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 19, 2016
12:00 noon

MEETING AGENDA

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

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 November 21, 2016.

B. Adopting a resolution supporting the inclusion of decorative landscaping in future TxDOT grade separation projects.

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

D. Discussion with possible action to require all agenda items go thru the Technical Committee before they are presented to the Policy Committee.

E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

F. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

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

A. Status report on the FASTLANE Grant application.

B. Status report by TxDOT on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.

C. Status report on the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

VII. 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 16TH, BY 12:00 P.M.

Persons who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services, such as: interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers of large print or Braille, or a translator for the Spanish language are requested to contact Ms. Vanessa Guerra, City Planning, 1120 San Bernardo Ave. at (956) 794-1613, vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us, at least five working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Materials in Spanish may also be provided upon request.

Información en Español: Personas que planean asistir a esta reunión y que pueden necesitar ayuda o servicios, auxiliares como: intérpretes para personas sordas o con discapacidad auditiva, lectores de letra grande o en Braille, o un traductor para el idioma español deben comunicarse con la Sra Vanessa Guerra, en el Departamento de Planificación de la Ciudad, 1120 San Bernardo Ave. al (956) 794-1613, vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us, al menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión para que los arreglos apropiados se pueden hacer. Materiales in español se proveerán a petición.

DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT

This meeting is wheelchair accessible. The accessible entrances are located at 1110 Victoria and 900 Flores. Accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall, 1110 Victoria.

CITY OF LAREDO REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII

LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

COUNTY OF WEBB REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4

STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. Pete Alvarez, P.E., District Engineer
Ms. Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator

***** EX-OFFICIO *****

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

(FOR)
Nathan R. Bratton
MPO Director

Heberto L. "Beto" Ramirez
Acting City Secretary

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 3rd 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 sated 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: _____ Reviewed by: _____
Angie Quijano
MPO Staff

Vanessa Guerra,
MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____
Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

_____
Melisa Montemayor,
District Administrator

_____
Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson

RESOLUTION 2016-R-

EXPRESSING THE LAREDO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF DECORATIVE LANDSCAPING IN FUTURE TXDOT GRADE SEPERATION PROJECTS.

WHEREAS, the MPO Policy Committee recognizes the importance of attractive gateways and roadways for economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) is the government agency in Texas tasked with the construction and maintenance of the state's highway system infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) resources have been committed to construction of new facilities, while landscaping and aesthetics have been low priorities; and,

WHEREAS, landscape and aesthetics affect the quality of life of a community's citizens; and,

WHEREAS, local residents have expressed their desire that local transportation infrastructure facilities include decorative landscaping elements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BYTHE LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY, AS THE DESIGNATED METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR THE LAREDO URBAN AREA THAT:

Section 1 The Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization expresses its support for the inclusion decorative landscaping in TxDOT future grade separation projects.

PASSED BY THE LAREDO MPO POLICY COMMITTEE AND APPROVED BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THIS 19th DAY OF DECEMBER.

_____

Honorable Pete Saenz
Mayor of Laredo and Chairperson of the
LUTS Transportation Planning Committee

