

STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Ms. Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator
Mr. Albert Ramirez, P.E., Transportation Planning and Development Director

**** EX-OFFICIO ****

Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21
Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42
Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80


Nathan R. Bratton
MPO Director


Gustavo Guevara, Jr.
City Secretary

**LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
ACTION ITEM**

DATE: 12/15/14	SUBJECT: MOTION 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.	
INITIATED BY: Staff		STAFF SOURCE: Nathan Bratton, Director of Planning
PREVIOUS ACTION: On June 9 th , 1994, the MPO Policy Committee adopted the LUTS Bylaws which were subsequently amended on July 23, 1997, July 21, 2007, June 14, 2012 and on August 13, 2013.		
Background: The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was signed into law on July 6 th , 2012 and is the bill that governs and authorizes funding for national federal surface transportation spending. The \$105 billion, two-year bill roughly maintains total funding from the previous authorization, and includes a number of reforms. Sections 1201 and 20005 of MAP -21 require that <u>no later than October 1, 2014 there be representation by providers of public transportation in each metropolitan planning organization (MPO) that serves a transportation management area (TMA).</u> [23 U.S.C. 134 (d)(2)(B) and 49 U.S.C. (d) (2)(B)]		

**LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
ACTION ITEM**

DATE: 12-15-14	SUBJECT: A Motion(s) Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2014-08 adopting the proposed 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). [Mr. Szu-han Chen and Charlie Sullivan of CDM Smith will give a presentation on the final document].
INITIATED BY: Staff	STAFF SOURCE: Nathan Bratton, MPO Director
PREVIOUS ACTION: On 11-17-14, the MPO Policy Committee approved the initiation of a 20 day public review and comment period.	
BACKGROUND: Mr. Szu-han Chen and Charlie Sullivan of CDM Smith will give a presentation on the final document. The development of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan is an objective of the 2014 Unified Planning Work Program, adopted by the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is an official, comprehensive, intermodal transportation plan developed and adopted for the metropolitan planning area. The MTP identifies the existing and future transportation needs and develops coordinated strategies to provide the necessary transportation facilities essential for the continued mobility and economic vitality of Laredo. These coordinated transportation strategies include roadway development and operations, truck and rail freight movement, transit operations, bikeways and pedestrian facilities. The plan must address, at a minimum, a continuous twenty-year planning horizon. The development of the MTP is required under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century (MAP 21) to assure the continued influx of federal transportation funds to the area. The 2010-2035 MTP was adopted on <u>Below is a listing of comments received during the comment period, and the actions taken to address them:</u> P6-1 bottom paragraph TRANSIT SERVICES COMMENT: El Metro has a fleet of 48 buses and 1 Chance rubber-tire trolley. - <i>ACTION: The number of buses and average years of use were updated based on the El Metro Vehicle Replacement Schedule.</i> P6-2 COMMENT: El Metro does not have a “Park-n-Ride”. The lease ended in 2007 with the airport and is currently only is used as a bus stop. El Metro did not renewed the lease and will be removing the bus stop in 2015. - <i>ACTION: The following sentence on page 6-2 was deleted: “Additionally, there is a park and ride lot located at the airport on Hillside Road; it was previously owned by El Metro but is now under the jurisdiction of the Laredo International Airport.”</i> <div style="text-align: right;">Comments continued...</div>	
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The LUTS Technical Committee recommends approval.	STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval.

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P6-3 COMMENT: Currently El Metro does not have a ticket vending machine and we did away with the “Value Card” to store fares. Our current policy is the rider needs to have the correct fare to board the El Metro bus.

The El Lift 10-ride book is NOT \$7.50 BUT \$10.00. The El Lift fare is \$1 for eligible riders and guests. PCAs ride for free.

- *ACTION: The following sentence was deleted: “Electronic value cards can be purchased on the buses or at the ticket vending machines at the El Metro Transit Center and can store up to \$20 worth of bus fares” and change the price for El Lift 10-ride book on p6-3. In Table 6-1, a row was added for El Lift Paratransit indicating that PCAs (personal care attendants) ride for free.*

P6-4. COMMENT: The system map needs to be updated. Please download the map at www.elmetrotransit.com

- *The latest system map was included on p6-4.*

P6-14-15 COMMENT: The TDP was prepared in 2009 and El Metro completed many of the recommendations. This should be noted in the draft document.

ACTION: This information was included on p6-14 and 6-15.

P6-17 COMMENT: The ADA plan was prepared in 2013 and El Metro completed many of the recommendations. This should be noted in the draft document.

- *ACTION: This information was included on p6-17.*

P6-17 COMMENT: El Metro has a fleet of 48 buses and 1 Chance rubber-tire trolley. We also have a contingency fleet of five buses.

NOTE: I am sending a bus replacement schedule for additional information to calculate the average years for the buses

- *ACTION: The information was updated based on the El Metro Vehicle Replacement Schedule on p6-17.*

P6-18 COMMENT”: El Metro has already installed AVL systems for both buses and vans. In addition, we installed the Real-Time Passenger Information system in 2013. This information is on our website. However, it is mentioned that the AVL systems have been installed in pages 19 and 20.

- *ACTION: The following sentence in the top paragraph on p6-18 was changed as follows: “El Metro has also installed electronic fare payment and the Automated Vehicle Location system on all buses and is working towards adding Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) and security cameras to their fleet.”*
- *The following sentence in the paragraph on p6-20 was changed as follows “El Metro plans to install the AVL-GPS system and paperless mobile data for manifest driver sheet on more El Lift buses.”*

P6-19 COMMENT: El Metro ordered 9 new 40ft CNG buses to replace the aging fleet.

- *ACTION: This information was included the top paragraph on p6-19.*

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COMMENT: Please make the additional correction on p6-18. “EL Metro successfully procured and installed paperless manifest technology using Mobile Data Terminals in the El Lift service this past June 2014.”

- *ACTION: The correction was made.*

COMMENT: Please identify where the maps of the over 65 population by tract are in the plan.

- *ACTION: This map and a related discussion will be included in Chapter 3 – Socioeconomic Data*

COMMENT: Need a list of all the projects similar to table 10-4 (of previous MTP) so that you can see everything at a glance. More comments on fiscal constraint table.

- *ACTION: A project summary table (Table 12-10 in page 12-13) of the fiscally constrained roadway projects which shows the comparison of project cost and projected revenue was added into the draft MTP document.*

COMMENT: Where is the total project cost and year of expenditure by project?

- *ACTION: The information was included in the new Table 12-10, and also the subsequent tables showing the details of each project. The cost of the projects selected for inclusion into the MTP, the YOY costs were calculated by assuming a 4 percent inflation rate each year. The base year of the total project costs for these projects is 2014. For the costs of the projects from the UTP, we have calculated the total project cost in 2014 dollars back from the YOY costs also by applying the assumed 4 percent inflation rate.*
-

COMMENT: Total project cost and year of expenditure should be included in a fiscal constraint table.

ACTION: The new Table 12-10 shows the information

COMMENT: The fiscal constraint table should include all revenues and expenditures.

- *ACTION: The new Table 12-10 shows the information.*

COMMENT: The fiscal constraint table should also include the operations and maintenance (grouped projects) revenues and expenditures. This does not need to be broken out by project.

- *ACTION: No grouped projects have been identified by TxDOT. Operations and maintenance spending has been discussed in the section on page 12-10. O&M costs by different jurisdictions are shown in Table 12-8. The numbers are from the 2015-2024 UTP. The only available projections are (1) The Category 1 revenue for TxDOT Laredo District: the total amount for year 2015-2040 is based on expanding the yearly average of the available funding amounts from year 2015 to 2018 in the UTP. TxDOT Laredo District consists of several counties and is larger than the MPO area. There is no further breakdown of projects for this category; and (2) Category 8 revenue for MPO. The amount is identified from the Category 8 projects that exist within the MPO boundary.*

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COMMENT: Where are the 25 year revenue projections for Cat 1? The City? The County?

