

Laredo-Webb County Area (LWCA)

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee Virtual Meeting

LIVE WEB LINK: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>

PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300



MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL NOVEMBER 16TH, 2020 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LW-CAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge.
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer
Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, Private Sector

Regular members not present:

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable Norma "Nelly" Vielma, City Councilmember, District V

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 LWCA Agencies) Present:

City: J. Kirby Snideman, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
Jason Hinojosa, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
Juan Mendive, City Planning/LW-CAMPO Staff
Ramon Chavez, City Engineer
Danny Magee, Traffic Safety Department

Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro

State: Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.
Melisa Montemayor, HNTB, Inc.

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Vanessa Guerra, LW-CAMPO Staff, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

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 virtual meeting held on October 19th, 2020.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held October 19th, 2020.

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

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve a Motion authorizing the award and execution of a professional services contract in the amount of \$234,698.00 with

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., for the development Laredo Comprehensive Operational Analysis Project (COA), intended to evaluate both the current fixed route and paratransit bus services, and provide recommendations to improve the system’s overall service, efficiency, effectiveness, and connectivity.

CM. Galo made a motion to open a public hearing and approve a motion authorizing the award and execution of a professional services contract in the amount of \$234,698.00 with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

- 1. Article I, Section 1.1, entitled Definitions, shall be amended to include a definition for the Metropolitan Planning Organization Active Transportation Committee; and,**
- 2. Article II, Section 2.3, shall be amended to include subsection (d)1 and 2 intended to identify the responsibilities and the membership of the Active Transportation Committee (ATC).**

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

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Juan Mendive, MPO Staff, gave a brief presentation on the item. The presentation was as followed.

Background

- Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan
- MTP Goals
- Viva Laredo Mobility Goals
- Walk/Bike/Ride Laredo

Why Form a New Committee?

- Additional safe and convenient mobility options
- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Active transportation merits special attention
- *“An accessible active transportation network connects residents to jobs, improving upward mobility.”*

Purpose & Responsibilities

- Improve and promote active modes of mobility

Membership

- Will include a broad group of representatives from the regional community
- Monitor implementation of the Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan
- Explore and recommend funding opportunities for active transportation projects
- Promote community outreach efforts

Future Outcomes

- Implementation of projects recommended in the Active Transportation Plan
- Recommendation of project to be added to MTP

CM. Galo expressed his concerns regarding the creation of an Active Transportation Plan sub-committee. He stated that he was okay with having the sub-committee if it was empowered to give recommendations only.

Judge Tijerina stated he agreed with CM. Galo.

Dr. Martinez expressed full support for the Active Transportation Plan sub-committee.

David Salazar, TxDOT District Engineer, stated that it also seemed that the sub-committee would mostly be focusing on bicycle paths.

Mr. Snideman stated the sub-committee would provide recommendations on other modes of alternative transportations including safe routes to school, transit, and micro mobility.

By consensus, the MPO committee initiated a 10-day public review and comment period, for the proposed amendment(s) of the MPO By-laws.

D. Discussion with possible action to cancel or reschedule the December 21st, 2020, Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Snideman informed the committee that the item was placed on the agenda because in previous years, there was usually no quorum due to the meeting date being held on the week of the Christmas holidays. He informed the MPO committee that if there was a crucial item that needed to be placed on the agenda, a special meeting could be scheduled.

CM. Galo made a motion to **cancel** the meeting of December 21st, 2020.

Second: Dr. Martinez

For: 6

Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.

Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering, stated Webb County was in discussions with the consultant and TxDOT to do archeological work on the project. He stated it was still in the discussion phase.

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

Antonio Rodriguez, gave a brief status report on the RMA which was as followed:


1. Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes – Project was let in November. The apparent low bidder was Anderson Columbia. Anticipated Notice to Proceed for construction would be after the New Year. Construction start date is anticipated for March 2021.
2. Los Presidentes (Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills) – City of Laredo One Stop Shop review of Los Presidentes comments completed. ROW Plats were submitted in the week of the 9th of November. Advertisement is forecasted for mid-December 2020.
3. Vallecillo Road –Traffic study was ongoing. Scheduled completion was December 2020.
4. WCCL RMA Board meeting is projected for the last week of November 2020.

A. ADJOURNMENT

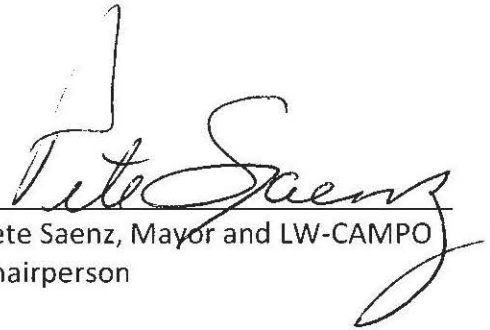
Dr. Martinez made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously



J. Kirby Snydeman, AICP
MPO Director



Pete Saenz, Mayor and LW-CAMPO
Chairperson