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

_____

Nathan Bratton
MPO Director

_____

Pete Alvarez
TxDOT District Engineer

Table 12-10: Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects Summary

Cat	CSJ No./ID	Roadway	Limits	Description	Letting Year	Project Cost: Total Project Cost (in 2014 dollars)	Project Cost: Year of Expenditure Cost	Projected Revenue: Federal Revenue	Projected Revenue: Other Revenue(RMA and Local Sources)
7, 11	0086-14-061	Loop 20	SH 359 to Spur 400	Widen existing bridge	2015	$10,245,646	$10,655,472	$8,524,378	$2,131,094
1, 2, 4	0086-14-062	Loop 20	1.09 S. of Spur 400 to Spur 400	New Nonfreeway frontage road	2015	$16,936,138	$17,613,584	$1,506,867	$16,106,717
8	0018-06-168	IH 35	At US 59 intersection	Improve traffic signal on frontage road	2015	$96,146	$99,992	$81,702	$18,290
8	0038-01-076	US 83	Palo Blanco to SH 359	Improve traffic signals - interconnect signals	2015	$124,873	$129,868	$109,625	$20,243
8	0038-01-077	US 83	Cielito Lindo to Palo Blanco	Improve traffic signals –	2015	$171,131	$177,976	$131,375	$46,601
8	0086-01-077	US 83	IH 35 to SH 359	Improve traffic signals - interconnect signals	2015	$174,922	$181,919	$153,625	$28,294
8	0542-01-079	US 59	IH 35 to Arkansas	Improve traffic signals - interconnect signals	2015	$140,963	$146,602	$123,750	$22,852
8	2150-04-057	FM 1472	At Loop 20	Improve traffic signal, interconnect signals, and install overhead guide signs	2015	$90,700	$94,328	$77,074	$17,254
8	2150-04-060	FM 1472	Killam Industrial Blvd to Pellegrino	Install raised median	2015	$149,669	$155,656	$128,438	$27,218
9	9	Alexander Hike and Bike Trail	Zacate Dam to Del Mar Blvd	Construct hike and bike trail	2015	$986,078	$1,025,521	$1,025,521	$0
10	0086-14-051	Loop 20	0.50 mi west of Milo interchange to 3000 feet east	Schematic, environmental, ROW-survey/mapping & PSE	2015	$4,256,385	$4,426,640	$4,000,845	$425,795
10	0922-33-076	At the intersection of FM 1472 and Flecha Ln/Las Cruces Dr		Re-align intersection	2015	$3,377,269	$3,512,360	$1,440,411	$2,071,949
11	0922-00-060	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2015	$3,059,036	$3,181,397	$2,500,000	$681,397
12	0038-01-081	US 83	Cielito-Lindo Blvd (NB) to Espejo Molina Rd (NB)	Resurface of existing highway	2015	$253,823	$263,976	$6,593,622	$0
1,2M, 11	0086-14-066	Loop 20	0.45 m. east of Internation Blvd.to 0.25 m. west of Mcpherson	Construction of interchange	2016	$21,059,119	$22,777,543	$583,634	$22,193,909
9	E-01	Manadas Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Phase	United High School to Loop 20	Construct hike and bike trail	2016	$886,846	$959,213	$959,213	$0
10	0922-33-093	Calton Rd	Santa Maria Ave	Construct overpass	2016	$23,309,669	$25,211,738	$12,926,124	$12,285,614
10	0086-14-058	Loop 20	East of International Blvd to US 59/Loop 20 interchange	Schematic, environmental, ROW-survey/mapping & PSE	2016	$3,880,224	$4,196,850	$3,500,000	$696,850
11	0922-00-056	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2016	$3,089,177	$3,341,254	$2,500,000	$841,254
Local	0922-33-165	Hachar Parkway	FM 1472 to 0.1 m. E. of Beltway Parkway	Schematic, environmental for 5.07 miles of 5 lane rural roadway	2016	$1,016,063	$1,016,063	$0	$1,016,562
10 (CBI)	0922-33-166	Hachar Parkway	0.1 m. E. of Beltway Parkway to IH 35	Schematic, environmental, and preliminary engineering for a 5 lane rural roadway.	2016	$300,000	$300,000	$300,000	$60,000
Prop 1 (Cat 2) and 7	2150-04-067	FM 1472 (Mines Rd.)	Killam Industrial Blvd to 0.3 miles north of Mueller Blvd.	Construct one additional northbound travel lane, and the design and partial reconstruction of the existing outside lane.	2016	$5,782,000	$5,782,000	$1,300,000	$0
2, 7, 12	1/0086-14-065	Loop 20	At IH 35	Construct overpass and approach roadways	2017	$22,727,143	$25,564,945	$25,564,945	$0
8	0922-33-152	McPherson Rd	At Calton Rd	Install raised median	2017	$231,362	$260,251	$203,829	$56,422
8	0922-33-153	McPherson Rd	At Del Mar Blvd	Install raised median and add right turn lane	2017	$573,721	$645,358	$505,445	$139,913
8	0922-33-154	McPherson Rd	At International Blvd	Install raised median	2017	$347,446	$390,830	$306,098	$84,732
9	E-02	Manadas Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Phase IV	McPherson Rd to North Central Park	Construct hike and bike trail	2017	$335,305	$377,172	$377,172	$0
11	0922-33-149	Chacon Creek	Eastwoods Park to US 59	Construction of a pedestrian trail at Chacon Creek in Laredo (Phase 3)	2017	$1,786,746	$2,009,846	$1,410,000	$599,846
9, local	0922-33-170	Zacated Creek Hike and Bike Trail	Zacate Creek	Design and construction of hike and bike trail.	2017	1,250,000*	$1,416,278	$1,000,000	$250,000
7	0922-33-175	Hachar Parkway	FM 1472 to IH 35	PS&E and Row mapping for 5 lane rural road	2017	$1,452,866	$1,634,277	$1,307,421	$326,855
10-CBI	0922-14-081	IH 35	IH 35 and Loop 20	ITS for interchange facility over IH35	2017	$924,556	$1,040,000	$800,000	$240,000
2, 7	3	Loop 20	At IH 35	Construct ramps from IH 35 southbound to Loop 20 eastbound, and from Loop 20 westbound to IH 35 southbound	2018	$44,200,000	$51,707,748	$9,276,602	$42,431,146

9	E-03	Manadas Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Phase V	IH 35 to McPherson Rd	Construct hike and bike trail	2018	$654,910	$766,152	$766,152	$0
7	0922-33-165	Hachar Parkway	FM 1472 to 0.1 m. E. of Beltway Parkway	Construction of 5.07 miles of 5 lane rural roadway	2018	$33,060,222	$41,831,728	$21,437,521	$20,394,207
9	E-04	Manadas Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Phase VI	Rio Grande River NW of water treatment plant	Construct hike and bike trail	2019	$746,471	$908,196	$908,196	$0
11	0922-00-951	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2019	$3,089,178	$3,758,457	$2,500,000	$1,258,457
7, 10	4/0086-14-058	Loop 20	International Blvd to US 59	Upgrade to interstate standards, including overpasses at Shiloh Dr, Del Mar Blvd, University Blvd, Jacaman Rd, and Airport	2020	$391,400,000	$495,245,864	$116,608,517	$378,637,347
11	0922-00-953	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2020	$3,089,177	$3,908,795	$2,500,000	$1,408,795
11	0922-00-955	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2021	$3,089,178	$4,065,147	$2,500,000	$1,565,147
11	0922-00-960	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2022	$3,089,178	$4,227,753	$2,500,000	$1,727,753
11	0922-00-970	VA	Districtwide	Upgrade bridge rail and MBGF	2023	$3,089,178	$4,396,863	$2,500,000	$1,896,863
7	0922-33-166	Hachar Parkway	0.1 m. E. of Beltway Parkway to IH 35	Construction of 5 lane rural road	2023	$24,190,742	$34,430,969	$17,152,535	$17,278,434
7	X-06	IH 35	At Loop 20	Construct ramp from Loop 20 Westbound to IH 35 Northbound	2037	$35,520,000	$87,546,696	$7,454,863	$80,091,833
7	X-09	IH 35	At Loop 20	Construct ramp from Loop 20 Eastbound to IH 35 Southbound	2039	$35,520,000	$94,690,506	$7,454,863	$87,235,643
			Total			$96,083,765	$966,073,783	$273,500,363	$694,315,286

Congestion – 100 Points

Current Congestion

Does the project specifically address a currently congested facility; or in the case of a new alignment roadway, does it specifically address a "parallel" facility that is congested?

- Current Level of Service = E or F : 50 points
- Current Level of Service = D : 40 points
- Current Level of Service = C : 30 points
- Current Level of Service = B : 20 points
- Current Level of Service = A: 0 points

Future Congestion

Does the project specifically address a facility that is expected to become congested at the end of the MTP planning horizon (currently 2040), or in the case of a new alignment roadway, does it specifically address a "parallel" facility that is projected to be congested?

- Future Level of Service = E or F : 30 points
- Future Level of Service = D : 20 points
- Future Level of Service = C : 10 points
- Future Level of Service = B : 5 points
- Future Level of Service = A: 0 points

Congestion Management Process

Is this project a product of the congestion management process?

- Yes, indirectly : 20 Points
- No : 0 Points

Safety and Operations: 100 Points

Safety

Does the project specifically address a safety issue?

- Yes, directly : 60 Points
- Yes, indirectly : 30 Points
- No : 0 Points

**Based upon type of project.*

Yes, directly: Access Management, Frontage Road Conversion, Intersection Improvements, Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities (some), Center Turn Lane, Lighting, Median, Realignment, Traffic Signal, Widen Lanes

Yes, indirectly: Reconstruction/Rehabilitation/Repair/Resurface, Upgrade to Freeway

No: Added Capacity, Drainage, Landscaping, Museum, Visitor Center, New Roadway

Operational Efficiency

Does this project include elements that specifically improve the operational efficiency of the transportation system?

- Yes, directly : 30 Points
- Yes, indirectly : 15 Points
- No : 0 Points

**Based upon type of project.*

Yes, directly: Upgrade Interchange/Intersection Improvement, Center Turn Lane, Add Turn lanes, Drainage, Frontage Road Conversion, Realignment, Signals, Traffic Flow Improvements, Median

Yes, indirectly: New Roadway, Additional Travel Lanes

No: Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities, Landscaping, Lighting, Museum, Visitor Center, Reconstruction/Rehabilitation/Repair/Resurface

Hazardous Material

Does this project address the safe transportation of hazardous material?

- Yes : 10 Points
- No : 0 Points

Yes: Project located in a Hazmat route
No: Project not located in Hazmat route

Project Cost: 50 Points

Cost Reasonableness

Is the project cost per future vehicle mile of travel (DVMT from "build" alternative from travel demand model) a reasonable amount?

- $75 or less per VMT : 30 points
- Between $75 and $125 per VMT : 20 points
- Between $125 and $500 per VMT: 10 points
- More than $500 per VMT: 0 points

Alternative Financing

Does this project include non-traditional funding sources and enhanced cost sharing?

- Yes : 20 Points
- No : 0 Points

**Based upon whether there is any funding for this project beyond the typical federal funds and minimum local match. Alternative financing is considered to be an indication of Community Support. Examples of alternative financing includes local match, TIRZ, Tolls, etc.*

Modal Impact: 150 Points

Does this project specifically promote the use of or access to an alternative mode of transportation?

- Transit : 25 points
- Bicycling : 25 points
- Walking : 25 points
- Air Travel : 25 points
- Rail Travel : 25 points
- Freight: 25 Points

Environmental Impacts: 20 Points

Does this project impact environment in a positive manner? (0 to 10 points)

- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) evaluates and provides scores for each project based on their local knowledge

Does this project improve aesthetics of the community? (0 to 10 points)

- The TAC evaluates and provides scores for each project based on their local knowledge

Public Acceptance: 80 Points

Does the project have explicit community support? (0 to 50 points)

- The TAC will evaluate and provide scores for each project based on public outreach process

Is the project consistent with local and regional goals and objectives? (0 to 30 points)

- The TAC will evaluate and provide scores for each project

The scoring results serve as a guideline for the MPO to select Category 7 projects into the MTP.

Financial Constraints

It is of paramount importance to ensure that the projects selected in the MTP are financially feasible. The following pages show the comparison of expected revenue and project cost for roadway and bicycle/pedestrian and for transit by category, and the projects that are programmed to receive funding.

Estimated Revenue vs. Cost Estimate

Federal Funding for Roadways

Table 12-6 demonstrates that the MTP is financially constrained with regard to roadway and bicycle/pedestrian projects funded federally. In other words, the revenue from federal funding anticipated during the life of this plan is enough to cover the programmed amount of project cost.

LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
ACTION ITEM

DATE:	**SUBJECT:**
12-19-16	Discussion with possible action to require all agenda items to go thru the Technical Committee before they are presented to the Policy Committee.

INITIATED BY:	**STAFF SOURCE:**
Councilman Altgelt	Nathan Bratton, Director of Planning

PREVIOUS ACTION: None

BACKGROUND:

As required by the MPO Bylaws, the Technical Committee reviews and/or provide recommendations on the following:

- work programs such as the UPWP, the TIP, MTP, etc.,
- policy related items such as the Limited English Proficiency, the Plan, Public Participation Plan, the Bylaws etc.; and,
- planning activities such as the travel demand model, the congestion management process and planning studies developed through the MPO.

Policy Committee agenda items typically not reviewed by the Technical Committee are:

- discussion items
- Staff reports and/or project status updates requested by the Committee or a member; and,
- action items, often time sensitive, requested by the Committee or a member such as resolutions.

On occasion, items are brought before the Policy Committee due to the deadlines associated with the item.

Laredo Urban Transportation Study, Metropolitan Planning Organization, Bylaws and Operating Procedures (The Bylaws), defines the role, responsibilities and composition of the Technical Committee.

Section 2.1 (a): Membership and Qualification
The Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) shall be comprised of a Policy Committee and a Technical Committee.

Section 1.1 Definitions:
The Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Review Committee (Technical Committee) - The body of the MPO responsible for professional and technical review of work programs, policy recommendations and transportation planning activities. The Technical Committee shall review issues for accuracy and advise the Policy Committee on recommended actions. The Technical Committee is composed of representatives of the City of Laredo, the County of Webb, the Texas Department of Transportation and private sector representatives.

Section 2.3 Administration:
(c) *Each voting member of the Technical Committee may have a designated alternate member to serve on the committee in the member's absence. Appointed alternate members will have the voting rights and privileges of members when serving in the absence of the Technical Committee member.*

The responsibilities of the Technical Committee shall include technical review of work programs, policy recommendations and the transportation planning activities.

LUTS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Technical Review Committee reviewed the item and deferred its recommendation pending further clarification on the item.

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Section 2.3 (b) Administration:

(b) The Technical Committee shall include the following:

1. City Representatives:
   Laredo City Planner (Chairperson)
   The General Manager of the City Transit System
   Laredo Director of Traffic Safety
   Laredo Airport Manager
   Laredo City Engineer
   Laredo Bridge Director

2. County and Regional Representatives:
   Webb County Planning Director
   South Texas Development Council Regional Planning Director
   The General Manager of the Rural Transit System
   Webb County Engineer

3. State Representatives:
   TxDOT Planning Representative (Vice-Chairperson)
   TxDOT Planning Representative
   TxDOT Area Engineer
   TxDOT TPP Field Representative

4. Federal representatives:
   FHWA Planning Representative (Austin)

5. Private Sector Representatives:
   A representative of the Kansas City Southern Railroad Company
   A representative of the Union Pacific Railroad Company
   A representative of the Laredo Transportation Association
   A Transportation Provider Representative who shall also serve on the Laredo Transportation Advisory Committee

6. School system representatives
   A representative of the Laredo Independent School District
   A representative of the United Independent School District
   A representative of Texas A&M International University
   A representative of Laredo Community College

Also see attachments:

- complete MPO Bylaws and Operating Procedures
- listing of current MPO Technical Committee members.

Laredo Urban Transportation Study
Technical Review Committee

City Representatives

- Claudia San Miguel-Acting General Manager of El Metro
- Mario I. Maldonado – Laredo International Acting Airport Director
- Yvette Limon – City of Laredo Acting Bridge Director
- Roberto Murillo –City of Laredo Traffic Safety Director
- Rogelio Rivera – City of Laredo Engineering Director
- Nathan Bratton – City of Laredo Planning Director

County and Regional Representatives

- Rhonda Tiffin – Webb County Planning Director
- Robert Martinez – Webb County Rural Transit Director
- Luis Perez Garcia – Webb County Engineering Director
- Juan E. Rodriguez – South Texas Economic Development Representative

State Representatives

- Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT (Vice-Chairperson)
- Roberto Rodriguez or Randy Aguilar, Planning Representative
- Carlos Rodriguez - Laredo Area Engineer, TxDOT
- Sara Garza, TxDOT TPP Representative

Federal Representatives

- Kirk Fauver - Federal Highway Administration Planning Representative

Private Sector Representatives

- Eloy Sanchez or Arturo Dominguez - Kansas City Railroad Representative
- Thomas Blevins – Union Pacific Railroad Representative
- Eduardo Alvarez – Transportation Provider Representative

As of 1/11/16

School System Representatives

- Esteban Rangel– Laredo Independent School District Representative
- Carlos Garcia – United Independent School District Representative
- Adrian Dominguez – Texas A&M International University (TAMIU)
- Yet to be designated- Laredo Community College (LCC)

BYLAWS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES
LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

Section 1.1 Definitions

- **Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS)** - The Transportation Planning Committee designated by the Governor of the State of Texas as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Laredo Urbanized Area.

- **Metropolitan Planning Area-** The geographic area for which the MPO is responsible and in which the metropolitan transportation planning process must be carried out pursuant to Title 23 USC Section 134 and Title 49 USC Section 5303.

- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** - The forum for cooperative transportation decision-making, as designated by the Governor, and units of general-purpose local government representing 75 percent of the affected metropolitan population. The MPO is responsible for identifying local transportation needs, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), following a "Continuing, Comprehensive, and Cooperative" transportation planning process pursuant to 23 USC 134. The MPO is also responsible for proposing and recommending projects for all modes of urban transportation to those governmental units that are responsible for program development and project implementation.

- **Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee (Policy Committee)** - The policy body, established pursuant to 23 USC 134, with the responsibility for establishing overall transportation for, and taking the required approval actions as the Metropolitan Planning Organization. The Policy Committee is comprised of those governmental agencies identified in the original designation agreement and those agencies or organizations subsequently added to the membership of the board. The Policy Committee shall have decision-making authority over issues such as the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

- **Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Review Committee (Technical Committee)** - The body of the MPO responsible for professional and technical review of work programs, policy recommendations and transportation planning activities. The Technical Committee shall review issues for accuracy and advise the Policy Committee on recommended actions. The Technical Committee is composed of representatives of the City of Laredo, the County of Webb, the Texas Department of Transportation and private sector representatives.

- **Fiscal Agent for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (Fiscal Agent)** – The governmental entity or agency designated by written agreement between the MPO Policy Committee and the governmental entity or agency providing fiscal administrative services and other services (which may include personnel and staff support) to the MPO Policy Committee and the Staff of the MPO.

- **Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** - The MTP is an official, comprehensive, intermodal transportation plan developed and adopted for the Laredo Metropolitan Area through the transportation planning process. 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 development of the MTP is required under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) to assure the continuation of federal transportation funds. The plan shall address a continuous twenty-year planning horizon.

- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** - A staged, multiyear, intermodal program, of transportation projects which is consistent with the metropolitan transportation plan and which is also financially constrained.

- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** - Shall mean the program of work that includes goals, objectives and/or tasks required by each of the several agencies involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process. The UPWP shall describe metropolitan transportation and transportation-related planning activities anticipated in the area during the next one-year period and reflect transportation planning work to be funded by federal, state or local transportation or transportation-related planning funds.

Section 1.2 Purpose

The Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for identifying local transportation needs in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The LUTS is also the entity responsible for proposing and recommending projects for all modes of urban transportation to those governmental units that are responsible for program development and project implementation.

Section 1.3 Authority

The MPO shall have the following authority pursuant to 23 CFR Part 450:

(a) To develop and establish policies, procedures, plans and programs for the metropolitan area.

(b) To certify such actions as may be necessary to comply with state and federal regulations.

(c) To establish such rules of procedure and approve such actions as it deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.

(d) To ensure those requirements of 23 USC 134 and 135 and 49 USC, Chapter 53, 5301, et seq. are carried out.

(e) To use federal transportation planning funds, as well as in-kind matching funds as authorized by the Texas Transportation Commission, to develop and maintain a comprehensive regional transportation planning program in conformity with requirements of 23 USC 135 and 49 USC 5303.

(f) To adopt a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the metropolitan planning area that will complement the Statewide Transportation Plan required by state and federal laws, a Transportation Improvement Program and a Unified Planning Work Program and such other planning documents and reports that may be required by state or federal laws or regulations.

(g) To establish one or more advisory committees to assist in the transportation planning process and/or assist in promoting the implementation of approved plans. The Policy Committee may create ad-hoc committees or other technical subcommittees.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP, TERMS AND ADMINISTRATION

Section 2.1 Membership and Qualifications

(a) The Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS) shall be comprised of a Policy Committee and a Technical Committee. The Policy Committee shall include the following members:

City of Laredo:	Mayor (Chairperson) Two City Councilmembers, as appointed by the Mayor in his/her sole discretion.
Laredo Mass Transit Board	One Laredo Mass Transit Board member as appointed by the Board's presiding officer/Mayor in his/her sole discretion.
County of Webb:	County Judge (Vice-Chairperson) Two County Commissioners as appointed by the Webb County Judge in his/her sole discretion.
State of Texas:	TxDOT District Engineer TxDOT District Administrator

*** EX-OFFICIO ***

State of Texas:	State Senator(s) State Representative(s)

(b) Members shall serve until a replacement is qualified pursuant to section 2.1 Subsection (e).

(c) The Mayor of the City of Laredo shall appoint the two City Councilmembers that represent the City of Laredo.

(d) Laredo Mass Transit Board's presiding officer/Mayor shall appoint one member to represent the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

(e) The County Judge of the County of Webb shall appoint the two County Commissioners that represent the County of Webb.

(f) Appointments to the Policy Committee shall be for a period of two years. A member may be reappointed with no limitation to number of terms, except that such term will not continue in the event an officer becomes ineligible for membership on the Policy Committee.

Section 2.2 Meetings, Quorum and Voting

(a) The Policy Committee shall meet at least twice per year or as often as necessary to fulfill its purposes.

(b) Fifty percent of the voting membership plus one member shall constitute a quorum.

(c) The use of proxies by the voting members of the Policy Committee is prohibited.

d) The official actions of the Policy Committee shall be by affirmative action of the majority of the voting membership present and voting at public meetings. All meetings are to be held as open meetings as defined in Chapter 551, Texas Government Code (Texas Open Meetings Act), and the Transportation Planning Director of the MPO shall insure that the written notice of the meeting is posted at City of Laredo City Hall and Webb County Commissioners Court Building at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Additionally, the notice may be posted at TxDOT Laredo District Office, and on the City of Laredo and Webb County website. The Transportation Planning Director shall insure that at least two copies of the agenda and such supporting documentation as is available to the Policy Committee are made available for public inspection in the MPO offices at the same time they are made available to the Policy Committee members.

(e) All official actions of the Policy Committee shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

(f) The Mayor of the City of Laredo shall serve as Chairperson of the Policy Committee. The responsibilities of the Chairperson shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Preside at all meeting of the Policy Committee.
2. Authenticate, by signature, all resolutions adopted by the Policy Committee.

3. Serve as chief policy advocate for the Policy Committee.
4. Represent the committee at hearings, conferences, and other events as required or designate another member of the Committee or the Chairperson of the Technical Committee to represent the Chairperson.

(g) The County Judge of the County of Webb shall serve as Vice Chairperson of the Policy Committee. During the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall preside over meetings and shall exercise all the duties of the Chairperson.

(h) In the absence of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from a Policy Committee meeting at which a quorum is present, the remaining members present shall elect a presiding officer who shall serve until the conclusion of that meeting or until the arrival of the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson.

Section 2.3 Administration

(a) The City of Laredo Planning Director shall act as the Transportation Planning Director for the MPO. The responsibilities of the Director shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. All staff support for the Policy Committee, oversight and coordination of MPO administration and transportation planning activities, grant administration, maintaining records and providing notice of meetings as required by the Public Involvement Process.

2. Shall act as Chairperson of the Technical Committee with responsibility for drafting findings and recommendations of the Technical Committee for review by the Policy Committee.

3. Shall be responsible for all plans and reports prepared by and for the review and consideration of the Policy Committee and for submitting the recommended policies, procedures and programs of the Technical Committee to the Policy Committee.

4. Supervise the MPO staff.

5. Serve as a liaison to the Texas Department of Transportation's planning program through the department's district office and the department's Transportation Planning and Programming Division's representative.

6. In cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation, collect, maintain, forecast, and report to the department appropriate socioeconomic, roadway, and travel data.

7. Prepare and submit all required plans, reports, programs, data, and certifications.

8. Develop and present to the MPO Policy Committee a Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the metropolitan planning area, a Transportation Improvement Program and a Unified Planning Work Program and such other planning documents and reports that may be required by state or federal laws or regulations.

(b) The Technical Committee shall include the following:

1. City Representatives:
   Laredo City Planner
   The General Manager of the City Transit System
   Laredo Director of Traffic Safety
   Laredo Airport Manager
   Laredo City Engineer
   Laredo Bridge Director

2. County and Regional Representatives:
   Webb County Planning Director
   South Texas Development Council Regional Planning Director
   The General Manager of the Rural Transit System
   Webb County Engineer

3. State Representatives:
   TxDOT Planning Representative (Vice-Chairperson)
   TxDOT Planning Representative
   TxDOT Area Engineer
   TxDOT TPP Field Representative

4. Federal representatives:
   FHWA Planning Representative (Austin)

5. Private Sector Representatives:
   A representative of the Kansas City Southern Railroad Company
   A representative of the Union Pacific Railroad Company
   A representative of the Laredo Transportation Association
   A Transportation Provider Representative who shall also serve on the Laredo Transportation Advisory Committee

6. School system representatives
   A representative of the Laredo Independent School District
   A representative of the United Independent School District
   A representative of Texas A&M International University
   A representative of Laredo Community College

(c) Each voting member of the Technical Committee may have a designated alternate member to serve on the committee in the member's absence. Appointed alternate members will

have the voting rights and privileges of members when serving in the absence of the Technical Committee member.

The responsibilities of the Technical Committee shall include technical review of work programs, policy recommendations and the transportation planning activities.

Section 2.4 Ethic Policy for MPO Policy Members and Employees

(a) A policy board member or employee of a metropolitan planning organization may not:

(1) accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence the member or employee in the discharge of official duties or that the member or employee knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the member's or employee's official conduct; or,

(2) accept other employment or engage in a business or professional activity that the member or employee might reasonably expect would require or induce the member or employee to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the official position; or,

(3) accept other employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair the member's or employee's independence of judgment in the performance of the member's or employee's official duties; or,

(4) make personal investments that could reasonably be expected to create a substantial conflict between the member's or employee's private interest and the public interest; or,

(5) intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the member's or employee's official powers or performed the member's or employee's official duties in favor of another.

ARTICLE III
AMENDMENTS

Section 3.1 Bylaw Revisions

The Bylaws may be revised or amended by approval of the Policy Committee at a meeting at which a quorum, as defined herein, is present.

PASSED AND APPROVED, on this the 21st day of September, 2015.

Honorable Pete Saenz
Mayor of Laredo and Chairperson of the
LUTS Transportation Planning Committee

We certify that the LUTS By-laws were revised at a public meeting of the Policy Committee of the Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS)

Nathan Bratton
MPO Director

Melisa Montemayor
TxDOT District Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. MPO 2015-09

BY THE LAREDO URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE

AMENDING THE LUTS BY-LAWS

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study (LUTS), the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), for the Laredo Urbanized Area has reviewed the revisions to the LUTS Bylaws; and,

WHEREAS, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study finds that the revisions to the LUTS Bylaws meet federal and state requirements, and meet the transportation needs of the Laredo Metropolitan Area; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Laredo Urban Area, revised the LUTS Bylaws, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof for all purposes on this the 21st day of September, 2015.

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

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

Nathan Bratton
MPO Director

Melisa Montemayor.
Laredo District Administrator

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

F. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

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

A. Status report on the FASTLANE Grant application.

B. Status report by TxDOT on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.

C. Status report on the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).