LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY
AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2026

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

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Dr. Treviño, Chairperson, called meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

Regular Members Present:

Honorable Dr. Victor D. Treviño, Mayor and LWCAMPO Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge and LWCAMPO Vice-Chairperson
Honorable Ricardo "Richie" Rangel Jr. City Councilmember, District II
Honorable Ruben Gutierrez Jr., City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1 - *arrived at 1:35 PM*
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Mr. Epigmenio "Epi" Gonzalez, P.E., TxDOT District Engineer
Mr. Jed A. Brown, Member-At-Large

Regular Members Not Present:

Honorable Vanessa Perez, District VII

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
Adriana A. Vigil, LWCAMPO Administrative Assistant

Others:
Ramon Chavez, COL Assistant City Manager
Vanessa Guerra, COL Planning
Eliud De Los Santos, COL Engineering
Gloria Saavedra, COL Engineering
Kent Richard, COL Bridge
Brenda Camacho, COL PIO
Robert J. Garza, El Metro Transit
Eloisa Mascorro, El Metro Transit
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Luis Villarreal, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Jose Vargas, TxDOT
Angel Martinez, TxDOT
Adelaido Uribe, Webb County Judge's Office
Anthony Garza, Webb County Consultant
Melissa Montemayor, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Blasita Lopez, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Baltazar Avila, LJA Engineering
Ignacio Hinojosa, Ardurra
Roberto Gallegos, Ardurra
Roberto Rodriguez – Entech
Osama Shahawy, Arcadis North America *(attended virtually)*

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

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	7
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.

IV. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

A. Recognition of Roberto Rodriguez III for 26 years of dedicated public service with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and his contributions to the MPO as a longstanding member of the Technical Committee.

Mayor Treviño, presented a recognition plaque to Mr. Roberto Rodriguez III in appreciation of his years of dedicated service and contributions to transportation planning and infrastructure development in the Laredo Webb County region.

Mr. Rodriguez, expressed his gratitude for the recognition, stating that it was an honor to receive acknowledgment from the MPO. He reflected on his career and noted the significant progress made through collaboration among the City of Laredo, Webb County, TxDOT, the MPO, and the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA). He emphasized that, in earlier years, agencies often worked independently, but over time recognized the importance of building consensus and working together to achieve common transportation goals. Mr. Rodriguez, highlighted State Highway 84 as a prime example of successful interagency collaboration, where the City of Laredo assisted with utility coordination, TxDOT led construction efforts, and the MPO supported funding, resulting in a coordinated and effective project. He also acknowledged the leadership of TxDOT representatives, including Melisa Montemayor and Epi Gonzalez, for fostering a collaborative environment. He informed the Committee that, although retired from TxDOT, he had joined a Houston based company that shares his commitment to supporting community and border infrastructure projects. Mr. Rodriguez, stated that he would remain actively involved in the region and available to assist with future initiatives.

Mayor Treviño, concluded the recognition by congratulating Mr. Rodriguez and noting that the honor was well deserved.

Mr. Juan Mendive, MPO Director, also offered remarks in recognition of Mr. Roberto Rodriguez III. He congratulated Mr. Rodriguez on his 26 years of dedicated service to the State of Texas and acknowledged him as a valued partner to the MPO. Mr. Mendive, highlighted Mr. Rodriguez's commitment to fostering consensus and collaboration among regional agencies, which significantly contributed to the advancement of transportation initiatives in the Laredo-Webb County area. Mr. Mendive, noted that he had personally learned a great deal from Mr. Rodriguez during his tenure with the MPO, which had spanned nearly six years. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Rodriguez's experience, accessibility, and continued dedication to interagency cooperation. He also remarked that, despite Mr. Rodriguez's retirement in December, his ongoing presence at meetings demonstrated his continued commitment to the community and to regional

transportation efforts. Mr. Mendive, concluded by thanking Mr. Rodriguez and wishing him success in his new professional endeavors.

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on January 21, 2026.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to **approve** the minutes of January 21, 2026.

