

# Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



## **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2017 MEETING**

### **Regular members present:**

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson  
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge  
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 1:51 p.m.)  
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII (joined the meeting at 1:37 p.m.)  
David M. Salazar, Jr., District Engineer  
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator

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

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII  
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:**

City: Nathan R. Bratton, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff  
Robert Eads, City Traffic Safety Department  
Mario Maldonado, City Airport Department  
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro  
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro  
Gabriel Martinez, City Engineering  
Linda Teniente, Real Estate Division

State: Sara Garza, TxDOT  
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT  
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT  
Ana Duncan, TxDOT  
Danny Magee, TxDOT  
Mike Graham, TxDOT

Marissa Montoya, TxDOT

County: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering  
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority, (RMA)  
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.  
Brad Peel, HNTB, Inc.  
Enrique Valdez, LNV  
Julia Wallace, Laredo Morning Times  
Edward Ochoa, Civil Engineering Consultants  
Jeff Puig, Civil Engineering Consultants  
Henry Sauvignet

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

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL**

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

Judge Tijerina made a motion to excuse members not present.

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

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Altgelt joined the meeting 1:37 p.m.

**II. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION**

**A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on November 20, 2017.**

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** the minutes of November 20, 2017.

Second: CM. Gonzalez  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2017-08 for the proposed amendment(s) to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**

- 1. Removal of project CSJ 0086-14-082 intended to provide for the development of plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) for the Jacaman and Airport overpasses. Proposed work has an estimated cost of 4.6 million dollars. *Rationale:* All 4.6 million in project funds are being transferred to project temporarily identified as CSJ 0922-33-933 intended to provide for the construction of a FAST lane at World Trade Bridge.**

After reading the item and having no objections, the chairman opened the public hearing,

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, clarified that amendment was for the removal of funds, the project was not going away and was to be replaced with Strategy 111 TxDOT funds. She stated TxDOT would be working on the design of Airport and Jacaman via CSJ 0922-33-058 with Strategy 111 funds. She clarified CSJ 082 would go away and be replaced with CSJ 058.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2017-08 for the proposed amendment to the 2017-2020 TIP as revised per the discussion.

Second: CM. Gonzalez  
For: 6  
Against: 0  
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. San Miguel joined the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

**C. 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 2020-2045 Laredo Metropolitan Plan Update, and FAST Act Compliance Project, approve the selection of a professional service provider, and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.**

After reading the item and having no objections, the chairman opened the public hearing.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **close** the public hearing, **accept** the ranking of firms and authorize Staff to enter into negotiations.

Second: CM. Gonzalez  
For: 7  
Against: 0



Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

**D. Discussion with possible action to place digital signage on FM 1472 (Mines Road) intended to notify the driving public of congestion and allocation of funding for implementation.**

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated the RMA recommended to move forward with the project and suggested TxDOT complete project in phases over a multiyear time span.

CM. Altgelt stated he would like TxDOT to develop a plan for implementation of the digital signage.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated TxDOT could come back to the February Policy meeting and give a presentation on the estimated cost of the proposed digital signage implementation plan to be accomplished in phases.

**E. Discussion with possible action on the letting date for Calton Railroad Grade Separation project (0922-33-093) which is proposed to move from November 2017 (FY 2018) to August (FY 2018).**

Ana Duncan, TxDOT, stated the City had acquired all the Right-of-Way and was pending utilities relocation.

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

**F. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.**

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineer, stated that in response to the County's request for proposals for the Reuthinger portion of the Hachar Road project, four firms had submitted packages. The County would be selecting a professional services provider in accordance with the Federal Procurement process. He stated the County anticipated being in the process of negotiating a contract by February, 2018.

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

**A. Flecha/Las Cruces Realignment Project:**

**1. Report by the City of Laredo Real Estate Division on the status of Flecha/Las Cruces Realignment project's Right of Way (ROW) acquisition.**

Linda Teniente, City of Laredo Real Estate Division, stated the project required acquisition of four properties in total. She stated the City was in the process of completing the acquisition of the final property necessary for the project. After which the City could move forward with the project development.

