



MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

www.laredompo.org

Meeting Date & Time: March 20, 2024 at 1:30 P.M.

Meeting Location: City of Laredo Council Chambers, 1110 Houston St., Laredo, Texas 78040

Meeting Link: <http://laredotx.swagit.com/live>

Laredo TV: Spectrum TV channel 1300

AGENDA:

- I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER
- II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL
- 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 February 21, 2024.
- B. Presentation with possible action on Resolution No. MPO 2024-04 supporting the Vision Zero Program and the development of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan.
- C. Discussion with possible action to provide a Letter of Support requested by the City of Laredo Fire Department for the 2023 Staffing Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant application from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- D. Discussion with possible action on the Hachar-Reuthinger Road project.

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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

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

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

- A. Announcement of upcoming Transportation Management Area (TMA) Planning Certification Review.
- B. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2025-2050 Update.
- C. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 2025-2028 Update.
- D. Microtransit Feasibility Study RFP Update.
- E. Schedule of upcoming meetings.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE INFORMATION:

Notice of this meeting 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 on Friday, March 15, 2024 by 5:00 PM. The agenda and meeting information was also posted online at <https://www.laredompo.org/agendas-minutes/>.

All meetings of the MPO Committee are open to the public. 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 MPO Staff at 956-794-1605, or via email at aavigil@ci.laredo.tx.us at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Materials in Spanish may also be provided upon request.

Disability Access Statement: This meeting is wheelchair accessible. The accessible ramps are located at 1110 Victoria and 910 Flores. Accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall, 1110 Victoria.

INFORMACION:

Ayuda o Servicios Auxiliares: Todas las reuniones del Comité del MPO están abiertas al público. Personas que planean asistir a esta reunión y que pueden necesitar ayuda o servicios auxiliares como: interpretes para personas con discapacidad auditiva, lectores de letra grande o en Braille, o un traductor para el idioma español deben comunicarse con el personal del MPO al 956-794-1605 o por correo electrónico aavigil@ci.laredo.tx.us por lo menos dos días laborales antes de la reunión para que se puedan hacer los arreglos apropiados. Material en español está disponible mediante una petición.

MPO POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Declaración de Acceso a la Discapacidad: Esta reunión permite el acceso a personas en silla de ruedas. Los espacios de estacionamiento para discapacitados se encuentran en 1110 Victoria y 900 Flores. Los espacios de estacionamiento para discapacitados se encuentran por la calle Victoria.

Información en español: Si usted desea esta información en español o si desea explicación sobre el contenido, por favor llámenos al teléfono (956) 794-1605 o comunicarse con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a aavigil@ci.laredo.tx.us.

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

LWCAMPO Chairperson

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge

LWCAMPO Vice-Chairperson

Honorable Dr. Victor D. Treviño, City of Laredo Mayor

City of Laredo Representatives:

Honorable Ruben Gutierrez, Jr., City Councilmember, District V

Honorable Melissa R. Cigarroa, City Councilmember, District III

County of Webb Representatives:

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Laredo Mass Transit Board Representative:

Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember, District VII

State Representative:

Mr. Epigmenio "Epi" Gonzalez, P.E., TxDOT District Engineer

Member at Large Representative:

Jed A. Brown

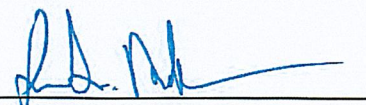
Ex-Officio Representatives:

Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21

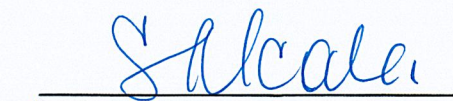
Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42

Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80

AGENDA REVIEWED:



Juan S. Mendive, AICP
LWCAMPO Director



Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
Laredo City Secretary



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item IV.A.

- A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on February 21, 2024.**



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2024

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

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Judge Tano E. Tijerina, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

Regular members present:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge and LWCAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez Jr., Mayor Pro-Tempore, District V (left at 2:00 PM)
Honorable Melissa R. Cigarroa, City Councilmember, District III
Honorable Vanessa Perez, City Councilmember, District VII (joined meeting at 1:36 PM)
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 Vice-Chairperson

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

Second: CM. Gutierrez
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

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

Others:

Ramon Chavez, COL Engineering
Roberto Garza, COL Transit
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Luis M. Villarreal, TxDOT
J. Carlos Flores, Webb County Engineering
Anthony Garza, Webb County Consultant
Victoria Villarreal, Webb County Planning
Blasita J. Lopez, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Baltazar Avila, LJA Engineering

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 January 17, 2024.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to **approve** the minutes of January 17, 2024.

Second: Mr. Brown
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion with possible action to approve Resolution No. MPO 2024-03, adopting and supporting the 2024 Texas Department of Transportation Safety Performance Measures (PM1) and Targets.

