



LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY

AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 16, 2025

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

PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro-Tempore, CM. Perez, called meeting to order at 1:34 P.M.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Graciela S. Briones, MPO Planner III, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

Regular Members Present:

Honorable Vanessa Perez, Mayor Pro-Tempore, District VII

Honorable Ruben Gutierrez Jr., City Councilmember, District V

Honorable Ricardo "Richie" Rangel Jr. City Councilmember, District II - arrived at 1:38 P.M.

Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

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

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

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:

Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21

Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42

Honorable Don McLaughlin, State Representative, District 80

LWCAMPO Staff Present:

Juan S. Mendive, AICP, 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:

Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Jose D. Vargas, TxDOT
Ramon Chavez, COL City Manager's Office
Juan C. Villarreal, COL Traffic
Jeffrey Gonzalez, COL Traffic
Jaime Ortiz, COL Economic Development
Robert J. Garza, EL Metro Transit
Eloisa Mascorro, El Metro Transit
Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Anthony Garza, Webb County Consultant
Melissa Montemayor, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Blasita J. Lopez, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Jason Rodriguez, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Roberto Gallegos, Ardurra Engineering
Edgar Gonzalez, Ardurra Engineering
Carla S., Liquid Studio Group
Alejandra Garcia, Liquid Studio Group
Ryan Natividad, City of Laredo District 8 Citizen

CM. Gonzalez, made a motion to excuse all members not present.

Second: CM. Gutierrez
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to select Mayor Pro-Tempore, CM. Perez to preside the meeting.

Second: CM. Galo
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Speakers are required to fill out witness cards, which must be submitted to MPO Staff no later than 1:45 PM 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.

Mr. Ryan Natividad, City of Laredo District 8 resident, gave his comments about the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan adoption. Mr. Natividad, started off by thanking the team who put together the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan. He stated, there were some fantastic projects that would help save lives. He further stated, there were some relatively specific areas that were important terms of pedestrian safety. He stated, that the plan had to be a starting point that would not be enough long term to address other areas where accidents had not happened yet, especially involving pedestrians and bicyclists. He stated, these should be used as guidelines for future implementation at every level in a systematic fashion. Mr. Natividad, stated the momentum of the plan should be kept and to remember that these are real people's lives and could be a relative of ours.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on March, 19, 2025.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2025.

Second: CM. Gonzalez
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mendive, stated there was a slight correction needed to be done to the minutes on the attendee list.

CM. Perez, made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2025 as amended.

Second: CM. Galo
For: 5
Against: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

Ricardo "Richie" Rangel Jr. City Councilmember, District II - arrived at 1:38 P.M.

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2025-04, adopting the amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CM. Perez, asked if there was anyone present to speak For or Against the item.

There were no comments.

Graciela Briones, MPO Planner III, Mrs. Briones, gave a presentation on the amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She stated the TIP was a document developed in coordination with TxDOT and El Metro to program highway and transit projects for a period of four years. Ms. Briones further stated that all MPO TIP documents were subsequently combined to form the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) she also stated the TIP was revised and amended by TxDOT every 3 months. She also stated that each time the TIP needs to be amended the MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) requires a 10-day public review and comment period and formal action from the MPO Policy Committee prior to being incorporated to the STIP. Ms. Briones presented one of the amendments that was being proposed by TxDOT. She stated it was a revision on project CSJ 0018-06-185 – New direct connector (#3, #4, and #6) northbound and southbound IH 35 to US 59EB. She stated the purpose of the amendment was to revise the current project limits from 0.50 miles east of IH35 to 0.50 miles north of US59 to the proposed limits from 0.187 miles south of IH35/US59 intersection to 0.205 miles north of IH35/US59 intersection. She then presented the second amendment requested by El Metro, she stated the revision was for a Brief Project Description of Transit Federal Funding Category 5339 for FY2025, FY2026, FY2027, & FY2028. She stated the purpose of the amendment was to add the words "support vehicle" to the existing project description to read as follows:

Current Description: Funds will be used for replacing heavy duty buses and paratransit vans and bus facility improvements.

Proposed Description: Funds will be used for replacing heavy duty buses, paratransit vans, support vehicles, and bus facility improvements.

CM. Gutierrez, asked what 'support vehicles' were.

Mr. Mendive explained that the vehicles were intended to support El Metro's operations. He clarified that they were not buses, but rather other types of vehicles, such as vans, used to assist with operational needs.

Robert J. Garza, El Metro Transit Director, stated that the funds were reserved to be used if needed to replace buses, heavy-duty buses, paratransit vans and support units among other things. He stated that the support units were the units for their utility department, the maintenance department, also vehicles used to address road calls and facility needs.

CM. Gutierrez, stated that the support vehicles were not only to transport the passengers but to also keep up with maintenance and everything else that was needed to operate.

Mr. Garza, stated that the support vehicles were also used to transport drivers from the Operations and Maintenance building on Scott St. to the Downtown station for interchanges of shifts and other needs.

CM. Galo, asked what was had happened to the terminal that was going to be located on Jacaman and Bartlett St.

Mr. Garza stated that they had received three bids for the project, all of which were higher than anticipated. As a result, they plan to regroup and rebid the project. He mentioned that they would be requesting Council approval to reject the current bids at the April 22nd Council meeting and would begin work on a new Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Mr. Garza also noted that they might need to scale back Phase 1 of the project originally planned to include concrete throughout the entire area due to the high cost of concrete. Reducing the project's scope could help lower costs and allow the project to move forward.

CM. Rangel, asked what the difference between a heavy-duty bus and a regular bus was.

Mr. Garza, stated that a 40-foot bus and a 35-foot bus were considered heavy-duty buses. He also stated that El Metro also had some 29-foot buses that could also be considered heavy-duty because of the engine and the weight of the unit. He further stated that the regular unit were the EL Lift vans, and the cutaways which are light duty buses.

CM. Gutierrez, asked if the new RFQ would be for Phase 1 of the terminal project.

Mr. Garza confirmed and clarified that they would be issuing a new RFP (Request for Proposals) specifically for Phase 1.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to approve Resolution No. MPO 2025-04, adopting the amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

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

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2025-05, adopting the revisions to the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Mr. Mendive, stated that the item was similar to the previous one. He stated that it was a Federal Requirement that when the TIP is amended the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), needed to be revised.

CM. Perez, asked if there was anyone present to speak For or Against the item.

There were no comments.

Ms. Briones, presented the revisions to the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She stated, that all MPO were required to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for their respective metropolitan area that cover the horizon of at least 20 years which was updated every 5 year. She further stated that the MTP was an official plan which identified current and future transportation needs in the area. She stated that the MTP also developed coordinated strategies that assist in providing the necessary transportation facility essentials for the continuous mobility and to support the region's economy strength. Ms. Briones presented the Financially Constrained project list that had been included in the adopted MTP with the proposed changes that had just been approved on the previous items the amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

CM. Rangel, made a motion approve Resolution No. MPO 2025-05, adopting the revisions to the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Discussion with possible action to approve Resolution No. MPO 2025-06, adopting the 2025 Vision Zero Webb Laredo Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

Mr. Brown, Chairperson of the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA), provided remarks on the 2025 Vision Zero Webb Laredo Comprehensive Safety Action Plan. He explained that, in order to proceed with the plan, it needed to be formally adopted by all three partner entities: the RMA, the City of Laredo, and the Laredo Webb County Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He noted that the RMA Board had already adopted the plan a few weeks prior. The purpose of the current presentation was to bring the plan before the MPO Policy Committee for adoption, followed by a presentation to the Laredo City Council on Tuesday, April 22nd, for adoption. Mr. Brown expressed pride in the work that had gone into the plan and the quality of the final product. He offered copies of the plan to any interested members of the MPO Policy Committee. He shared that approximately 190 meetings had been conducted over the past year and a half to engage the community and produce a collaborative report. The Laredo Police Department, local school districts, and a wide range of community stakeholders had actively participated in the development process. He stated that the project had reached the stage where implementation could begin. The plan included a list of data-driven projects estimated to cost around \$32 to \$33 million. Approximately two-thirds of the proposed projects were on the TxDOT system, while the remainder primarily fell under the jurisdiction of the City of Laredo. Mr. Brown stated that they hoped TxDOT would be willing to move forward with most, if not all, of the projects under its purview, and that efforts were underway to partner with the City of Laredo on the remaining projects. He also mentioned that meetings had been held with Assistant City Manager Mr. Ramon Chavez and with TxDOT officials to discuss how to advance the listed projects and determine budget feasibility. Mr. Brown concluded by emphasizing that the ultimate goal of the plan was to improve safety, reduce traffic accidents, and save lives.

Mr. Jason Rodriguez, LJA Engineering/RMA, gave a presentation on the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan. Mr. Rodriguez, stated that the completed report with 6 of the 11 appendices could be found at visionzerowebblaredo.com. Mr. Rodriguez, gave an overview of what was found. He mentioned it had started with an analysis, and data set from 2018 to 2022 which identified 119 victims of fatal or serious injury crashes in 2022 across Webb County primarily in the City of Laredo. He also mentioned that over that 5-year period there were over 40,000 crashes of all sort of types. They were able to identify 3 major contributing factors on to why the crashes happened. He stated those were mostly speeding, drug and alcohol impairment and seatbelt usage essentially. Mr. Rodriguez shared a timeline with the milestones they took to get to this point. He mentioned they received a grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to

engage the plan. He stated that had started in the fall of 2023. He also stated that in February 2024, the MPO Policy Committee, the RMA Board, and, City Council all adopted the pledge to zero fatalities and zero injuries on City of Laredo and Webb County roadways by 2040. Said pledge was a requirement to be eligible for the implementation fund. He stated there were over 700 survey responses and over 3,500 total comments by the public and various stakeholders. He further stated that the adoption of the plan was on condition to be eligible for the implementation of grant funds. Mr. Rodriguez, recognized all the entities involved throughout the process to help put together a good set of recommendations. Mr. Rodriguez also presented the Capital Plan Projects, a total of \$33 million, he stated that about \$20 million was in TxDOT's right of way and \$10 million in the City of Laredo right of way and some school bus stop locations with the United Independent School District (USID) that were just outside Laredo City limits. He stated that even though the plan was complete they were still working with UISD and Laredo Independent School District (LISD) to advance some of the implementation. He stated they were working with UISD on a design for the school bus stops and they were working with LISD on doing audits on 6 of their campuses to understand the safety conditions around those campuses. He then showed an example on how the Capital Plan was represented in the plan, he stated there were 4 pages for each project where they were showing all the contributing factors and why they were making those recommendations and also the cost.

CM. Perez, asked if the grants would cover 100% or if they would be matching grants.

Mr. Rodriguez, answered that they would be matching grants. He mentioned they would be an 80-20 match.

Mr. Brown, stated that since it was an 80-20, they needed to come up with the 20% for each project. He stated that they were hoping TxDOT could come up with the 20% for their projects and the City of Laredo come up with the 20% for their projects as well. He stated that the Assistant City Manager was working with Finance to figure out what monies were available. He also stated that there was a meeting scheduled for the following Tuesday at TxDOT to talk about the projects before going to City Council to present the plan.

CM. Galo, asked what the Del Mar project consisted of.

Mr. Rodriguez, answered the project included some pedestrian visibility, and intersection improvements.

CM. Gonzalez, asked what the Zapata Hwy. consisted of.

Mr. Rodriguez, answered it was about access management solutions for the existing continuous left turn lane. He stated that a lot of left turns were contributing factors for crashes in that area.

In Reference to project #7 listed, CM. Rangel, asked how long was that left turn land stretch along Zapata Hwy.

Mr. Rodriguez, answered that there had been a string of incidents along that corridor, so the whole corridor was identified to make various improvements in the area.

CM. Galo, asked if left turns were going to be eliminated in said corridor.

Mr. Rodriguez, answered he did not remember exactly what all the improvements for all the corridors were but they were in the plan very specifically stated.

CM. Gutierrez, mentioned that the biggest project in the list was the McPherson Rd. project which was in his District. He asked what exactly was going to be done in that area with \$6.3 million.

Mr. Rodriguez, answered that most of that cost was associated with converting the left-hand turn lanes into an intermittent raised median. He stated that since that project requires to go through several processes it was a high dollar amount.

CM Perez inquired whether the Economic Disadvantage County (EDC) Program could also be used to help meet the 20% requirement.

Melissa Montemayor, LIA Engineering explained that historically, EDC funds routed through TxDOT were eligible for EDC relief based on the annual amount Webb County qualifies for, which could be applied toward the 20% match requirement. However, she clarified that funds from SS4A were not routed through TxDOT; instead, they were provided directly to the project sponsor. Therefore, SS4A funds do not qualify for EDC relief and required a full 20% match.

CM Perez asked whether TxDOT would act as a sponsor for some of the projects.

Ms. Montemayor stated that TxDOT would not in this case because they were already a project sponsor. She explained that, given the structure of this particular program, there was no EDC relief available.

CM. Galo, mentioned that efforts were underway to pass legislation aimed at providing assistance to the colonias. He stated that there were some funding sources available that could potentially be used to help meet the local match requirements.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that they had identified 15 potential locations for bus stops in the area. He noted that over 200 students were attending UISD schools in the vicinity, and that while some of the roads were paved, others were not further supporting the need for the project.

CM. Gutierrez, asked Mr. Brown, whether 80% of the \$10 million in City of Laredo projects would be funded by the state.

Mr. Brown clarified that it was not the full amount, but rather just a portion. He stated that the City of Laredo's project list included approximately \$10 million worth of projects, some of which would qualify for an 80-20 funding where 80% of the funding would come from federal sources in Washington, and the remaining 20% would need to be provided by the City of Laredo. He added that there might be an opportunity for the RMA and the City of Laredo to each contribute funding to help implement the projects.

CM. Rangel, made a motion to approve Resolution No. MPO 2025-06, adopting the 2025 Vision Zero Webb Laredo Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

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

Mr. Brown, RMA Chairperson, provided comments and updates on the status report. He reported receiving an update on the Concord Hills project from Rick Villarreal the engineer working with Mr. Chavez. Construction plans were underway, with submittal to the City of Laredo were expected in approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Mr. Brown noted that surveys had already been submitted to the City, and contracts for the Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition were within the City's domain. That enabled the City of Laredo to begin acquiring the necessary ROW for the road's construction. He also stated that the RMA had contributed \$1 million to the City to support the project.

Additionally, Mr. Brown mentioned that a groundbreaking ceremony for the Springfield Phase 4 project took place 2 to 3 weeks ago. That project was under a 90-day contract and was already about one-month in. A ribbon-cutting or completion event was anticipated in approximately 60 to 70 days. The project will connect Springfield to Loop 20. Mr. Brown further noted that TxDOT had completed its portion of the work, which will allow drivers to turn right off Loop 20 and travel south to Shiloh Street.

The following report was included as part of the packet:

WC-CL RMA April 2025 Status Report to LWCAMPO

1. **Vallecillo Overpass** – the WC-CL RMA will not be managing the development of the Overpass design, we stand ready to provide information from the Vallecillo Road Project to TxDOT so that the two projects' connections are well coordinated. Coordination meetings continue with all the stakeholders involved in the project. The WC-CL RMA developed a construction cost estimate for the overpass in the amount of \$47,350,390, assuming the project lets in 2027. \$16 million has been provided by the MPO via Category 2 funds towards the cost of the overpass. These proposed funds have been submitted by the TxDOT LRD for inclusion in the UTP to be adopted in August 2025. The project still requires \$56.8M for 100% funding. On November 4, 2024, the WC-CL RMA, State Representative Richard Raymond Pena, Roland Ortiz (Killam Company) met with the TxDOT Laredo District (District Engineer Epi Gonzalez, TP&D Director Roberto Rodriguez, and PM Ana Duncan) convened to receive an update on the progress of the schematic design for the project. In late 2024, the TxDOT LRD informed the WC-CL RMA that they have revised the design of the overpass and would like the ROW at the interface of Vallecillo Road and IH 35 to increase. On 1/8/2025, the WC-CL RMA met with TxDOT LRD to obtain further information on the request. On 1/22/2025, the WC-CL RMA met with TxDOT LRD and the group clarified roles and responsibilities between the implementation of the new overpass and how it will interface with the road project. In that discussion, it was stated that the Killam Company will donate the new ROW for the overpass project along the West IH 35 ROW, the WC-CL RMA will include the new ROW as part of the ongoing road project environmental clearance and revise the parcel plats and ROW strip map for the roadway project to include the new ROW. The relocation of utilities along IH 35 will be conducted by the TxDOT LRD consultant. The group met on 2/18/25 for a status update on the Vallecillo Overpass project. The WC-CL RMA Board of Directors approved taking the lead for the additional ROW and associated environmental clearance changes at the March 26, 2025 Board Meeting.
2. **Springfield Phase 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 (ILA) between the City and the RMA. The RMA submitted a draft ILA to the City on 4/9/2024. The RMA originally intended to utilize the Category 12 Strategic Partnership dollars for the funding of the project. The RMA has decided to proceed for the construction of this project utilizing the RMA Vehicle Registration Fees. The ILA between the City and the RMA was executed on 9/9/2024. The project has advertised for construction. The Pre- Bid conference occurred on 1/7/2025. The bid opening occurred on 1/17/2025. The City consultant has evaluated the bids to recommend the award of the contract. The construction contract was awarded on 2/18/25 to ALC Construction by the City of Laredo for the amount of \$765,299.00. Construction commenced on the week of the 17th of March. The official groundbreaking occurred on 3/24/2025.

3. **Concord Hills (Wormser Road/ Lomas Del Sur to Los Presidentes)** – The RMA has committed \$1 million to the development 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 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 and the property owners for the donation of the ROW and the finalization of the construction cost estimate for the project. The RMA recommitted its support in funding on the project February 14, 2024, at the February Board Meeting. On November 6, 2024, the WC-CL RMA Board of Directors passed a resolution to sign the ILA between the City and the WC-CL RMA for this project. The City Council approved the ILA on 2/18/25. **The City, the Webb County Drainage District and the WC-CL RMA have signed the agreement and the ILA is now fully executed. The design of the project is ongoing. The engineer anticipates a design submittal to the City of Laredo within the next 2 months. The ROW acquisition is ongoing. The draft parcel plats have been submitted to the City and the City is moving forward with the landowner coordination for acquisition.**
4. **North Laredo and Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zones (TRZ)** - 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. The City Council approved a resolution to negotiate and execute the ILA with the WC-CL RMA on 2/18/2025. The North Laredo TRZ Study ILA is pending a final signature from the City of Laredo for full execution as of 3/19/2025.
Regarding the Cuatro Vientos TRZ, the City would like to commence the process of implementing the TRZ with support from the WC-CL RMA. The RMA and the City will commence negotiation of the ILA to codify the agency roles for the implementation. On

November 6, 2024, the WC-CL RMA Board of Directors passed a resolution to sign the ILA for the creation of the Cuatro Vientos TRZ between the City and the WC-CL RMA. The City Council approved a resolution to negotiate and execute the ILA with the WC-CL RMA on 2/18/2025. The Cuatro Vientos TRZ ILA is executed as of 3/19/2025.

5. **The Vallecillo Road Project** – See supplemental memorandum.
6. **Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan (Safe Streets for All)**- See supplemental memorandum.
7. **Other Items:**
 - The WC-CL RMA conducted a Board meeting on March 26, 2025.
 - The next WC-CL RMA Board meeting date is to be determined.

There were no questions from the Committee members.

B. TxDOT Project Updates.

Jose Vargas, TxDOT Laredo Area Engineer, gave a summary update on TxDOT ongoing Construction Projects. He stated that nothing had changed since last months update he gave on the construction projects. Mr. Vargas stated, they were still working on 24 active projects with over \$900 million on active contractors. He stated that the scope of projects consisted of Major Rehabilitations, Preventive maintenance, Off system bridges and Reconstruction to Interstate Standards on Loop 20 or US 59. Mr. Vargas, presented the project CSJ: 0086-14-075 – US59 Expansion, he mentioned that the contractor had started to hold a flexible base in preparation for the northern frontage road, and that month he had placed a considerable amount of base. He stated that they were preparing for the end of May to start placing hot mix, what TxDOT calls bond breakers which was a layer that goes before concrete pavement. Mr. Vargas, stated that the project was on time and was at 22% complete which was expected to be completed by 2029. Mr. Vargas presented the next project CSJ: 3483- 02-002 -SH84 – Hachar/Reuthinger Rd., he stated that they continued to hang beams and the contractor was already placing some concrete panels in preparation for deck pores. He stated that the deck pores were expected early May to start the pouring of the slabs in the bridges. Mr. Vargas, presented project CSJ: 0086-01-073 – SH359 Widening, stated that they were hauling base in preparation for the new roadway on the divided portion he also stated they continued with some storm drain on the new acquitted right of way. He stated that project was at 50% completion, the expected completion date was summer of 2026 and the investment on that project was around \$50 million. Mr. Vargas, presented project CSJ: 0086-16-008 – Lomas Del Sur Overpass, he stated that the start date had gotten pushed back 1 month to the end of May due to the fabrication of the retaining wall panels. He also stated that TxDOT's PIO

was working on scheduling the attendees for the groundbreaking, he stated that once there was a date set they would share that with the Policy Committee members.

CM. Gonzalez, asked whether the project plan included the installation of a traffic signal.

Mr. Vargas stated that the plan included a traffic signal at the bottom of the overpass. He provided examples, mentioning intersections such as Loop 20 and Clark Street, as well as Loop 20 and Saunders.

CM. Galo, asked Mr. Vargas whether TxDOT had ever considered using movable barriers, similar to those used in other cities, to allow for lane conversions during morning and afternoon peak traffic hours.

Mr. Vargas, responded that at the time, TxDOT did not have the traffic volume or the specialized equipment necessary to implement movable barriers, as their operation requires a specific and complex system. He explained that movable barriers were typically used in cities with significant higher traffic volume during peak hours. Mr. Vargas, noted that TxDOT was currently investing in the expansion of Loop 20 to US 59, which would include 3 lanes of traffic. He emphasized that, based on current conditions, the volume of traffic did not yet need the use of movable barriers.

CM. Perez, requested that TxDOT look into the volume of traffic entering and exiting the area to determine whether current conditions might support additional traffic management measures.

Mr. Vargas, responded that he would coordinate with TxDOT's Traffic Division to evaluate the request. He stated that he would aim to provide an update at the next month's meeting.

Mr. Vargas, presented project CSJ: 3596-02-006 -SH255 Rehabilitation he stated that it was at 11% completed and they continued working on expanding the drainage structure and the contractor had already started moving some materials in preparation to start construction on the passing lanes. He stated that in the next couple of months there would be some roadway being constructed already. He also stated that the total investment for the project was \$25 million and there were about 8 miles of rehabilitation starting from IH35 going West.

CM. Perez, requested that TxDOT include the feasibility study as a presentation in next month's meeting.

Mr. Mendive, stated that TxDOT was scheduled to present the feasibility study during next month's Policy Committee meeting.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director's Report April 16, 2025

Mr. Mendive, MPO Director, presented the following Director's Report as part of the package.

1. Conference/Meeting Attendance

- MPO Director provided public comment during the Texas Transportation Commission meeting in Austin to update the Commission on key projects in the region including SH 84, Vallecillo Road, Vallecillo/IH35 interchange, and the TxDOT FM 1472 Feasibility Study.
- Juan S. Mendive, MPO Director and Gracie Briones, Planner III attended the American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Conference in Denver, CO from March 28th through April 1st.
- MPO Directors have been invited to attend a meeting with TxDOT Senior Leadership in Austin, Texas on April 24th.

2. Microtransit Feasibility Study Update:

- MPO staff continues to work with El Metro staff and the consulting team on the Microtransit Feasibility Study.
- Staff is currently reviewing the recommendations and implementation sections of the study. The final report is expected to be completed this month with presentations to the Policy Committee and Mass Transit Board planned for May.

3. Texas Transportation Commission Meetings:

- April 24, 2025
- May 21, 2025
- June 20, 2025

Calendar invites for upcoming Texas Transportation Commission meetings were sent by email. The MPO Director will be attending the upcoming meeting in April. The May meeting conflicts with the MPO Policy Committee meeting.

Upcoming Texas Transportation Commission meetings and agendas can be found on the following link:

4. **MPO 2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects:**

- On March 19th, 2025, the MPO Policy Committee authorized the TASA Call for Projects.
- The MPO team, in coordination with TxDOT, held two workshops for prospective applicants of the ongoing TASA Call for Projects.
- The TASA Call for Projects officially opened on April 11th. Applications will be accepted through May 30th.

5. **Upcoming regularly scheduled MPO meetings:**

- Active Transportation Committee – April 30, 2025
- Technical Committee – May 13, 2025
- Policy Committee – May 21, 2025

There were no questions from the Committee members.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

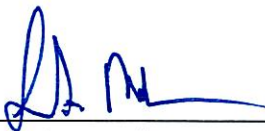
There were no communications from the Committee members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Galo, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:29 P.M.

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

Motion carried unanimously.



Juan S. Mendive, AICP
LWCAMPO Director



Mayor Dr. Victor D. Treviño
LWCAMPO Chairperson