- *ACTION: 25-year projections are not available for expenditures within the MPO boundaries from TxDOT. The available projection of Category 1 revenue for TxDOT Laredo District is shown in Table 12-8. The revenue projections at the city level are included in the new Table 12-7. Projections are not available at the county level.*

COMMENT: Page 12-12-will need to remove project?

- *ACTION: This Category 2 project was removed per the action of the Policy Committee and allocate the available revenue to Project 1 – Loop 20 at IH 35: Construct overpass and approach roadways*

COMMENT: Need maps of projects in proximity to environmental justice populations or identify where this map is in the plan

- *ACTION: This is included in Chapter 13 - Benefits, Impacts and Next Steps.*

COMMENT: Where is discussion of NEPA?

- *ACTION: A discussion of NEPA will be included in Chapter 13.*

COMMENT: Where is map plotting projects proximity to environmentally sensitive areas?

- *ACTION: The information is included in Chapter 13.*

COMMENT: Include the sources of the revenue and add the description of cost estimates:

- *ACTION: The information is shown on page 12-5 and 12-11.*

P6-14-15: COMMENT: I (Claudia San Miguel from El Metro) concur with Eddie that most of the strategies listed have been completed in years past. It would be recommended that we recently approved the RFQ for the completion of a revised Transit Development Plan; this process will update any outstanding strategies.

- *ACTION: The following sentence was added to the discussion of Laredo Transit Development Plan: "El Metro is in the process of updating the Laredo Transit Development Plan and this plan will identify new strategies for improving Transit in the Laredo MPO region." on p6-15.*

P6-17: COMMENT: An important note to include on El Lift, is that staff is seeking information to acquire additional rolling stock (ADA mobility-vans) to enhance our services; said equipment will complement the current fleet of Vans. It is important to stress the successful implementation of new scheduling software "Route Match" whereas EL Lift increased efficiencies and is now able to provide more accurate appointment schedules for the customers; in addition the new software allows better time accountability of operators thus improving the overall operation's efficiencies.

- *ACTION: The information was added on p6-17.*

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P6-19: COMMENT: Under Transit amenities, we need to note the fact that Transit is working in conjunction with the MPO to seek funding for additional bike racks to better service local riders in their way to work and or school.

- *ACTION: The information was included on p6-20.*

P6-20: COMMENT: The Transit Department has identified locations whereas bus pull ins – pull outs are dearly needed to provide a safe boarding – de-boarding process for the riders; said locations are mostly in the South Highway 83 between Zacatecas St. and Cielito Lindo Boulevard. The Transit Department will continue and seek funding through MPO and the Texas Department of Transportation.

- *ACTION: The information was included on p6-20.*

P6-20: COMMENT: In reference to El Aguila transit-rural services, El Metro is interested on evaluating the opportunity to partner and establish connecting route schedules using a transfer station strategically located on SH-83. This partnership will enhance services by increasing frequency on rural routes, and by increasing ridership and revenue on transit fix routes.

- *ACTION: The information was added on p6-22.*

RESOLUTION NO. MPO 2014-08

**BY THE LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

ADOPTING THE 2015-2040 LAREDO METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS), the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Laredo urbanized area has reviewed the proposed 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study finds that the proposed 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan meets federal and state requirements, and meets the transportation needs of the Laredo Metropolitan Area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Laredo urbanized area, adopted the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan on the 15 day of December, 2014.

Honorable Pete Saenz
Mayor of Laredo and Chairperson of the
Policy Committee

We certify that the above resolution was adopted the above identified date at a public meeting of the Policy Committee of the Laredo Urban Transportation Study.

Nathan Bratton
MPO Director

Melisa Montemayor
TxDOT District Administrator

**Presentation by Michael Schofield and
Kevin Hall of the Texas
Transportation Institute (TTI) on the
Travel Demand Model**