**2. Report by CEC representative on the status of the Flecha/Las Cruces Realignment project's: plans and specification updates, Army Corp of Engineers permitting and request for additional funding.**

Jeff Puig and Edward Ochoa, Civil Engineering Consultants, gave a brief presentation on the item.

Mr. Puig reported that the following project related tasks have been completed:

- Prepared responses to TxDOT Bridge comments.
- Coordinated with utility companies.
- Prepared utility plans and specifications for City water line adjustment.
- Updated design per current roadway design manual.
- Updated bid items per 2014 specifications.

He further stated the schedule for anticipated project completion was as follows:

- January 2018
  - Submit response to TxDOT Bridge comments
  - Draft mitigation plan for City review
- February 2018
  - Mitigation plans submitted to the US Army Core of Engineers (USACE).
  - Receive utility clearance letters.
  - 90% PS&E submitted to TxDOT.
- April 2018
  - Letting.

CM. Algelt requested that all future project related presentations include a schedule of completion.

**B. Presentation by TxDOT on the proposed Outer Loop alignment.**

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the last outer loop alignment study was done by TxDOT in 2005.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the next step was to do a new study and develop a schematic. She also suggested public involvement activities and holding a meeting with surrounding landowners.

Judge Tijerina concurred that the study should be developed to move the project forward.

Mr. Bratton stated there was an ordinance that was being worked on for Corridor Management Preservation.

CM. Algelt requested a presentation on said ordinance at the next City Council meeting.

Ms. Montemayor stated TxDOT would continue to develop the outer loop project including any necessary studies.

Mayor Saenz requested the item be placed on all future agenda to report on the status of the project

**C. Report by MPO Director on the relative competitiveness of the City of Laredo's Infra Grant application.**

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the criteria that had been used for Infra Grant applications were heavily based on local participation.

**D. Report by the TxDOT on the meeting had by the City and TxDOT to discuss the "wish list"/recommendations resulting from the Texas Transportation Institute's (TTI) Mines Road study, pertaining to proposed City of Laredo facility improvements intended to improve the function of Mines Road.**

Danny Magee, TxDOT, stated TxDOT was still working on the short term recommendations resulting from the TTI Mines Road Study. He stated the City was working on the signal timing recommendations.

Judge Tijerina left the meeting at 2:58 p.m.

CM. Algelt inquired on phase 2 of short term recommendations which included turning lanes and how to address the different intersections.

Mr. Magee stated more turning lanes are needed and the first step would be to talk to the City and possibly begin at the Killam Industrial intersection.

CM. Gonzalez left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Mayor Saenz requested TxDOT present the short term Mines Road recommendations and a finance plan to City Council.

CM. San Miguel requested an estimate on the appropriate cost to add the recommended turning lanes on Killam Industrial Boulevard.

Mr. Magee stated he would get that information for him.

**E. Letting date for the Zacate Creek Hike & Bike Trail (CSJ 0922-33-170) has been moved from November 2017 (FY 2018) to January 2018 (FY 2018).**



Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated the letting was now being moved from January to March 2018 (FY 2018).

Mr. Bratton stated the City was working with the developer to acquire the trail.

CM. San Miguel requested to bring the item back to the next Policy Committee meeting with more information as to why the letting date was being moved.

**F. Status report by Mr. Joe Medina on discussions with the Muller family in relation to the River Bank Road Project.**

Mayor Saenz requested to bring back the item for an update at the next Policy Committee meeting.

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

**1. Status update on the financing for the Vallecillo Road Project.**

Ruben Soto, RMA, suggested getting a cost estimate on the ROW for Outer Loop Alignment Study in order to initiate the study. He also stated for the RMA would be happy to work with the City on the Killam intersection turning lanes.

Mr. Soto stated the RMA was in the process of seeking funding for the Vallecillo Road Project.

CM. Altgelt asked what the next steps necessary were for the development of a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) Feasibility Study.

Mr. Soto stated City Council would have to approve a motion for the formation of a TRZ.

CM. Altgelt requested to an item on the possibility of initiating a TRZ Feasibility Study on the next MPO Policy Committee and Council agendas.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

CM. San Miguel made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:37 pm.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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Nathan R. Bratton,  
MPO Director

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Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson