

POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES June 21, 2023

LIVE WEB LINK: http://laredotx.swagit.com/live
PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CM. John Galo, called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Graciela Briones, MPO Staff, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

Regular members present:

Honorable Melissa R. Cigarroa, City Councilmember, District III Honorable Vanessa Perez, Mayor Pro Tempore, CM. District VII Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3 Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1 Mr. Epigmenio "Epi" Gonzalez, P.E., TxDOT District Engineer Mr. Jed A. Brown, Member-at-Large

Regular members not present:

Honorable Dr. Victor D. Treviño, Mayor and LWCAMPO Chairperson Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge and LWCAMPO Vice-Chairperson Honorable Ruben Gutierrez Jr., City Councilmember, District V

CM Perez, made a motion to <u>excuse</u> members not present and to name Commissioner John Galo presiding officer for the meeting.

Second:

Mr. Brown

For:

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Against:

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Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

Ex-Officio members not present:

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

LWCAMPO Staff present:

Juan S. Mendive, LWCAMPO Director Graciela Briones, LWCAMPO Planner III Julio Niño, LWCAMPO Planner III Eduardo Bernal, LWCAMPO Planner III Adriana A. Vigil, LWCAMPO Administrative Assistant

Others:

Orlando Navarro, COL Planning Dept. Robert J. Garza, COL Transit Ramon Chavez, COL Engineering Gloria Perez Saavedra, COL Engineering Sara Garza, TxDOT Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT Ana Duncan, TxDOT Luis M. Villarreal, TxDOT Fernando Martinez, TxDOT Angel Martinez, TxDOT Luis Valdez, TxDOT Adelaido "Lalo" Uribe, Webb County Judge's Office Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering Victoria Villarreal, Webb County Planning Anthony Garza, Webb County Consultant Arturo Dominguez, RMA Jason Rodriguez, RMA Tim Juarez, Stanley Consultants Carlos Valdez, Stanley Consultants Melissa Montemayor Antonio Rodriguez Blasita Lopez

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Speakers are required to fill out witness cards, which must be submitted to MPO Staff no later than 1:45 P.M. the day 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 MPO business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks shall be permitted.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on May 17, 2023.

CM. Perez, made a motion to approve the minutes of May 17, 2023.

Second:

CM. Gonzalez

For:

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Against:

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Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

B. Receive public testimony and initiate a 10-day public review and comment period for the following proposed amendment(s) to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Mr. Mendive, presented the proposed Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments that were requested by TxDOT. Mr. Mendive mentioned that one of the amendments include changes to the Hachar-Reuthinger Project, to include the funding amounts that have been allocated by the Policy Committee at a previous meeting. Mr. Mendive stated that at that point they would just open the comment period after he presents the item.

CM. Gonzalez, made a motion to open the 10-day public hearing for the proposed amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP.)

Second:

CM. Cigarroa

For:

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Against:

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Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mendive, presented the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that Federal Law requires that MPOs in cooperation with the state and affected

mass transit operators develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Planning areas for a four-year period. Also, the TIP documents are subsequently combined to form the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program known as the STIP. Mr. Mendive, further stated that TxDOT amends the STIP on a quarterly basis, the next revision will be on August. Therefore, these amendments were brought to the committee that day to open the comment period in July and finalize in time for the August revision. He further stated that will allow TxDOT to do several things with the projects and led some of the important projects for FY 2023. He also stated that revisions to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) require a 10-day public review and comment period. Mr. Mendive, explained the proposed amendments, he stated that the first one is to remove the CSJs for the projects for Hachar-Reuthinger and combining them into one new CSJ 3843-02-002 for a new location construction of a 4-lane divided highway, because it's been designated as State Highway 84 by the Texas Transportation Commission so its changes need to be made. In addition, the funding amounts will be added to reflect the strategy that the committee and TxDOT agreed to. Mr. Mendive stated that, it would be in Category 7 funds \$100,000,000, \$32,488,674 in Category 4 funds and \$15,188,067 in Category 2 funds.

CM. Galo, asked for the record what CSJ is.

Mr. Mendive, stated that CSJ is a Control Section Job number, it is a number that TxDOT uses to identify projects.

Mr. Mendive, presented the next amendment, a revision of project CSJ 0018-05-089 for the replacement of bridge structure at Uniroyal Drive. He further stated that the purpose of that amendment was to revise the existing funding amounts, and the funding amounts will be adjusted to increase Category 12 funds from \$45,000,000 to \$100,921,714, to cover implementing funding gaps.

Mr. Mendive, presented the next amendment for the Lomas Del Sur Project, which had already been allocated funding through the MPO Policy Committee, are going to have some adjustments with additional funds that will be added. He stated that the purpose of the amendment is to revise the existing funding amounts, the funding amounts would be adjusted to increase Category 2 funds from \$23,209,713 to \$34,535,033. He further stated that nothing is changing to the project's letting date, everything is staying the same. Mr. Mendive, stated that it's the same thing with the direct connector number 3 and 6, Northbound and Southbound and IH-35 to US-59 Eastbound, the amendment is to revise the existing funding amounts. He further stated that the funding amounts will be adjusted to increased Category 12 funds from \$39,200,000 to \$41,505,334, and add Category 1 funds in the amount of \$13,000,001. Mr. Mendive continued with Revision of project CSJ 0086-14-077 for the construction of US 59 interchange at the airport. He stated that the amendment is to revise the exiting funding amounts and project letting

date to FY 2026, and adjust funding amounts to increase Category 12 funds from \$16,418,996 to \$23,640,497.

CM. Galo, asked if that included any acquisition funds for any right-of-way.

Mr. Gonzalez, answered that is just construction money.

Mr. Mendive, continued with Revision of Project CSJ 0086-16008 for the construction of an overpass at Lomas Del Sur and State Loop 20. He stated the purpose of the amendment is to revise the existing finding amounts to increase Category 2 funds from \$23,209,713 to \$345,353,033. Mr. Mendive, presented the Revision of project CSJ 0086-14-086 for the reconstruction of existing 6-lane divided highway to propose 6-lane freeway including 3-lane frontage roads, the purpose of the amendment is to revise the existing funding amounts and project letting date to FY 2026. Mr. Mendive, further stated that the funding amounts will be adjust to increase Category 12 funds from \$29,290,676 to \$57,790,767 and add Category 1 funds in the amount of \$19,000,001.

Mr. Mendive, also presented the TIP Administrative Amendments for information purposes only. Mr. Mendive, stated that some letting dates were changed within the 10 years of 2023 to 2026, just have to get Administrative Amendment and no Policy Committee action is needed, since it is only for informational purposes.

CM. Perez, asked about the changes in some of the letting dates.

Mr. Mendive, answered by stating that there is an item in the agenda by the Engineering Department to discuss these changes to the letting dates.

Mr. Brown, asked about #6 Revision of project CSJ 0086-16-008. He asked where that is located.

Mr. Mendive, answered that it was from US-59 to 0.4 miles north of East Corridor road which is at the airport.

CM. Galo, asked the publicif anyone was For or Against initiating a 10-day public review and comment period for the proposed amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

C. Receive public testimony and initiate a (10) ten-day public review and comment period for the proposed revisions to the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

CM. Gonzalez, made a motion to open a 10-day publichearing for the proposed revisions to the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Second:

Mr. Brown

For:

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Against: Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mendive, stated that these are the same items, they just have to make the changes to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and then come back in July.

CM. Galo, asked the public if anyone was For or Against initiation a 10-day public review and comment period for the proposed revisions to the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

D. Receive public testimony and initiate a (20) twenty-day public review and comment period for the draft FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

CM. Gonzalez, made a motion to open a 20-day public hearing for the draft FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Second:

Mr. Brown

For:

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Against: Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mendive, gave a presentation of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Mendive, stated that the UPWP is a federally required work program describing the transportation planning programs and activities that are performed by the MPO every fiscal year. He further stated the UPWP can be amended at any time if needed. Mr. Mendive continued describing more about the UPWP and purpose. Mr. Mendive stated that once approved by the Policy Committee in the July meeting, it will be submitted to TxDOT for FHWA approval. Mr. Mendive, went over the UPWP Budget Summary with the committee.

- E. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2023-05, adopting the following proposed amendment(s) of the MPO By-Laws:
 - 1. Amend Article II, Section 2.1 and 2.2 to allow the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to rotate every two years between the City of Laredo Mayor and Webb County Judge.
 - 2. Amend Article II, Section 2.3 to update the Technical Committee membership.

CM. Galo, stated that it was an open public hearing, if there was anyone to speak For or Against.

Mr. Mendive, mentioned that this is the final vote for the Bylaw changes that were presented in the last meeting. He further stated that if this goes forward at the next meeting the Judge will be taking of the Chairmanship.

CM. Gonzalez, made a motion to approve the Resolution as it is shown in Article II, Section 2.1, Section 2.2 and Section 2.3.

Second:

CM. Perez

For:

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Against:

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Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

- F. Discussion with possible action to approve Resolution No. MPO 2023-06, adopting and supporting the 2023 Texas Department of Transportation Targets for Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures (PM2).
- G. Discussion with possible action to approve Resolution No. MPO 2023-07, adopting and supporting the 2023 Texas Department of Transportation Targets for System Performance Measures (PM3).

Mr. Mendive, presented both Resolutions No. MPO 2023-06 and No. MPO 2023-07. Mr. Mendive, stated that they are a Federal requirement that need to be looked at. He presented the Performance Periods and Reporting Schedule to the committee. He stated that TxDOT does these safety targets, and these targets PM2 and PM3 are done every other year. Mr. Mendive, presented the PM2 Pavement and Bridge condition targets to the committee. He also presented the PM3 Service Performance Measures Targets to the committee.

CM. Gonzalez, made a motion to approve both Resolution No. MPO 2023-06 adopting and supporting the 2023 Texas Department of Transportation Targets for Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures (PM2), and Resolution No. MPO 2023-07 adopting and supporting the 2023 Texas Department of Transportation Targets for System Performance Measures (PM3).

Second:

Mr. Brown

For:

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Against:

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Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Mendive, gave a brief statement on the Hachar-Reuthinger Road project, he stated they attended the Texas Transportation Commission meeting in May, where they had designated the Hachar-Reuthinger project as State Hwy. 84, he further stated that the City of Laredo's Engineering Department would provide a presentation on the item.

Mr. Chavez, COL Engineering gave an update on Hachar-Reuthinger Road project. Mr. Chavez, presented the status on the State Hwy 84, he stated that all 8 parcels have been sent to the TxDOT approved appraiser who will be evaluating and certifying them. Mr. Chavez, mentioned that he provided a timeline in the package provided to the committee. He further stated that they will try to expedite them as soon as possible, he also stated that one of the discussions they had with TxDOT was to focus on the ND Hachar Trust and parcel 6, which are the bigger parcels that will account for approximately more than 97 percent of the total area.

CM. Perez, asked if the Utilities will be an issue, she also asked if most of the parcel owners were going to donate land.

Mr. Chavez, stated that it was the understanding at that point, but once they send the offer letters they will get into those conversations with the parcel owners.

CM. Galo, stated that by law they must sent the offer letters to the parcel owners, and they can change their mind on donating he land once they see the dollar amount, if that happens the City is responsible for acquisition.

Mr. Chavez, stated that in the City's additional responsibility for the project regarding the utility coordination it is moving along and is well ahead of schedule.

 Discussion with possible action on the MPO and member organizations representation at the June 29th Texas Transportation Commission meeting, and any other matters incident thereto.

Mr. Mendive, stated that at the next Texas Transportation meeting on June 29th in Austin they will be presenting the Draft UTP, which will include the Hachar amounts that were included in the TIP amendments with the Category 2 and Category 4 funds. Mr. Mendive, further stated that some of the Policy Committee members including Mayor Pro Tempore, Vanessa Perez, and Councilmember Melissa Cigarroa had expressed interest in attending that meeting.

J. Presentation by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) on the River Road Route Alternatives Study, with possible action.

Mr. Brown, stated a few comments on the item and he presented Melissa Montemayor, RMA.

Mrs. Montemayor, gave a brief statement and presented Jason Rodriguez, RMA.

Mr. Rodriguez, gave a presentation on the River Road Route Alternative Study, he shared a brief background on what started the River Road Route Alternative Study and the work that had been done over the years. Mr. Rodriguez, shared that they did a traffic analysis to determine if they should build it or not, and that essentially concluded that if they build the full 5.6-mile roadway it would reduce the traffic time From Las Tiendas to I-69 by more than half the travel time. Mr. Rodriguez, presented the Proposed Cross-Section for the River Road, he stated that they estimated a 150-foot right-of-way, with 2 lanes in each direction split by a median, where the turns lanes will be and future expansion of the road to 3 lanes could be. Mr. Rodriguez, stated that they next step would be to find the funds the project.

CM. Perez, stated that it was the first time she saw these Route Alternative Study, but she is all for the project.

Mr. Brown, stated that he would like to see the lines on the property owners to know who this road would be impacting. He further stated that some of the owners had commented that they would donate the land but there are others that haven't even commented.

CM. Perez, stated that back in 2015 - 2016 Mr. Medina had been able to secure all the landowners along the route to donate. She further stated that he may have already done some of the preliminary work.

Mrs. Montemayor, stated yes in fact Mr. Medina was instrumental in sharing the information that he had previously worked on, and they did use that as a basis for the analysis of the alignment.

Mr. Brown, stated that the trickiest part is in the North end where there are Master Planning going on and the road may be going through areas that are planned for industrial. Mr. Brown, stated that he would like to have a workshop with the City to get more information before it is presented to the City and the County Commissioners to understand it better. He further stated that they put the study together with the MPO, they don't have the money to build it and it will take time to identify where the \$155 million dollars will come will come from.

Mr. Mendive, added that once an alignment is selected they will work with the City's Planning Department to make sure that it is on the thoroughfare plan so that way when the developers go in they know to preserve that right-of-way.

CM. Perez, stated that regardless of not knowing which alignment they will choose they should start contacting the landowners to initiate the process.

Mr. Navarro, COL Planning stated the Planning Department can gladly take the lead and start bringing in the landowners. He also stated that they do have some activity out there, some plats and some annexations coming through, so they can get everyone ready for this project.

CM. Perez, suggested they have a workshop with the landowners and the interested parties at the Fasken Rec center in July.

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

A. Status report by the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

Mr. Brown, stated that in the packet there they can find the Status report by the RMA on the projects they are working on.

B. Presentation and project updates by Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT gave a presentation on the following items.

- 1. Laredo Outer Loop update
- 2. Loop 20/US 59 Upgrade update
- 3. Signage on IH 35 including near the Border Patrol checkpoint

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT gave a quick presentation and project updates. Mr. Rodriguez, gave an update on the Laredo Outer Loop, he presented a time frame of the project development phases to the committee members. He stated that they had split the Outer Loop in 3 phases, from 35 to 59, from 59 to 359, and from 359 South to 83. He further stated that due to the ranking of the MPO the segment between 359 and 59 became the top priority due to the traffic and congestion on 359.

CM. Galo, stated that some of those properties where the alignment is are starting to disappear, so he asked what is it that they need to do in order to secure the right-of-way.

Mr. Rodriguez, stated that they have had several meetings with the property owners and one of there has been one relocation changed in the 359 area. He also stated that the location that they are crossing now is undeveloped and they have been approached by developers about building in those areas, but they are leaving the space for the Outer Loop to go through.

Mr. Rodriguez, gave an update on the US-59 project, he stated the project is letting in August of this year, it is close to 6 miles in length, and it was from International to South of the Airport. He further stated that they extended the limits because they need to make some improvements on the intersection.

CM. Galo, asked if there was anything been done at the University Blvd.

Mr. Rodriguez, stated that there will be an Interchange at TAMIU. He stated that it will be Shiloh, University, Del Mar, and Jacaman.

CM. Gonzalez, asked if it will be constructed in that order as mentioned by Mr. Rodriguez.

Mr. Rodriguez, stated that the first 10 to 12 months the construction will be the relocation of the utility services, the next phase will be building the 2 lanes that will be most of the area, the future Northbound Frontage road. Once they open up the Northbound they will be shifting the traffic to that side so they can reconstruct what will be the Southbound Frontage Road, and after that the Bridges and the lanes.

Mr. Gonzalez, answered CM. Gonzalez's question on the order of construction. Mr. Gonzalez, stated that they will be going from South to North. Mr. Gonzalez, also stated that they are going to leapfrog them so that they can maintain intersections open for access.

Mrs. Duncan, TxDOT explained to the committee how the projects will be constructed. She stated that initially there were 3 phases, there was the Northern phase, which was International, Shiloh, and Del Mar than there was a 2nd phase which was just Jacaman and there was phase 3 which was the Airport. She further stated their intent was to start at the Airport and go north than they had several issues come up so they decided to switch

gears and go North to South in the project itself. She also stated that now they are doing the Northern project and with some recent changes they were able to include Jacaman as part of that Northern project, so now they are doing that project first and then the Airport project, but for the first project the sequence of construction will be South to North.

CM. Gonzalez, asked if the construction timeline of 5 years 3 months is including everything all the overpasses and Bridges.

Mrs. Duncan, stated it was correct.

Mr. Rodriguez, gave an update on the signage on IH 35 including near the Border Patrol checkpoint. He stated that this request has come several times to the MPO. He further stated that in order to have enforcing signs that the right lane is only for trucks they need to have a minimum of 3 lanes on the interstate according to the Transportation Administrator. So, at the time it can be signed but it cannot be enforced by law enforcement. Mr. Rodriguez, stated that they already have a consultant onboard doing a Schematic and PS&E from mile marker 20 to mile marker 30, and that project was broken up in several phases.

CM. Perez, made a motion to name Commissioner Gonzalez presiding officer for the remainder of the meeting.

Second:

CM. Galo

For:

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Against:

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Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

CM. Galo left the meeting at 3:04 P.M.

C. Update by City of Laredo Engineering staff on the FM 1472/Flecha Ln. Realignment (CSJ 0922-33-076) and Calton Road Grade Separation (CSJ 0922-33-093) projects.

Ramon Chavez, COL Engineering presented an update on the FM 1472/Flecha Ln. Realignment (CSJ 0922-33-076) and Calton Road Grade Separation (CSJ 0922-33-093) projects. Mr. Chavez, started by addressing CM. Perez's question regarding the letting date, he stated that their consultants' schedules have an earlier letting date on both of the projects, but TxDOT recommended that they place them for May 2025. Mr. Chavez, started with the Flecha Ln./ Las Cruces Realignment update, he stated that the environmental assessment a mitigation has started, and the Consultant already surveyed the field data that is needed for the mitigation as well as the H&H in the Hydrological

Study and the Utilities for the relocation. He further stated that as far as the Real Estate and Property Acquisition in an eye plane a lot of the delays on the Flecha Ln. project, because before May 15th 2023 when Council authorized the purchase of the properties, they were not successful in accessing them. Mr. Chavez, stated that on that day they were closing on the property giving them 100% of the right-of-way needed for the project. He stated that the closing for the 2 additional Parcels that were needed were taking place that day. He further stated that the most recent estimate for Flecha Ln. was at 4.9 million so there will be a funding gap on the project, he mentioned they are starting a budget for those funding gaps.

CM. Perez, stated that all this helps the connectivity at the Mines Rd.

Mr. Chavez, gave an update on the Calton Road Grade Separation and Roadway Widening. He stated that staff was currently working on amendment 12, he stated that they have been back and fourth with the consultant on the fees, and they will be taking a recommendation to Council with that amendment that has to do with the redesign, the new standard specs and the latest TxDOT revisions. He further stated that they have the target dates for each of the Utility relocations, he stated that the Environmental Reevaluation was completed in 2022 and once the amendment is approved they are expecting to have 100% plans to TxDOT in August, from there they will go into coordination with UPR which is also necessary and the Consultants estimated that by January 2024 they will be completed with that. Mr. Chavez, stated that there will also be funding gaps on that project.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Mendive, MPO Director provided the following comments/report:

- The next Texas Transportation Commission Meeting will be held on June 29, 2023. The
 draft list of projects for the 2024 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) is expected to
 be presented at this meeting. Upcoming meetings and agendas can be found on the
 following link: https://www.txdot.gov/about/leadership/texas-transportation-commission/meeting-dates-agendas.html.
- 2. The next TxDOT Border Trade Advisory Committee (BTAC) meeting will be held in Brownsville on August 22, 2023. BTAC provides a forum for the exchange of communications between the Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT, the governor, and committee members representing border trade interests.
- 3. MPO staff attended an in-person FHWA Workshop on the Congestion Management Process in Austin on June 7th and 8th.

- 4. The 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan RFQ was issued on May 19th with a deadline of June 12th. The next step is evaluation and selection process. The evaluation committee will make a recommendation to the Technical and Policy Committee in July.
- 5. Upcoming regularly scheduled meetings:
 - Active Transportation Committee June 28, 2023
 - Technical Committee July 11, 2023
 - Policy Committee July 19, 2023

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Policy Committee reserves the right to adjourn into executive session at any time during the course of this meeting to discuss any posted agenda item when authorized by Texas Government Code Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), 551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), 551.074 (Personnel Matters), 551.076 (Deliberations about Security Devices), and/or 551.086 (Economic Development). Following closed session, the open meeting will reconvene at which time action, if any, may be taken.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Brown, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 P.M.

Second:

CM. Perez

For:

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Against:

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Abstained:

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Motion carried unanimously.

Juan S. Mendive, AICP

LWCAMPO Director

Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge and

LWCAMPO Chairperson