

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 15, 2019 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII (joined the meeting at 2:10 p.m.)
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 1:47 p.m.)
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
David M. Salazar, Jr., 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: Nathan R. Bratton, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Robert Peña, City of Laredo Traffic Safety Department
Alec Martinez, City of Laredo Traffic Safety Department
Brenda Elizondo, City of Laredo Real Estate Division
Linda Teniente, City of Laredo Real Estate Division
Eduardo Bernal, City of Laredo Transit, El Metro

State: Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
Eduardo De Leon, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Nathan R. Bratton, Webb County

Others: Julia Wallace, Laredo Morning Times
Baltazar Avila, S & B Infrastructure

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

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

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

Motion carried unanimously

III. 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.

Alec J. Martinez, Traffic Safety Department, informed the committee of an upcoming Vision Zero Summit scheduled for May 22nd from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. He stated Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would be giving a presentation and formally invited the MPO Policy Committee. He stated representatives from Fire, Police, and TxDOT would also be in attendance.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on March 18, 2019.

CM. Galo made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2019.

Second: CM. Gonzalez

For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2019-03, adopting the the proposed amendment(s) of the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

1. **Addition** of project CSJ 0018-06-198 intended to provide for the widening of IH 35, by constructing a third lane to the inside and adding a concrete barrier to the inside of IH 35 north/south bound, from 0.38 miles south of US59/IH 35 INT. to 0.80 miles north of US59/IH 35 INT., with an estimated total project cost of \$5,911,775. The proposed project letting date is FY 2020.
2. **Addition** of project CSJ 0086-14-084 intended to widen I-69W by providing for the construction of a third lane to the inside and adding a concrete barrier to I-69W east/west bound, from World Trade Bridge GSA facilities to IH 35, with an estimated total project cost of \$18,207,550. The proposed letting date is FY 2020.
3. **Addition** of project CSJ 2150-04-076 intended to widen FM 1472 by providing for the construction of a right turn lane on I-69W/FM 1472 intersection, from Big Bend Boulevard northbound to Killam Industrial Boulevard northbound, with an estimated total project cost of \$4,167,927. The proposed letting date is FY 2020.
4. **Addition** of project CSJ 0922-33-181 intended to construct and improve seventeen (17) bus stops located throughout the transit fixed route network, with an estimated total project cost of \$250,000. The proposed project letting date is FY 2021.
5. **Revision** of project CSJ 0922-33-149 for the construction of a pedestrian trail at Chacon Creek. **Purpose** of amendment is to revise the estimated letting date from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY 2020.
6. **Revision** of project CSJ 0922-33-076 for the construction of the re-alignment at the intersection of FM 1472 and Flecha Lane/Las Cruces Drive. **Purpose** of amendment is to revise the estimated letting date from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY 2020.
7. **Revision** of project CSJ 0922-33-093 for the construction of an overpass on Calton Road. **Purpose** of amendment is to revise the estimated letting date from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY 2020.
8. **Revision** of project CSJ 0922-33-177 for the construction of a hike and bike trail from Anna Park to LC Campus. **Purpose** of amendment is to revise the estimated letting date from fiscal year (FY) 2019 to FY 2020.

9. **Revision** of the TIP Introduction to include updated Safety, Bridge, Pavement, and Roadway System Performance targets.

CM. Galo made a motion **open** a public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Dr. Martinez joined the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Judge Tijerina inquired on the lighting on Cuatro Vientos Road.

Danny Magee, TxDOT, stated TxDOT and the City of Laredo have contracts called Municipal Maintenance Agreements. He stated per those agreements, the City is solely responsible for installing, designing, maintaining, and operating traffic lights that are on the State system inside the City limits.

He further stated the data requested at last month's MPO meeting centered on accidents occurring at night and did not address the traffic signal at Cuatro Vientos.

CM. Vielma asked why the amendments of the projects mainly concerned the fiscal year.