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	8
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discussion with possible action to approve Resolution No. MPO 2026-04, supporting and adopting the revised Performance Measures and Targets of the Laredo Management Inc. (LTMI) 2025 Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan.

Mr. Juan Mendive, MPO Director, presented a resolution to support and adopt the revised performance measures and targets of Laredo Transit Management, Inc. (El Metro). He explained that El Metro had updated its Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan and associated performance targets to reflect the acquisition of new buses. Mr. Mendive, informed the Committee that the revised targets had previously been presented to and approved by the Mass Transit Board in December. He noted that, as part of the MPO's responsibilities under federal planning requirements, the Policy Committee was also required to adopt these targets and incorporate them into the MPO's planning and programming processes. Mr. Mendive, concluded his presentation by asking if there were any questions.

There were no questions from the Committee.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to approve Resolution No. MPO 2026-04, supporting and adopting the revised Performance Measures and Targets of the Laredo Management Inc. (LTMI) 2025 Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan.

Second:	CM. Galo
For:	8
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. Jed Brown, Chairman of the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA), provided an update on the major projects, as outlined in the report included in the meeting packet. Mr. Brown, highlighted the Build Grant application for the overpass project as a key update. He reported that the design cost estimate provided by TxDOT was lower than initially anticipated. With contributions of $950,000 each from the MPO and the $950,000 from the RMA, along with a $500,000 commitment from TxDOT, the participating agencies had secured approximately 51.3 percent of the funding required for the anticipated design phase. He stated that this level of financial commitment would allow the RMA to submit a competitive grant application, which was scheduled for submission the following week. Mr. Brown, expressed optimism about the application and emphasized the importance of collaboration among Webb County, the City of Laredo, TxDOT, the MPO, and the RMA to leverage resources and advance regional transportation projects.

CM. Galo, inquired whether the proposed overpass would extend over the railroad tracks.

Mr. Brown responded that the current design would terminate at the railroad however, it would be developed with the capability for future extension.

Mr. Epi Gonzalez, TxDOT District Engineer, confirmed that provisions for a future extension were being incorporated into the design to avoid limitations for potential expansion.

Mr. Brown, also informed the Committee that the Governor had appointed Pat Gordon of El Paso as the newest member of the Texas Transportation Commission, replacing Bruce Bugg. He noted that this appointment resulted in two members of the Commission representing border communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. While no announcement had been made regarding the appointment of a new chair, Mr. Brown, expressed optimism about future engagement with the Commission and the opportunity to showcase the transportation needs of the Laredo region.

CM. Gutierrez, asked about the status of transportation improvements near the 13-mile marker along Unitec Drive.

Mr. Brown, stated that the City of Laredo had approached the RMA to explore potential collaboration in addressing congestion in that area. He explained that the RMA was in the process of evaluating how it could assist and that the matter would be presented to the full RMA Board for consideration. Mr. Brown emphasized that while solutions would require long-term planning and investment, the RMA and its advisory committee

supported a collaborative, team-oriented approach to developing strategies that would alleviate traffic congestion.

There were no further questions from the Committee.