Juan Mendive, MPO Director, presented the item and stated it was being brought back from last month's meeting. He stated that the deadline to set the targets was February 27, 2024 and as a Federal requirement, it was requested to adopt and support the Texas Department of Transportation Safety Targets.

Judge Tijerina, asked the reason why the Targets hadn't been approved last month.

Mr. Mendive, stated that there were questions on some of the Target figures, and now they were more concise. He further stated there was a discrepancy on one of the columns that showed figures as actual data instead of Target data.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to approve Resolution No. MPO 2024-03, adopting and supporting the 2024 Texas Department of Transportation Safety Performance Measures (PM1) and Targets.

Second: CM. Galo
For: 7
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Ramon Chavez, City Engineer presented a brief status report of State Highway 84 or previously known as Hachar-Reuthinger Road. He stated that City Council had approved Resolution 2024-R-081 accepting the charitable donation of parcels 1, 2, and 5; and Resolution 2024-R-077 approving the purchase of a tract of land identified as parcel 4. Mr. Chavez further stated that out of the 9 parcels, 5 parcels were still pending to be acquired.

Mr. Chavez also reported that the documentation for the donation of land of parcel 6 had been received.

Judge Tijerina, asked if any issues were foreseen with the other 4 pending parcels.

Mr. Chavez, stated it was possible on one of the parcels only.

Judge Tijerina, asked if the letting date had changed.

Mr. Chavez, stated it had not.

CM. Perez, stated that she was excited about the information shared especially on parcel 6. She mentioned that if the City acquired portions of Hachar and Reuthinger which would be about 99% of the right of way, TxDOT should be fine in keeping the letting date.

Judge Tijerina, asked if the acquisition of Parcel 6 was enough for TxDOT to move forward.

Mr. Gonzalez, stated that TxDOT was currently updating their Construction Management Plan as part of the document that must be submitted to Administration, given that some right of way has not been cleared or acquired prior to letting and, the plan would show this won't have an impact to the project. He also stated it has been documented some existing utilities that still need to be adjusted and the plan demonstrated this won't delay the execution of the contract.

Mr. Chavez, stated that the City's goal was to have acquisition of parcel 6 item by the next Council meeting of March the 8th, 2024.

Mr. Gonzalez, stated that the main parcels were parcel 2 and 6 the others would not have an impact to the construction project, but that may have impact to the utilities so still needed to be monitored. He also stated that parcel 3 was going to eminent domain and parcel 7 and 8 were pending the offer letter from parcel 9.

Mr. Chavez, confirmed and stated that the last appraisal had been received the day before. He further stated City staff continued working to make parcels 7, 8, and 9 part of the packet final offer.

CM. Perez, expressed her enthusiasm towards the project and it being delivered to the public. She stated that despite all the obstacles with the funding gap and acquiring the Right-of-Way, TxDOT was still holding true to their letting date.

CM. Galo, asked what the construction time was after the letting date.

Mr. Gonzalez, stated it was about 32 months. He mentioned that the availability of resources/materials was another concern. He stated that the letting date was scheduled for May 2024, and it meant when bids were opened; And, the advertising occurred 21 day prior to the Letting date.

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

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

Mr. Jeb Brown, RMA Chairman, presented the following report part of the packet:

WC-CL RMA November 2024 Status Report to LWCAMPO

- 1. Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan** – The work began in September 2023. The first formal public engagement will begin in February 2024. Action was taken by the WC-CL RMA Board on adopting a pledge to zero fatalities and serious injuries on roadways in Webb County by 2040. Other agencies such as Laredo City Council, LWCAMPO Policy Committee, Webb County and School Districts will be invited to take the pledge as well. Completion of the study is anticipated for December 2024. The RMA will host a media event Feb. 29, 2024 at 10 a.m. at the downtown U.S. Post office grounds to publicly launch the Safety Action Plan and reintroduce Vision Zero, including the commitment and promote a survey.
- 2. Vallecillo Road** –The draft ROW parcel plats and strip map are anticipated for completion in March. Environmental studies are currently ongoing with field visits commencing in

March. Traffic Forecast modeling is currently ongoing and the draft report is anticipated for completion in late March. The drainage analysis of the project is ongoing with the draft report to be completed by the end of March. The proposed geometry (horizontal and vertical) is complete. A draft schematic is anticipated for submittal to the Laredo District in late February 2024. The RMA is projecting a Fall 2025 Letting of the project.

The RMA is finalizing its funding agreement with the Killam Company and is amending its Inter Local Agreement with the City of Laredo. The City of Laredo is commencing the development of the ROW agreement with the Killam Company. As the project sponsor, the executed Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) is solely between the TxDOT Laredo District and the RMA.

3. **Vallecillo Overpass** – In order to advance the schedule of the project, the WC-CL RMA has come to an agreement with the TxDOT Laredo District for the development of the Overpass project. The WC-CL RMA will undertake the design of the project, provide up to \$1M in funding for the design of the project and control the project schedule. TxDOT will design the remaining half of the project through a department design contract. The agreement will be codified via a separate Advanced Funding Agreement.
4. **Concord Hills (Wormser Road/ Lomas Del Sur to Los Presidentes)** – The RMA will sponsor and lead the design and construction of a new location 1.3 mile, 2-lane minor arterial roadway extension from Los Presidentes to Wormser Road/ Lomas Del Sur within a nominal ROW width of 90' in partnership with the City. The RMA has committed \$1 million to the development of the project. The project will provide a parallel route to Cuatro Vientos and provide additional access to the new Laredo Sports Complex and the Municipal Water Park. The sponsorship and implementation are subject to the negotiation of an Inter Local Agreement (ILA) between the City and the RMA. The RMA is working with the City to finalize the construction cost estimate for the project and complete the ILA for the project.
5. **Springfield Phase I, II, and IV** – Similar to Springfield Phase III, the RMA has committed up to \$1 million to the City to assist with the funding of the construction of the next Phase of the project. The sponsorship and implementation are subject to the negotiation of an Inter Local Agreement between the City and the RMA. The RMA is working with the City to finalize the construction cost estimate for the project and complete the Inter Local Agreement for the project.
6. **North Laredo and Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZ)** - The WC CL RMA hosted a TRZ workshop on July 19, 2023, to review the TRZ study and implementation process with the City. A second workshop was conducted on 8/28/23. The RMA is awaiting execution of the ILA with the City to commence the North Laredo TRZ Study. The City notified the WC-CL RMA on 2/13/24 that the City will move forward with drafting and distributing the ILA to the WC-CL RMA and commence the project.
7. **FM 1472 and Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes** – Project is pending final walk-through, and TDLR inspection and final Close-out Construction Change Order. Project is 99+% complete.

8. Other Items:

- RMA had a Board meeting on February 14, 2024.
- RMA will have their next Board meeting in the Spring.

Mr. Brown, also stated he had received his reappointment from Governor Abbott as Chairman of Webb County City of Laredo Regional Mobility Area for another two years.

B. Presentation and update by TxDOT on the FY 2025 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave a presentation on the Unified Transportation Program (UTP). He started by giving a brief explanation on existing Planning and Programming documents used by TxDOT for the project's development process. He explained there was a two-year Certification or Letting Schedule, also a four-year STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program) that works in conjunction with the MPO for project funding and ready to let within the next four years. He further mentioned the UTP (Unified Transportation Program), a 10-year plan consisting of projects that were already funded for construction. From there, the MPO would develop the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to set 20 years' worth of projects, and then, the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan that is 24 years.

Mr. Rodriguez, stated that all the projects on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) were included on the Letting Schedule and projects on the UTP were also included on the STIP and the two-year Letting Schedule. Mr. Rodriguez, explained the TxDOT Project Path. Every project outside the UTP starts in the Plan Authority phase and develop schematics, environmental constrains, alternatives and feasibility studies etc. and, that's how the projects compete to get into the UTP, through Development Authority UTP phase with years between 5-10 on the Letting Schedule. Which allows time for the completion of PS&E, ROW acquisition, and necessary process to step into the next phase of the Construction Authority year 1-4. Finally, projects go to the In Construction or Post Letting phase.

Mr. Rodriguez, continued by presenting the UTP Development timeline. He also stated TxDOT was currently looking at preliminary numbers for the 2025 UTP based on the State's financials. He also stated that the UTP Planning Targets were about to be released and, these were specifically for Category 1, 2, & 4 that were usually calculated by formula.

Mr. Rodriguez further shared the Project Selection Methodology. He explained the Statewide Priorities and System Needs and, the Projected Project Performance as the two scoring systems used and what they consisted of. Both score results would be combined to obtain a final project score and be able to provide a project recommendation.

Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the different funding Categories, but focused on the ones impacted or selected by the MPO. He mentioned that Category 2 Metropolitan and Urban Area Corridors, included projects selected by the MPO in consultation with TxDOT and, Texas Transportation Commission allocates funds through a formula

allocation program. Also, Category 7 Metropolitan Mobility/Rehabilitation that worked very similar and currently being used for State Highway 84.

Mr. Rodriguez briefly went through the other Categories and how some were calculated by formula and were fixed amounts every year. He also presented the 2024 UTP Funding Distribution by Category chart, and amounts that were disturbed in each Category including funds that Laredo usually gets. He mentioned as well the approximately \$2.2 million currently on the 2024 -2033 UTP funds for the Laredo District.

CM. Perez asked where was Vallecillo Rd. interchange listed.

Mr. Rodriguez explained this project was part of the competition list for funding that had been submitted.

Mr. Brown, asked when would the draft list of all the projects anticipated for the Laredo District be released.

Mr. Rodriguez, stated that for the formula-based funding Categories 2 and 4, the draft list was almost complete. For the other Categories, it would be a couple of months before presented for a decision on priority of projects. He mentioned some of the projects on the draft list of requests included the expansion of the lanes of the US. Border Patrol Check point at mile 29 of IH35. He also talked about US59 by the airport with a gap of funding and also requesting funding for Sierra Vista and Cielito Lindo overpasses.

CM. Gonzalez, asked what would it be needed to get these overpasses funded.

Mr. Rodriguez, stated if Category 4 or 12 funds were obtained from the MPO, the projects could be partially funded.

C. Update by MPO staff on the stakeholder meeting held on January 24, 2024 to discuss traffic congestion issues at the Unitec Industrial Park area.

Mr. Mendive, shared the presentation used at the Stakeholder meeting. He mentioned there were around 20 people in attendance, including representatives from City of Laredo, Webb County, TxDOT, RMA, and stakeholders.

Mr. Mendive, stated that some of the purposes of the meeting were to better understand the existing issues and problems in the area, and to understand the MPO's role in managing congestion and planning for multimodal solutions. The meeting was also to brainstorm short mid and long-term potential solutions to manage congestion.

Judge Tijerina, asked if there was a short-term solution to manage the congestion.

Mr. Mendive, mentioned an idea that was discussed in the meeting which was to change some of the streets to one way. He stated that this option would have to be implemented by the City of Laredo.

Judge Tijerina, asked if TxDOT would be able to help with the congestion issues.

Mr. Gonzalez, stated that there have been some discussions between the City of Laredo and TxDOT about making some improvements to the intersections, for instance, eliminating some left movements to improve efficiency of the signal. He further stated that TxDOT could look into doing something that would help in the short term, within a few months.

CM. Galo, asked what the MPO boundaries were, and if they would go past the Unitec Industrial Park area.

Mr. Mendive, confirmed the MPO boundaries passed the Unitec Industrial Park area.

CM. Galo, suggested a North-South road out of Majestics connecting to Reuthinger and, an East-West road at Doctors Road. He stated that it should coincide with the opening of the overpass.

CM. Perez, mentioned a road that was used by the employees in the area that crossed the railroad tracks, but was no longer allowed to be used. She continued by stating that if the road could be used again, it would be as a short-term solution option.

CM. Perez, stated there should be a meeting coordinated with the railroad for a short-term solution, while TxDOT re-evaluates and provides a long-term solution. She suggested Laredo Traffic Dept. could eliminate the left turns in the area.

Judge Tijerina, requested to bring the item back to keep it in the forefront.

CM. Cigarroa, asked if there were plans on having other Stakeholders meetings.

Mr. Mendive, stated that there was a tentatively scheduled for late February possibly moved to March.

Judge Tijerina, stated that the items be brought back in 60 days and if it could be discussed prior, him and Mr. Mendive could go over it in Pre-Agenda and can decide if they bring it back earlier.

CM. Perez, stated that it might be good to bring the item to Council.

Mr. Mendive, stated that the item was on the Council Agenda per CM. Dr. King request to discuss what could be done. He mentioned Council talked about the TRZ and how the RMA, TxDOT and the MPO could help and possibly come up with other solutions and, after those conversations, the idea of having a Stakeholder meeting came about.

CM. Perez, stated that a status update and some of the solutions that have been proposed could be presented at Council to see if there was something Council could contribute to.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director's Report February 21, 2024

Mr. Mendive, congratulated Mr. Brown on being reappointed as Chairman of WC-LC RMA. Mr. Mendive, also congratulated TxDOT and their team on the US 59 Loop upgrade groundbreaking.

Mr. Mendive presented the following report to the Committee:

1. On February 20th, MPO staff met with our FHWA representative, Kirk Fauver, and TxDOT field representative, Sara Garza, to discuss the upcoming Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification review, which is scheduled for June 25th-26th.
2. The RFP for the Microtransit Feasibility Study programmed in our FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program was issued on February 3rd with a deadline of March 7th.
3. Texas Transportation Commission Meetings:
 - February 21, 2024 (2 p.m.)
 - February 22, 2024
 - March 27, 2024 (2 p.m.)
 - March 28, 2024
 - April 25, 2024

Upcoming Texas Transportation Commission meetings and agendas can be found on the following link: <https://www.txdot.gov/about/leadership/texas-transportation-commission/meeting-dates-agendas.html>.

4. Upcoming regularly scheduled MPO meetings:
 - Active Transportation Committee – February 28, 2024
 - Technical Committee – March 12, 2024
 - Policy Committee – March 20, 2024

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Perez, made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:37 PM.

Second: CM. Galo
 For: 7
 Against: 0
 Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Juan S. Mendive, AICP
 LWCAMPO Director

Webb County Judge Tano E. Tijerina
 LWCAMPO Chairperson



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item IV.B.

- B. Presentation with possible action on Resolution No. MPO 2024-04 supporting the Vision Zero Program and the development of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan.**

**LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
ACTION ITEM**

DATE: 03-20-24	ITEM: IV. B
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION Discussion and recommendation on Resolution No. MPO 2024-04 supporting the Vision Zero Program and the development of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan.	
INITIATED BY: Staff	STAFF SOURCE: Juan S. Mendive, MPO Director
PREVIOUS ACTION: None	
BACKGROUND: <p>The Vision Zero Program is a collaborative effort lead by the Webb County-City of Laredo Regional Mobility Authority (WC-CL RMA) in partnership with the City of Laredo and the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve traffic safety on City of Laredo and Webb County streets and by developing the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan. This plan will outline critical steps and strategies needed to keep our roads safe, health and security of its residents, business, employees and visitors. It is a strategy designed to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries by 2040.</p> <p>Vision Zero aligns with the City's Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan, Future Thoroughfare Plan, Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan, Laredo Downtown Master Plan, Downtown Laredo Parking Study, Rio Grande Vega Trail Master Plan, Laredo Active Living Plan, Laredo International Bridge System Master Plan, LWCAMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), LWCAMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), LWCAMPO Transport Improvement Program (TIP), LWCAMPO Public Participation Plan (PPP), and the TxDOT Laredo District Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2023-2027 by emphasizing the needs of all roadway users and prioritizing improvements that address those needs.</p> <p>On February 28, 2024, the Active Transportation Committee (ATC) recommended to support the Vision Zero Program and the development of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan.</p>	
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: The Technical Committee recommended approval of Resolution MPO 2024-04 on 3/12/24.	STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. MPO 2024-04.



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. MPO 2024-04

BY THE LAREDO AND WEBB COUNTY AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING THE VISION ZERO PROGRAM AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VISION ZERO WEBB LAREDO SAFETY ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a strategy designed to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all using the Safe Systems Approach; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero acknowledges that traffic crashes resulting in death or serious injury are largely preventable and that many factors contribute to safe mobility, including roadway design, human behaviors (such as speeding, driving under the influence and wearing seatbelts), technology, and policies; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero establishes clear strategies to achieve zero traffic fatalities and severe injuries; and

WHEREAS, One death on our streets is one too many; and

WHEREAS, Crashes involving pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists was more likely to be fatal or cause serious injury; and

WHEREAS, Equity is an integral component of Vision Zero with strategies such as prioritizing safety improvements in historically underserved areas and conducting robust engagement programs to reach the most vulnerable roadway users; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero aligns with the City's Viva Laredo Comprehensive Plan, Future Thoroughfare Plan, Laredo & Webb County Active Transportation Plan, Laredo Downtown Master Plan, Downtown Laredo Parking Study, Rio Grande Vega Trail Master Plan, Laredo Active Living Plan, Laredo International Bridge System Master Plan, LWCAMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), LWCAMPO Unified Planning Work Program, LWCAMPO Transport Improvement Program (TIP), LWCAMPO Public Participation Plan, and the TxDOT Laredo District Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2023-2027 by emphasizing the needs of all roadway users and prioritizing improvements that address those needs; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Laredo and Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO), that:

Section 1: LWCAMPO supports the Vision Zero Program and the development of the Vision Zero

Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan to protect the safety, health and security of its residents, businesses, employees, and visitors.

Section 2: Furthermore, LWCAMPO commits to a goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2040.

We certify that the above resolution was passed and adopted on this 20th day of March 2024, at a public meeting of the Policy Committee of the Laredo and Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO).

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge and Chairperson of
The LWCAMPO Policy Committee

Juan S. Mendive, AICP
MPO Director

Epigmenio "Epi" Gonzalez, P.E.
TxDOT District Engineer



VISION ZERO
WEBB LAREDO
SAFETY ACTION PLAN

LAST YEAR
119 PEOPLE WERE
KILLED OR SERIOUSLY
INJURED ON STREETS IN
OUR COUNTY.

A 20% JUMP FROM 2021.*

WE'RE TAKING ACTION BECAUSE
EVEN ONE DEATH
ON OUR STREETS
IS ONE TOO MANY.

The **Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan** is the first step towards safer streets for everyone in our community.

This plan is grounded in the Safe System Approach which aims to eliminate fatal and severe injuries by:

1. Anticipating human mistakes to prevent crashes before they occur.
2. Designing a transportation system that accommodates human vulnerabilities.

THIS
PLAN
WILL BE:



Equitable
 It will address the disproportionate impacts of traffic fatalities on people, including those of color, low income households, older adults, and children.



Data Driven
 Strategies in the plan will be built on actions that are proven to reduce fatal and severe injury crashes.



Accountable
 The Plan will track and share progress with clear measures of success.

FUNDING PARTNERS



*Data based on TXDOT Crash Records Information System



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item IV.C.

- C. Discussion with possible action to provide a Letter of Support requested by the City of Laredo Fire Department for the 2023 Staffing Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant application from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).**



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

March 12, 2024

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

RE: Letter of Support for the 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Application

Dear FEMA:

The Laredo and Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO) is pleased to express its full support for the City of Laredo's Fire Department FY2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant application.

The grant will be supporting much needed federal funding for the hiring of thirty (30) new full-time career entry-level firefighters to activate the opening of a new fire station that will be located on mile marker 15 by Interstate Highway 35 in the warehouse district. The 30 new firefighters will be assigned to the newly proposed engine company and aerial truck which currently there is none in the warehouse district. The closest engine company is 7.3 miles away taking approximately 14 minutes; however, the response time could be much longer due to the congestion of heavy-truck traffic traveling to-and-from the warehouse district and on Interstate Highway 35.

As a result, the City of Laredo Fire Department and City Leaders including business owners and employees are in great need to have this new fire station inside the warehouse district as it is a safety concern to all. LWCAMPO fully supports the City of Laredo's SAFER grant application as we expect continuous growth in demographics and population in the warehouse district and nearby other Industrial Parks currently in construction.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and funding of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Tano E. Tijerina
Webb County Judge
Laredo and Webb County Area MPO Chairman



CITY OF LAREDO

FIRE DEPARTMENT



December 14, 2023

Juan S. Mendive, MPO Director
Laredo & Webb County
Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
1413 Houston St.
Laredo, TX 78040

RE: Letter of Support for 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant

Dear Mr. Mendive,

The City of Laredo Fire Department and our citizens, whom we are charged with protecting, respectfully request a letter of support from your office in support of our grant application for the 2023 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant offered by FEMA which we anticipate to submit in March of 2024.

The Laredo Fire Department (LFD) is seeking federal SAFER grant funding to hire thirty (30) new full-time career entry-level firefighters to activate the opening of a new fire station in the warehouse district located on mile marker 15 by IH-35. The 30 new FTEs would be assigned to the engine company and aerial truck that would be assigned to the warehouse district response area. More specifically, the new firefighters will aid in addressing the public safety response times due to continued population and demographic growth. In order to accomplish this, the City of Laredo anticipates hiring and retaining 30 entry-level firefighters who will be certified as Firefighter II/Paramedic and meet the certification requirement set by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

The SAFER Grant is designed to assist fire departments in enhancing their capabilities by addressing personnel needs. By obtaining this grant, the City of Laredo Fire Department could secure the necessary funds to hire and retain additional dedicated firefighters. Moreover, it will foster the development of a highly trained and professional fire service, potentially leading to new businesses, residents, and investments in the community, thus leading to much-needed sustained growth and development.

Sincerely,

Guillermo Heard, MSN, CPM
Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item IV.D.

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



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item V.A.

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



WC-CL RMA March 2024 Status Report to LWCAMPO

1. **Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan** – The work began in September 2023. The first formal public engagement will begin in February 2024. Action was taken by the WC-CL RMA Board on adopting a pledge to zero fatalities and serious injuries on roadways in Webb County by 2040. Other agencies such as Laredo City Council, LWCAMPO Policy Committee, Webb County and School Districts will be invited to take the pledge as well. Completion of the study is anticipated for December 2024. The RMA will hosted a press conference on Feb. 29, 2024 at the downtown U.S. Post office grounds to publicly launch the Safety Action Plan and reintroduce Vision Zero, including the commitment and promote a survey. The RMA Board has adopted the pledge to reach zero fatalities and serious injuries on Laredo and Webb County roadways by 2040 on February 14, 2024, and Laredo Council adopted the same pledge on March 18, 2024, and now we would like to invite the LWCAMPO Policy Committee to do the same. We will host a public open house and stakeholders workshop on April 23 and 24, 2024 respectively.

2. **Vallecillo Road** –The draft ROW parcel plats and strip map are anticipated for completion in March. Environmental studies are currently ongoing with field visits commencing in late March. Traffic Forecast modeling is currently ongoing and the draft report is anticipated for completion in mid-April. The drainage analysis of the project is ongoing with the draft report to be completed by the end of March. The proposed geometry (horizontal and vertical) is complete. We provided a status update to the TxDOT Laredo District on February 28, 2024. The final schematic submittal is anticipated to be provided to the Laredo District in mid-May 2024. The RMA is projecting a Fall 2025 Letting of the project.

The RMA executed its funding agreement with the Killam Company on March 4, 2024 and is amending its Inter Local Agreement with the City of Laredo. The City of Laredo is commencing the development of the ROW agreement with the Killam Company. As the project sponsor, the executed Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) is solely between the TxDOT Laredo District and the RMA. The RMA is also awaiting the AFA Amendment from TxDOT to account for the updated funding for the project.

3. **Vallecillo Overpass** – In order to advance the schedule of the project, the WC-CL RMA has come to an agreement with the TxDOT Laredo District for the development of the Overpass project. The WC-CL RMA will undertake the design of the project, provide up to \$1M in funding for the design of the project and control the project schedule. TxDOT will design the remaining half of the project through a department design contract. The agreement will be codified via a separate Advanced Funding Agreement. The RMA, County and City will meet with the TxDOT Laredo District to discuss the project on March 19, 2024.
4. **Concord Hills (Wormser Road/ Lomas Del Sur to Los Presidentes)** – The RMA will sponsor and lead the design and construction of a new location 1.3 mile, 2-lane minor arterial roadway extension from Los Presidentes to Wormser Road/ Lomas Del Sur within a nominal ROW width of 90' in partnership with the City. The RMA has committed \$1 million to the development of the project. The project will provide a parallel route to Cuatro Vientos and provide additional access to the new



Laredo Sports Complex and the Municipal Water Park. The sponsorship and implementation are subject to the negotiation of an Inter Local Agreement (ILA) between the City and the RMA. The RMA is working with the City to finalize the construction cost estimate for the project and complete the ILA for the project. The RMA recommitted its support in funding on the project February 14, 2024 at the February Board Meeting.

5. **Springfield Phase I, II, and IV** – Similar to Springfield Phase III, the RMA has committed up to \$1 million to the City to assist with the funding of the construction of Phase IV of the project from Hospitality Drive to Bob Bullock Loop. The sponsorship and implementation are subject to the negotiation of an Inter Local Agreement between the City and the RMA. The RMA has spoken to TxDOT, and TxDOT has agreed to construct the tie-in for Phase IV within their ROW along Bob Bullock at their cost. The RMA will fund the construction of the City ROW section from Hospitality Drive to TxDOT ROW
6. **North Laredo and Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZ)** - The WC-CL RMA hosted a TRZ workshop on July 19, 2023, to review the TRZ study and implementation process with the City. A second workshop was conducted on 8/28/23. The RMA is awaiting execution of the ILA with the City to commence the North Laredo TRZ Study. The City notified the WC-CL RMA on 2/13/24 that the City will move forward with drafting and distributing the ILA to the WC-CL RMA and commence the project.
7. **FM 1472 and Killam Industrial Blvd. Turn Lanes** – Project is pending final walk-through, and TDLR inspection and final Close-out Construction Change Order. Project is 99+% complete.
8. Other Items:
 - RMA will have their next Board meeting in the Spring.



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item V.I.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Director's Report March 20, 2024

1. The upcoming Transportation Management Area (TMA) Planning Certification Review is scheduled for June 25-26, 2024. The TMA certification review is required every 4 years and is conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
2. The consultants for the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will meet with the Technical Committee on April 4th. A public meeting is scheduled for May 22nd to gather input on issues and needs from the public. We will provide additional details as they become available and will share the invite and flyer once ready.
3. The development of the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is underway in coordination with TxDOT and El Metro. The new TIP must be entered to TxDOT's eSTIP portal by July 1st. A draft TIP will be presented to the Policy Committee at the May meeting to initiate a comment period with final approval expected at the June meeting.
4. A total of four proposals were received for the Microtransit Feasibility Study programmed in our FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. The next step is to meet with the evaluation committee to score the proposals.
5. MPO Director and one planner will be attending the 2024 National Planning Conference in Minneapolis, MN from April 13th-16th.
6. Texas Transportation Commission Meetings:
 - March 18, 2024 (9 a.m.)
 - March 27, 2024 (11 a.m.)
 - March 28, 2024
 - April 25, 2024
 - May 23, 2024

Upcoming Texas Transportation Commission meetings and agendas can be found on the following link: <https://www.txdot.gov/about/leadership/texas-transportation-commission/meeting-dates-agendas.html>.



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

7. Upcoming regularly scheduled MPO meetings:

- Active Transportation Committee – March 27, 2024
- Technical Committee – April 4, 2024
- Policy Committee – April 17, 2024



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 14A02 300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

March 6, 2024

Refer to: HPP-TX

Announcement of the Upcoming TMA Planning Certification
Review of the Laredo and Webb County Area
Metropolitan Planning Organization (LWCAMPO)

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina - Webb County Judge
Chairperson, Laredo MPO Policy Board
Laredo City Hall
1110 Houston Street
Laredo, Texas 78040

Dear Honorable Judge:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) personnel have been working closely with the Laredo and Webb County Area MPO (LWCAMPO) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to establish the dates for the upcoming Transportation Management Area (TMA) certification review required under title 23 United States Code (USC) 134(k) and 23 CFR 450.336(a).

This letter is to formally advise the MPO Policy Board that the review of the LWCAMPO metropolitan transportation planning process will take place on June 25-26, 2024, primarily at the El Metro Large Conference Room (3rd Floor) located on 1301 Farragut Street, Laredo, TX 78040. We will focus upon five high-risk metropolitan planning areas identified during our last TMA certification review conducted four years ago in FY 2020.

The five high-risk metropolitan planning areas include: 1) Congestion Management Process (CMP); 2) Title VI-Environmental Justice (EJ) Analysis; 3) Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP); 4) Freight and Intermodal Planning; and 5) Regional Transit Needs. The previous TMA certification review that was conducted by a Federal Review Team four years ago in August 2020 found that the LWCAMPO met the requirements of 23 CFR 450 (highway) and 49 CFR Part 613 (transit).

As part of this TMA certification review, the FHWA and FTA will be conducting a one-hour long Stakeholder Round Table Listening Session to solicit public feedback on the five high-risk metropolitan planning areas. The location of the Public Round Table Listening Session is at the 3rd Floor Conference Room of the El Metro offices at 301 Farragut Street, Laredo, Texas, on June 25th from 5-6 pm (Central Time). A copy of the schedule of events associated with this certification review is attached to this letter.

Should you have any questions regarding the upcoming TMA certification review, please contact Kirk Fauver, with the FHWA Texas Division at (512) 536-5952; or Kwasi Bosompem at FTA at (817) 978-0553. Thank you for your attention and participation in the review of the LMPO metropolitan transportation planning process.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID EDMUND
BARTELS

David Bartels, Director
Planning and Program Development
Federal Transit Administration
Region VI

Digitally signed by DAVID
EDMUND BARTELS
Date: 2024.03.06 16:13:09
-06'00'

Michael T. Leary

Michael T. Leary, Director
Planning and Program Development
Federal Highway Administration
Texas Division

Digitally signed by
Michael T. Leary

FHWA-FTA TMA CERTIFICATION REVIEW AGENDA

Laredo and Webb County Area MPO

LOCATION: El Metro Large Conference Room (3rd Floor)
1301 Farragut St. Laredo, Texas 78040
DATE: June 25-26, 2024

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 (Day #1)

Start Time	Review Topics	Discussion Lead
8:30-9:00 AM	Introductions and Purpose of Review	FHWA-FTA
	Scope and Methodology	FHWA-FTA
9:00-10:00 AM	Public Participation Process/Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	FHWA-FTA
10:00-10:45 AM	EJ/Equity/Title VI Evaluation Process	Megan Dere, FHWA
10:45-11:30 AM	Safety in the Transportation Planning Process	Ed Burgos-Gomez, FHWA
11:30-12:30 PM	LUNCH	
12:30-1:00 PM	2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update	FHWA-FTA and MPO
1:00-2:00 PM	Congestion Management Process (CMP)	FHWA Texas Division
2:00-2:30 PM	Freight and Intermodal Planning	FHWA Texas Division
2:30-3:30 PM	Transportation Performance Management (TPM)	FHWA-FTA
3:30-4:00 PM	MPO Staffing Needs & Update	ALL
4:00-4:30 PM	1 st Interview with Local Elected Official	FHWA-FTA Only
4:30 PM	Adjourn (Day #1)	

Federal Roundtable Discussion/Listening Session
(June 25, 2024)
TIME: 5:00 PM-6:00 PM (Central Time)
LOCATION: El Metro Large Conference Room, 3rd
Floor, 1301 Farragut St. Laredo, Texas 78040

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 (Day #2)

Start Time	Review Topics	Discussion Lead
9:00-9:30 AM	2 nd Interview with Local Elected Official	FHWA-FTA Only
9:30-10:00 AM	Future MPO Training and Technical Assistance Needs	Laredo MPO
10:00-10:30 AM	3 rd Interview with Local Elected Official	FHWA-FTA Only
10:30-11:00 AM	FHWA-FTA Recommendations and Commendations (Discussion of Review Observations)	FHWA/FTA
11:00-11:30 AM	Close Out of Review and Next Steps	FHWA/FTA
12:00 PM	Adjourn (Day #2)	

For Virtual Attendees (MS Teams Link Shown Below) Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 212 803 320 732

Passcode: CXKBkW

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The United States Department of Transportation

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LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Item VII.
ADJOURNMENT