Ms. Guerra stated the amendment of the year was requested because the initiation of the project construction was not ready due mainly to Right-of-Way issues.

Mayor Saenz requested to give status quarterly of projects on the TIP that were amended.

CM. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2019-03, adopting the the proposed amendment(s) of the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2019-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

CM. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

1. Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary, Figure 12-1, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects, Table 12-11, entitled roadway Projects, Figure 13-1, entitled Natural Resources and Federally Funded Projects, Figure 13-2, entitled Cultural Resources and Federally Funded Projects, Figure 13-3, entitled Low Income Areas and Federally Funded Projects, Table 13-1, entitled Federally Funded Projects Environmental Assessment Results,

Table 13-3, entitled Federally Funded Projects and Environmental Justice Populations; and, Figure 13-4 entitled Colonias and Federally Funded Projects as necessary to incorporate the following revisions:

- a) **Addition** of project CSJ 0018-06-198 intended to provide for the widening of IH 35, by constructing a third lane to the inside and adding a concrete barrier to the inside of IH 35 north/south bound, from 0.38 miles south of US59/IH 35 INT. to 0.80 miles north of US59/IH 35 INT., with an estimated total project cost of \$5,911,775. The proposed project letting date is FY 2020.
- b) **Addition** of project CSJ 0086-14-084 intended to widen I-69W by providing for the construction of a third lane to the inside and adding a concrete barrier to I-69W east/west bound, from World Trade Bridge GSA facilities to IH 35, with an estimated total project cost of \$18,207,550. The proposed letting date is FY 2020.
- c) **Addition** of project CSJ 2150-04-076 intended to widen FM 1472 by providing for the construction of a right turn lane on I-69W/FM 1472 intersection, from Big Bend Boulevard northbound to Killam Industrial Boulevard northbound, with an estimated total project cost of \$4,167,927. The proposed letting date is FY 2020.
- d) **Addition** of project CSJ 0922-33-181 intended to construct and improve seventeen (17) bus stops located throughout the transit fixed route network, with an estimated total project cost of \$250,000. The proposed project letting date is FY 2021.

CM. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2019-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Presentation by Susan Chavez from TxDOT, on the National Highway System (NHS) with discussion and possible action.

Susan Chavez, TxDOT, and Travis Norton, Jacobs Engineering, gave a brief presentation on the item.

Ms. Chavez stated that TxDOT has been reviewing the National Highway System (NHS) throughout the state and intended to clean up the network. She stated the NHS was established in the 90's and in 2012 the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) added a lot of principal arterials to the network. She stated TxDOT has not done an actual assessment to check if said arterial roads met the NHS criteria. TxDOT is now taking the opportunity to check if those roads meet the NHS criteria for inclusion on the system.

Ms. Chavez stated a workshop with the MPO Technical committee was held earlier that morning to make any recommendations.

Ms. Guerra stated that TxDOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requested the MPO review the roads on the current NHS network. Criteria has been developed to show if said roads meet or do not meet the criteria.

Ms. Guerra stated that the item was intended to introduce the subject to the MPO committee. Action will be requested at a subsequent meeting.

CM. Altgelt joined the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Ms. Guerra stated that any roads to be added to the NHS would need to meet the performance criteria.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to send the item back to the Technical committee and reevaluate all arterial roadways in particular, roads that service ports for purpose of NHS designation.

CM. Galo made a motion to **adopt** what was presented.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Ms. Guerra asked Ms. Chavez if projects on the NHS even if funded only through local funds would be required to meet the federal requirements.

Ms. Chavez answered yes.

Ms. Guerra asked if maybe FHWA would be able to send a representative and give a presentation.

Ms. Chavez stated she would get in contact with FHWA.

CM. Vielma requested the definitions of all the functional classification review and factors.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to have the MPO Staff or TxDOT come back to the MPO committee with the pros and cons of designating different roadways outside of what was approved as presented for consideration.

