

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2019 MEETING

### **Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI  
Honorable Norma “Nelly” Vielma, City Councilmember, District V  
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII  
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer

### **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: J. Kirby Snideman, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Eduardo Bernal, Transit/El Metro  
Ramon Chavez, City Engineering  
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro

State: Humberto “Tito” Gonzalez  
Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Jesus Saavedra, TxDOT  
Fernando Martinez, TxDOT

Others: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering  
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering  
Rolando Ortiz, Killam Development  
Nathan Bratton, Webb County

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

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:53 p.m.

**II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL**

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

CM. Galo made a motion to **excuse** members not present.

Second: Dr. Martinez  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**III. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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 on 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.

There were no citizen's comments.

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

CM. Martinez made a motion to **approve** the minutes of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**B. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10 day public review and comment period, for the following proposed amendment(s) of the MPO By-laws:**

- **Article I, Section 1.1, entitled Definitions, shall be amended to change the name of the MPO from the Laredo Urban Transportation Study to the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO); and,**
- **Article I, Section 1.2, entitled Purpose, shall be amended to remove references to the outgoing Laredo Urban Transportation Study name; and,**
- **Article II, Section 2.1, entitled Membership and Qualifications, shall be amended to remove references to the outgoing Laredo Urban Transportation Study name, and the composition of the MPO Policy Committee shall be amended to remove the TxDOT District Administrator and include the a representative of the Association of Logistics and Forwarding Agents, Inc. (ALFA) as designated by ALFA; and,**
- **Article II, Section 2.2, entitled Meetings, Quorum, and Voting, shall be amended to reduce quorum from five to four (4) members of the voting membership.**
- **Article II, Section 2.3(b)5, shall be amended to include in the Technical Committee a representative of the Association of Logistics and Forwarding Agents, Inc.**

CM. Vielma requested to change from the Association of Logistics and Forwarding Agent, Inc. (ALFA) representative to a representative from the U.S. Custom Brokers Association.

CM. Galo concurred with CM. Vielma's request.

The commission expressed its desire that the new member would represent and have 1<sup>st</sup> hand knowledge of local freight logistics and network weaknesses and strengths.

Discussion was had on said request.

CM. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing and **initiate** a 10 day public review and comment period, for the proposed amendment(s) of the MPO By-laws subject to striking out any references to ALFA. The new representative will be determined at a later date

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

Motion carried unanimously

**C. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.**

Guillermo Cuellar, Assistant Webb County Engineer, stated the County was anticipating completing 90 % schematic by the end of the week. He stated they were working with TxDOT to complete review of part of the environmental documents. He

also stated the County had had a Utility Coordination meeting with different utility companies.

Mr. Cuellar stated Verde Corporation and North Webb Development were having issues with the property along Beltway Parkway.

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineer, stated he had a discussion with Mr. Vansteenbergh from Verde Corp that morning. He stated the alignments would not change. The property underneath the roadway had been swapped. All the property would revert back to Verde Corp. North Webb Development would be getting additional property outside of the roadway.

Mayor Saenz requested to have the representative from Verde Corp. attend the next MPO meeting so all concerns could be discussed.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated there was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Laredo and Verde Corp. He stated the property in question was sold. He also stated Engineering together with Legal Department would be reviewing the MOU to follow through with everything Verde Corp was responsible for.

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

**A. Update by Transit El Metro on ridership and other performance measures.**

Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro, gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mayor Saenz requested the item be brought back at the next meeting.

**B. TxDOT to present the frontage roads associated with the Shiloh railroad overpass (Mayor).**

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated that the frontage road at the intersection of I-69 and IH 35 would have connectivity east to west underneath the new Shiloh overpass.

CM. Galo asked what part of the project would not be built.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that the frontage roads would not be built.

CM. Galo requested a map from TxDOT be sent to the MPO Committee of what would be built and what would not.

Dr. Martinez stated the City was in negotiation with the owner of the land in the area of the connection of Springfield Road, to possibly have the area donated in order to have access when the road is widened.

**C. TxDOT to present on the future possible re-designation of IH-35 south of Victoria Street (also known as the “Four Block area”) and the re-routing of US-83. (Dr. Marte Martinez).**

Humberto Gonzalez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT did not have anything to present. He stated TxDOT reached out to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for clarification. FHWA had come back with questions as how the road would operate.

CM. Altgelt suggested TxDOT meet with the developer.

CM. Altgelt requested an agenda item on the update on a discussion with TxDOT and the developer as to how a re-designation would be tangible and if TxDOT would be willing to assist with the project.

**D. Presentation on the MPO structure, management, and boundaries. (Mayor).**

Mr. Snideman gave a brief presentation on the item.

The MPO Committee discussed the MPO Mission Statement.

CM. Algelt suggested changing the mission statement.

Mr. Snideman stated changing the mission statement would require an amendment to the MPO By-Laws.

**E. Status report by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).**

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, advised the MPO Committee the RMA had submitted their status report via email and a copy was passed out to the MPO Committee.

CM. Algelt made a motion to **bring back** item IV-B.

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

Motion carried unanimously

**IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**B. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10 day public review and comment period, for the following proposed amendment(s) of the MPO By-laws:**

CM. Altgelt made a motion to amend the mission statement to read “To set transportation related policy, identify existing and future local transportation needs in

cooperation with TxDOT and proposed and recommend projects for all modes of transportation **including mass transit, active transit**, with special attention to freight.”

Second: Dr. Martinez  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Second: CM. Altgelt  
For: 5  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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J. Kirby Snideman,  
MPO Director

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Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS  
Chairperson