WC-CL RMA February 2026 Status Report to LWCAMPO

1. **Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan (Safe Streets for All)**- See supplemental memorandum.
2. **The Vallecillo Road Project** – See supplemental memorandum.
3. **Vallecillo Overpass** - This project is being led by the TxDOT Laredo District Office (LRD). It has an estimated construction cost of $130M and is programmed for an FY 2030 letting per the Draft 2026 UTP. To date, the project is not fully funded for construction. The MPO has allocated $16M of Category 2 funds to the construction of the project; thus, the project still has a $114M funding gap. The TxDOT LRD hosts a quarterly meeting with the City of Laredo, WC-CL RMA, Webb County, and the Killam Company to discuss the status of progress of the various sections of Vallecillo Road that is ongoing. At the last quarterly meeting that occurred on the week of August 19, 2025, the TxDOT LRD is on track for PS&E to commence on FY 2030. On November 20, 2025, the WC-CL RMA, City of Laredo, Webb County, and the TxDOT LRD met with Alex Meade of the Texas Transportation Commission to provide a status of the ongoing projects that will connect with the Vallecillo Overpass and discuss the need for design and construction funding. The Commissioner provided an update on the current funding levels through the State of Texas, and provided guidance of possible funding opportunities the community can explore to advance the project. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for February 2026. The WC-CL RMA and LWCAMPO respectively passed action in January, to dedicate $950,000 for a total of $1,900,000 to the implementation of the project. The WC-CL RMA also passed action in January to develop and submit a BUILD grant application to FHWA for the design of the project.
4. **BUILD Planning Grant Application** – The WC-CL RMA has received an estimated cost from TxDOT LRD for the development of the plans, specifications and estimate for the Vallecillo Overpass project in the amount of $4,680,000. TxDOT LRD has pledged $500,000 to the design of the project. This amount along with the $1,900,000 from the WC-CL RMA and the LWCAMPO can account for 51.3% of the anticipated design cost. The BUILD Grant Application will request $2,280,000; thus, we will demonstrate that we can for more than the minimum 20% match required by the Grant Application and increase the competitiveness of the application. The application will be submitted at the end of February.
5. **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 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. The City has received draft agreements and is working with the property owners to finalize the details of the agreements. The City will move forward with letting once the agreements are finalized and executed.

6. **North Laredo Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ)** - The North Laredo TRZ Study ILA is fully executed and in effect as of February 19, 2025. Currently, the WC-CL RMA has met with the City of Laredo Director of Community Development/ Interim Economic Development Director, Ms. Tina Rodriguez, to commence meetings with the respective City of Laredo Department. The WC-CL RMA will continue with the development of the Study. The anticipated completion of the study is 6/1/2026.
7. **Cuatro Vientos Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ)** - Currently, the WC-CL RMA is coordinating with the City of Laredo Director of Community Development/Interim Economic Development Director, Ms. Tina Rodriguez, to commence meeting with the respective City of Laredo Department heads in January. The project is anticipated to be complete by 6/1/2026.
8. **Joint Area WC-CL RMA, LWCAMPO and City of Laredo Freight Study** – The WC-CL RMA and the City of Laredo are in discussions for development of the Inter Local Agreement (ILA) to codify the financial obligations from the WC-CL RMA, City of Laredo and the LWCAMPO as well as the role and responsibilities for the development of the Freight Study. Upon completion and execution of the ILA, the WC-CL RMA will commence the Study.
9. **Other Items:**
   - The WC-CL RMA conducted a Board meeting on 1/21/26.
   - The WC-CL RMA is targeting the next Board meeting in March or April.

There were no further questions from the Policy Committee on this report.

B. TxDOT Project Updates

Mr. Jose Vargas, TxDOT Laredo Area Engineer, presented an overview of current transportation projects within the Laredo District. He reported that TxDOT had approximately 16 active construction projects, with 15 projects completed during the previous calendar year. The total investment in active construction projects was approximately $700 million.

CSJ: 0086-14-075 – US 59 Expansion

Mr. Vargas reported that the US 59 Expansion project, constructed by James Construction Group, was approximately 40 percent complete, with a total investment of $344 million

and an anticipated completion date of the end of 2029. Ongoing work included bridge construction, drainage improvements, paving, intersection tie-ins, and installation of retaining walls. He also highlighted the reconstructed Del Mar intersection on the east end and the development of the future northern frontage road, as well as embankment work for upcoming overpasses.

CSJ: 3483-02-002 – SH 84 (Hachar/Reuthinger Road)

Mr. Vargas stated that the SH 84 project had a total investment of $122 million and was approximately 58 percent complete. Reinforcement for the concrete pavement was underway, and bridge construction was nearing completion. He noted that all utility conflicts had been cleared and that the contractor was preparing to establish a concrete plant, with concrete paving anticipated to begin by mid-March.

CSJ: 0086-01-073 – SH 359 Widening

Mr. Vargas reported that the SH 359 Widening project, constructed by Anderson Columbia, represented a $50 million investment and was approximately 76 percent complete, with an expected completion in summer 2026. The project involved reconstruction of SH 359 and the addition of approximately two miles of divided highway at the eastern end. Current work included paving of the northbound lanes with the intermediate layer of hot mix, with the final surface still pending.

CSJ: 0086-16-008 – Lomas Del Sur Overpass

Mr. Vargas provided an update on the Lomas Del Sur Overpass project, also constructed by Anderson Columbia, with a total cost of $50 million and an anticipated completion date of spring 2028. The project was approximately 16 percent complete. Ongoing activities included preparation for installation of the concrete median barrier and construction of flexible base for the future frontage roads to accommodate the overpass structure.

CSJ: 3586-02-006 – SH 255 Rehabilitation

Mr. Vargas reported that this $25 million rehabilitation project, constructed by Anderson Columbia, was approximately 63 percent complete, with an expected completion in fall 2026. The project involved full reconstruction of approximately eight miles of SH 255 beginning at the I-35 intersection and extending westward. Recent work included miscellaneous concrete placement around railings and drainage structures, as well as preparation for the final riding surface.

CM. Galo, inquired about the delay in striping along portions of SH 255.

Mr. Vargas, explained that temporary striping had been installed to facilitate traffic movement while final paving was pending. He noted that final striping would occur after completion of the final hot mix surface, anticipated by the end of March.

CM. Galo, also expressed concern about inadequate advance signage for a dedicated left-turn lane near the intersection at Jeffery's Road.

Mr. Vargas, acknowledged the concern and stated that TxDOT would review the location, noting that the area was scheduled for full-depth reconstruction.

CSJ: 3586-02-007 – SH 255 Rehabilitation

Mr. Vargas introduced an additional SH 255 rehabilitation project (CSJ: 3586-02-007), a $26 million investment constructed by CK Newberry. The project had commenced at the beginning of the year and was approximately 10 percent complete. It extends approximately seven miles eastward from the intersection of FM 1472 to just short of FM 3238. Improvements include full roadway reconstruction, construction of concrete pavements, and the addition of turnarounds to enhance mobility. The anticipated completion date is fall 2027.

Mr. Vargas, concluded his presentation by encouraging the public to exercise caution in construction zones and adhere to posted speed limits to ensure the safety of both drivers and construction workers.

Mr. Epi Gonzalez, TxDOT District Engineer, provided additional updates regarding upcoming project development activities. He reported that TxDOT planned to let the I-35 at Uni-Royal project in the following month. This major project, with an estimated cost of approximately $260 million, includes the continuation of six main lanes on I-35, reconstruction of the Uni-Royal overpass, construction of a new overpass at Hachar Road, and conversion of the frontage roads from two-way to one-way operation. Construction was anticipated to begin in early summer. Mr. Gonzalez, also noted that the final three remaining direct connectors at the I-35 and US 69 interchange were scheduled to be let in June, highlighting the continued momentum of significant transportation investments in the Laredo region.

C. Status update by City of Laredo Engineering on the Hachar-Reuthinger Rd. (SH 84) utility relocation.

Mr. Eliud De Los Santos, City Engineer for the City of Laredo, provided a status update regarding the relocation of utilities associated with the SH 84 (Hachar/Reuthinger Road) project. He stated that, during the previous MPO Policy Committee meeting, the Committee had requested an update on the progress of these utility adjustments. Mr. De Los Santos, reported that all utilities had been successfully relocated in accordance with the agreement between the City of Laredo and TxDOT. He noted that the remaining efforts involved completing the necessary documentation, including submitting confirmation letters and associated paperwork to TxDOT. He further explained that the

final pending utility adjustments involved AEP facilities, which had been completed at the beginning of the month. He also indicated that a comprehensive list of all utility relocations undertaken as part of the SH 84 project was provided for the Committee's reference.

There were no questions from the Committee regarding this update.

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

Calton Road Overpass Project Update

Mr. Eliud De Los Santos, City Engineer for the City of Laredo, introduced the Calton Road Overpass project and invited Mr. Osama Shahawy, Project Manager with Arcadis North America, to provide a detailed update.

Mr. Shahawy, explained that the project is located along the western corridor of Laredo and is part of Phase II of the area's development. The project involves the expansion of approximately 1,900 feet of roadway from Warehouse Lane to near Tesoro Plaza and includes the construction of a grade-separated overpass crossing the BNSF mainline and the Rio Grande railroad. The proposed structure consists of a five-span steel plate girder bridge with an overall length of approximately 866 feet. The design meets both TxDOT and railroad minimum vertical clearance requirements. An additional 1,000-foot survey along the railroad corridor was completed to satisfy BNSF vertical clearance requirements, and the roadway plans were reported to be 100% complete. The bridge approaches will be supported by Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) walls due to spatial constraints. Approval from TxDOT's Public Bridge/Local Rail (PBLR) review had been received. Utility coordination was ongoing; water and sewer 100% Construction Plans have been submitted and approved by the City of Laredo, Utilities Department and could be released early, for Electrical and Telecommunications, AEP has completed its relocation. Mr. Shahawy, noted that for Utility crossing, previous railroad approvals had expired due to the project's extended timeline, necessitating a new permit and review by Union Pacific. The City of Laredo was in the process of scheduling a kickoff meeting with the railroad to reinitiate the approval process. He indicated that railroad reviews typically require significant time and estimated that approval might not be obtained until the end of the year, with construction potentially beginning in spring 2027, contingent upon timely approval.

Committee discussion addressed the lengthy duration of the project, including historical delays associated with right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and updates to evolving design standards. It was clarified that both TxDOT specifications and railroad requirements had changed over time, requiring plan revisions and resubmittals.

Ms. Anna Duncan, of TxDOT explained that construction could not proceed until a fully updated and approved plan set was completed and resubmitted to the railroad, after which the review process would effectively restart with a new review team. She noted that, although the railroad could potentially expedite the review, it typically would not commit to a timeframe of less than one year.

CM. Galo, expressed concerns regarding the extended approval timelines associated with railroad coordination and suggested pursuing legislative advocacy to address similar issues statewide.

Mr. Mendive, indicated that this concern could be raised with the Texas MPO Directors Association Legislative Committee for further consideration.

Mr. De Los Santos, stated that, pending completion of the updated design and resubmission to the railroad, the overall review process was anticipated to extend into 2027. The consultant concluded the presentation, and there were no further questions from the Committee.

Las Cruces – Flecha Lane Realignment Project Update

Following the Calton Road presentation, Mr. De Los Santos, provided an update on the Las Cruces and Flecha Lane Realignment Project. He explained that the project involves the realignment of Las Cruces Road on the west side of Flecha Lane and the closure of an existing segment to create a cul-de-sac, thereby improving roadway configuration and traffic operations. The project had been awarded to the lowest responsive bidder, Ring Contractors, following City Council approval on January 20, 2026. A pre-coordination meeting with the contractor and TxDOT was scheduled to occur immediately after the MPO meeting, to be followed by a pre-construction meeting and the issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Mr. De Los Santos, reported that the project has an estimated construction cost of approximately $4.4 million and a projected construction duration of six months from the start date. He also noted that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was being planned, and formal invitations would be extended to MPO Policy Committee members once potential dates were finalized.

CM. Galo, inquired about the turning radius depicted on the project plans, expressing concern that the corners appeared too sharp for safe navigation by large trucks.

Mr. De Los Santos, responded that the City would review the design to ensure that the radius was adequate for 18-wheeler traffic turns.

There were no further questions from the Committee regarding this item.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director's Report February 18, 2026

Mr. Mendive, MPO Director, presented the following report, which was included in the meeting packet:

1. **MPO Staff Updates:**

   - On February 10th, Graciela Briones, Planner III, attended the Border Trade Advisory Committee (BTAC) meeting in Eagle Pass, Texas.

   - The development of the 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is in progress in coordination with project sponsors. The MPO recently met with project sponsors to discuss project changes and or new projects to be added in the 2027-2030 TIP. A draft TIP will be presented to the Policy Committee at the April meeting with final approval expected at the May meeting.

   - The RMA has requested a letter of support for their application for funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The grant request is for funds to support the design of the Vallecillo Interchange at I-35, which is a project prioritized on the MPO's 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) fiscally constrained list. The letter of support will highlight the MPO Policy Committee's previous actions in support of the project.

   - A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the South Laredo Transportation Planning Study programmed in our FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) has been developed and is anticipated to be released in late February/ early March.

   - TxDOT has developed a new MPO Planning & Programming Handbook along with MPO representatives that served on the Handbook Advisory Group. The Handbook is designed to be the primary reference for MPO processes, and is intended to serve Texas MPOs, TxDOT, and other planning and programming partners. The Handbook is available online at the following link: https://www.txdot.gov/about/partnerships/metropolitan-planning-organizations/mpo-handbook.html

2. **Texas Transportation Commission Meetings**:

   - February 26, 2026
   - March 25, 2026
   - April 30, 2026

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

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

- Active Transportation Committee – February 25, 2026
- Technical Committee – March 10, 2026
- Policy Committee – March 18, 2026

There were no questions regarding the report.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

CM. Galo, presented a video depicting significant congestion on Interstate 35 near the northbound Border Patrol checkpoint, recorded at approximately 4:00 P.M. the previous day. He noted that the queue of commercial vehicles extended to the Callaghan Road overpass and expressed concern about the economic and safety impacts of the ongoing delays. He inquired about potential measures to expedite planned improvements to the area.

Judge Tijerina, commented that the congestion was a daily occurrence and emphasized its negative impact on the region's economy, particularly given Laredo's status as a major inland port. He noted that prolonged idle times for commercial vehicles ultimately affect consumers and stressed the urgency of implementing both immediate and long-term solutions.

Mr. Epi Gonzalez, reported that TxDOT had been coordinating with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to address the issue. He explained that a project was being considered to add separate lanes for commercial and passenger vehicles at the checkpoint to reduce traffic intermingling. As a potential short-term measure, discussions included constructing a temporary detour directing commercial vehicles onto the frontage road to alleviate congestion. Mr. Gonzalez, further explained that TxDOT was evaluating the possibility of realigning the I-35 main lanes to minimize or avoid additional right-of-way acquisition. The proposed long-term solution would provide three dedicated lanes for commercial vehicles, three lanes for passenger vehicles, and a frontage road, thereby increasing capacity and offering a more permanent resolution to the congestion.

CM. Galo, asked about the feasibility of diverting all commercial vehicles onto the frontage road.

Mr. Gonzalez, responded that such a measure would not be sustainable due to the frontage road's two-way configuration and its pavement structure, which is not designed to support heavy truck traffic for extended periods.

Judge Tijerina, acknowledged the importance of long-term planning but emphasized the need for immediate relief, describing the situation as urgent and requiring prompt action.

Mr. Gonzalez, reiterated that TxDOT was actively working with CBP to identify interim solutions while advancing the permanent improvements.

Mayor Treviño, inquired about the timeline for the planned modernization or expansion of the federal checkpoint facility.

CM. Gonzalez, indicated that, at present, funding had been allocated only for the design phase, with no construction funding or definitive timeline established.

In a related matter, CM. Gonzalez raised concerns regarding access to a forthcoming public health facility located southbound on US Highway 83 near Modular Blvd. He noted the absence of dedicated turning or acceleration lanes to safely accommodate increased traffic.

Mr. Gonzalez, advised that TxDOT could evaluate the site and provide recommendations to ensure safe ingress and egress as part of its access management review.

CM. Gonzalez, indicated that the County's engineering team would coordinate with TxDOT on this matter.

There were no further comments on this item.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Galo made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:41 P.M.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Juan S. Mendive, AICP
LWCAMPO Director

Mayor Dr. Victor D. Treviño
LWCAMPO Chairperson