Second: Dr. Martinez
For: 8
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Report by TxDOT in collaboration with City Traffic, on accident data and proposed lighting alternatives for Cuatro Vientos Road, with discussion and possible action. (Mayor, CM. Altgelt)

Danny Magee, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item.

He stated the accident data on Cuatro Vientos between SH 359 and Mangana was as follows:

	Total Crashes	Rate
2013	40	163.8
2014	33	145.2
2015	43	138.0
2016	39	117.0
2017	36	94.8

CM. Galo left the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Mayor Saenz left the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

No action was taken on the item.

F. Report by TxDOT on proposed solutions, cost estimates, and funding sources related to the Mines Road Bike Tract, pedestrian and bicycle facilities to safely cross both Loop 20 at the intersection of Del Mar, and the intersection of IH 35 and Del Mar, with discussion and possible action. (CM. Altgelt)

There was neither discussion nor action taken on the item. The item will be placed on next month's MPO agenda.

G. Discussion with possible action on the River Road Project.

There was neither discussion nor action taken on the item. The item will be placed on next month's MPO agenda.

H. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.

Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering, gave an update on an April 10th, 2019 Stakeholders meeting held with representatives from the County, City of Laredo, and landowners regarding the Reuthinger Project. It was determined that a preferred alignment was needed for the roadway in that area. The County has prepared right of entry forms to get environmentalists to go do work at the property.

He stated hopefully by the end of the year to have the majority of the work done. He specified the environmental will likely take longer.

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

A. Status report by TxDOT on the Outer Loop Alignment Study.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT has met with the consultant and are developing the design criteria. He stated TxDOT will be having a utility workshop and contacting all utility companies along the proposed area to see what kind of updated information they have on their existing utilities. He also stated TxDOT will be scheduling a meeting with Kansas City Southern (KCS) to find out of any proposed development along the outer loop. TxDOT has also started working on a constrain map on the entire corridor to find out of any constrains along the outer loop.

B. Status report by TxDOT on ongoing projects.

Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave an update on TxDOT ongoing projects which included the following:

- SL 20 over KCS Railroad Grade Separation
96% work completed/anticipated completion date-early June 2019
- US 59 over IH 35 Overpass
70% work completed/anticipated completion date-winter 2019
- SH 359 from City of Laredo do Duval County
30% work completed/anticipated work completion date-winter 2020
- US 83 from Dimmit County line to 3.4 miles of SH 44
Work to start in May 2019/anticipated completion date-summer 2022
- FM 1472 from 7.8 miles north of SH 255 to 2.0 miles north
97% work completed/anticipated completion date-May 2019

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

The following update was sent via email by the RMA.

1. Vallecillo Road (FM 1472 to IH 35) – After several months of coordination with the TxDOT Debt Finance Department, the WCCL RMA is moving forward with submitting the draft inter local agreement to the City of Laredo. The WCCL RMA will also be submitting the draft agreement to the Killam Company. Both draft agreements to be released in the next 2 weeks. Meantime, the WCCL RMA will work with their GEC to authorize a Work Authorization for the Pass Through Finance Application.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills) – Distributing Inter Local Agreement to the City of Laredo on 4/16/19
3. Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes - Distributing Inter Local Agreement to the City of Laredo on 4/16/19
4. North Laredo Webb County Transportation Planning Study – The Advanced Funding Agreement is executed. The FHWA Funding Authorization Letter has been received. TxDOT to provide a DBE goal for the WCCL RMA to meet. Anticipate execution of the Work Authorization in the next 2 weeks.
5. Distributed Draft Scope of Work for the World Trade Bridge Traffic Study to the Co-City Managers, TxDOT and the City of Laredo Consultant for the World Trade Bridge Expansion.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Algelt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Second: Dr. Martinez
 For: 6
 Against: 0
 Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Vanessa Guerra,
Acting MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson