

# *Laredo Urban Transportation Study*

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



## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2014 MEETING

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

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

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

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, 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  
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4 (joined the meeting at 12:18 p.m.)  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT  
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT

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

Honorable Juan Narvaez, City Councilmember, District IV  
Honorable Danny Valdez, Webb County Judge  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

#### **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:**

Charlie Sullivan, CDM Smith  
Szu-han Chen, CDM Smith  
Ruben Soto Jr., Chairman, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)  
Kevin Hall, Texas A & M Transportation Institute  
Greg Lancaster, Texas A & M Transportation Institute  
Michael Schofield, Texas A & M Transportation Institute  
Jose L. Ceballo, Totem LLC

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

Neither the Chairperson nor the Director had any new business to report.

Cm. Canales arrived at the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on November 17, 2014.**

Cm. Vela made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2014.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**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.**

Mayor Pete Saenz requested to postpone the item to the next meeting.

**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).**

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

Second: Cm. Canales  
For: 6  
Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Charlie Sullivan, CDM Smith, gave a brief presentation on the final draft of the 2015-2040 MTP. He reviewed the development and components of the document which included: public participation, revenue projections, project prioritization, selection and a fiscally constrained list of projects including both transit and mobility projects programmed for the next 25 years.

Cm. Vela inquired as to the total funds allocated to the Laredo MPO. Mr. Szu-han Chen, CDM Smith, stated the funding amount projected for the next 25 years was \$241,167,989 in total federal dollars.

Cm. Vela made a motion to close the public hearing and approve resolution No. MPO 2014-08 adopting the proposed 2015-2040 MTP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

#### **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**

Kevin Hall, Texas A & M Transportation Institute, gave a brief presentation on the Travel Demand Model. He explained the development process and the latest demographic projections for the Laredo Urban Area. He also gave results for the 2040 forecast application.

Ms. Guerra stated CDM Smith used the Travel Demand Model to calculate the project scoring, levels of service and congestion.

Cm. Canales asked whether the Travel Demand Model will serve to increase funds allocated to the area.

Mr. Hall stated that federal funds are distributed according to approved federal funding formulas.

Ms. Montemayor stated the average daily traffic was a big part of funding formulas and emphasized the higher the average daily traffic volumes, the better chance funding will be allocated to the area.

Mr. Vela asked what the total projected funds the RMA would generate.

Mr. Bratton stated the RMA's funding projections rely on the percentage of funds to be contributed by the City of Laredo.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Cm. Vela made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Second: Cm. Montemayor  
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