LAREDO & WEBB COUNTY
AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 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 1:32 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 Ruben Gutierrez Jr., City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1 - *arrived at 1:35 PM*
Mr. Jed A. Brown, Member-At-Large

Regular Members Not Present:

Honorable Vanessa Perez, District VII
Honorable Ricardo "Richie" Rangel Jr. City Councilmember, District II
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Mr. Epigmenio "Epi" Gonzalez, P.E., TxDOT *(Committee member Mr. Gonzalez arrived as a guest later in the meeting)*

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:
Alex Meade, Texas Transportation Commission
Charles Graves, COL Planning
Vanessa Guerra, COL Planning
Eliud De Los Santos, COL Engineering
Andres Garcia, COL Mayor's Office
Cynthia Covarrubias, COL Economic Development
Robert J. Garza, El Metro Transit
Eloisa Mascorro, El Metro Transit
Denisse Garcia, TxDOT
Luis Villarreal, TxDOT
Jose Vargas, TxDOT
Rafael Guzman, TxDOT
Adelaido Uribe, Webb County Judge's Office
Anthony Garza, Webb County Consultant
Melissa Montemayor, WC-CL RMA/LJA Engineering
Baltazar Avila, LJA Engineering
Sid Martinez, Stanley Consultants
Tim Juarez, Stanley Consultants
Roberto Rodriguez, Entech

Mr. Juan Mendive, MPO Director, noted that several members had informed they would not be able attend the meeting. He stated that Mr. Epi Gonzalez was attending other events in town with Texas Transportation Commissioner Alex Meade.

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

Second:	CM. Gonzalez
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.

No citizen comments were made.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on February 18, 2026.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion to **approve** the minutes of February 18, 2026.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Receive public testimony and initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the proposed draft 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and necessary revisions to the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to incorporate and reflect the proposed 2027-2030 TIP project information.

Mayor Victor D. Treviño, asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the item.

No comments were made.

Ms. Graciela Briones, MPO Planner, provided an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She explained that the TIP is a federally mandated, short-term, fiscally constrained program developed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for their planning areas. The TIP identifies projects utilizing federal funding and/or requiring approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Ms. Briones, stated that the TIP includes new construction, rehabilitation, maintenance, and public transportation operation projects, along with project descriptions, funding sources, estimated costs, and implementation timelines. She noted that the TIP must cover a minimum four-year period, be updated every two to four years, and remain consistent with the adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in accordance with federal regulations. She further explained that the Policy Committee may amend the TIP as needed during its lifecycle, with approved amendments subsequently submitted to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for FHWA and FTA approval. Ms.

Briones, also stated that the MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) requires a 20-day public review and comment period for the initial adoption of the TIP.

Ms. Briones reported that for Fiscal Year 2027, the proposed TIP includes one (1) project, CSJ: 0018-05-089, involving the replacement of the bridge at Uniroyal Drive, with a total estimated cost of $295,277,876. She further noted that two (2) projects were proposed for Fiscal Year 2028, including CSJ: 0922-33-205 Vallecillo Road and CSJ: 0922-33-213, the World Trade Bridge Expansion project. These projects have a combined estimated cost of $69,999,344.

Ms. Briones, continued her presentation by outlining additional projects included in the proposed TIP. For Fiscal Year 2029. She presented three (3) projects: CSJ: 0086-14-077, the US 59/Loop 20 Interchange at the Airport, CSJ: 0086-14-086, the US 59/Loop 20 Reconstruction project; and CSJ: 0922-33-242, the Colombia International Bridge project. The three projects have a combined estimated cost of $143,464,562. She noted that one of the projects listed in the table would be placed under grouped projects and therefore would not appear individually in the TIP, but it was not being removed.

For Fiscal Year 2030, Ms. Briones, identified three (3) projects: CSJ0922-33-093, the Calton Rd. and Santa Maria Interchange, CSJ: 0922-33-231, Mangana-Hein Widening Segment 1, and CSJ: 0922-33-232, Mangana-Hein Widening Segment 2. The combined estimated cost for these projects is $37,462,654.

Ms. Briones, explained that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list had been revised, with revisions highlighted in yellow, and emphasized that the MTP must remain consistent with the projects included in the TIP. She also presented a map illustrating the nine (9) proposed highway projects, which total $542,204,436.

In addition, Ms. Briones, reviewed the transit projects included in the TIP. For Fiscal Year 2027, the TIP includes 11 transit projects funded under Sections 5339, 5307, and 5310, totaling $20,455,770. For Fiscal Years 2028, 2029, and 2030, the TIP includes four transit projects each year, with an annual total of $9,487,262 per year.

Ms. Briones, concluded by summarizing that the proposed TIP includes nine (9) highway projects totaling $542,204,436 and twenty-three (23) transit projects totaling $48,917,556, and then opened the floor for questions.

CM. Gonzalez, inquired about the status of the proposed overpass projects at South Cuatro Vientos and Loop 20, specifically in the Cielito Lindo and Sierra Vista areas. He noted that the projects had been discussed previously with TxDOT and asked where they were reflected within the project list and funding process.

Mr. Mendive, responded that the South Cuatro Vientos and Loop 20 overpass projects, including the Cielito Lindo and Sierra Vista overpasses, are currently included in the

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) with an anticipated letting date of 2031. He explained that the projects are not included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) because they fall outside the TIP's four-year planning window and currently do not have construction funding identified. He noted, however, that the projects are presently in the design phase. Mr. Mendive, added that the TIP may be amended if funding becomes available, allowing the projects to be accelerated and added to the TIP.

CM. Gonzalez, further discussed the rapid development occurring along the Cuatro Vientos and South Loop 20, noting that uncertainty regarding future roadway connections and overpass construction has created challenges for developers seeking access permits and planning new developments. He emphasized the importance of advancing the Cielito Lindo and Sierra Vista overpass projects prior to the future development associated with the proposed 4/5 Bridge project.

Mr. Mendive, stated that the Cielito Lindo and Sierra Vista overpasses were identified as high-priority projects during development of the MTP. He acknowledged that multiple projects compete for limited funding resources, but indicated that the MPO would continue coordinating with TxDOT to explore potential funding opportunities, including grants, that could help advance the projects more quickly.

Mayor Treviño, asked whether any projects related to Killam "Highway" and connecting roadways near the World Trade Bridge were included in the TIP.

Mr. Mendive, responded that the Vallecillo Road project near the World Trade Bridge was included and noted that Killam had provided right-of-way for that project.

Mayor Treviño, then raised concerns regarding the condition of Killam Industrial Blvd. citing reports from the trucking industry about potholes and roadway deterioration.

Mr. Mendive, stated that he was unaware of additional related roadway projects other than those listed on the TIP and MTP.

Mr. Brown, clarified that maintenance of Killam Boulevard would likely fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Laredo Public Works Department rather than the MPO, and noted that roadway maintenance funding continues to be a challenge for local agencies, including the City, County, and TxDOT.

Judge Tijerina, made a motion to initiate a 20-day public review and comment period for the proposed draft 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and necessary revisions to the 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to incorporate and reflect the proposed 2027-2030 TIP project information.

Second: CM. Gutierrez
For: 5

Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Discussion with possible action on the selection and funding of projects submitted through the MPO Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside Program 2025 Call for Projects.

Mr. Mendive, presented an overview of the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program and the two projects being considered for funding. He explained that the program, established under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program, provides funding to MPOs serving urbanized areas with populations exceeding 200,000. The program supports alternative transportation projects that improve safety, mobility, and connectivity for non-motorized users while helping reduce congestion and advance the MPO's Vision Zero goals.

Mr. Mendive, stated that the TA Set-Aside funds are classified as Category 9 funds and are administered in coordination with TxDOT, which provides project oversight. He noted that MPOs are required to establish a competitive project selection process, and the MPO's Call for Projects was authorized by the Policy Committee on March 19, 2025. Following the call, MPO staff received two project applications, coordinated with TxDOT, conducted site visits, and evaluated project readiness to ensure the projects were prepared to move toward implementation.

Mr. Mendive, clarified that the TA Set-Aside Program is not a grant program, as funding is provided on a reimbursement basis. Projects receive 80% federal funding with a required 20% minimum local cash match. For the current Call for Projects, approximately $2,292,894 in federal funding was available for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028. Funding categories included planning and development studies, design and construction projects, and construction-only projects. He explained that an evaluation committee consisting of members of the Active Transportation Committee, Technical Committee, MPO staff, and TxDOT representatives reviewed the applications using criteria that included safety improvements, connectivity, service to disadvantaged areas, economic development opportunities, health and environmental benefits, implementation of existing plans, and project readiness.

Mr. Mendive, presented the two project applications received: The Summers Trail Regional Park project, sponsored by the City of Laredo, requesting a total of $1,250,000 including local match. The Safe Routes to School Pilot Program, requesting $545,902 including local match. He also noted that a TxDOT administrative fee of up to 15% was included to support project oversight and administration.

Mr. Mendive, reviewed the strengths identified during project evaluations. The Summers Trail Regional Park project scored highly in implementing existing plans, promoting health and environmental benefits, and improving safety. The Safe Routes to School Pilot Program scored strongly in improving safety, serving disadvantaged areas, and promoting health and environmental benefits. While both projects received moderate scores in project readiness, MPO staff and TxDOT determined that the inclusion of design phases would help address outstanding readiness issues prior to construction.

Mr. Mendive, further explained that the Summers Trail Regional Park project proposes construction of a 10-foot-wide shared-use path extending from the Merida Trail System to Cuatro Vientos Boulevard as part of a planned 6.1-mile regional trail corridor connecting Dryden Memorial Park to the Lago del Valle subdivision. The project is intended to improve non-motorized connectivity between residential areas, schools, parks, and public amenities in South Laredo. He also described the Safe Routes to School Pilot Program as a quick-build project designed to implement intersection safety improvements at 6 LISD school locations using strategies based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe System Approach. Proposed improvements include enhanced signage, high-visibility crosswalks, removal of visual barriers, and reduced crossing distances to improve pedestrian safety. He noted that the project originated from recommendations included in the Vision Zero Safety Action Plan developed collaboratively by the RMA and the City of Laredo.

Mr. Mendive, concluded by stating that MPO staff recommended approval and full funding of both projects. He added that MPO staff would continue coordinating with TxDOT and project sponsors to advance project readiness and implementation. He also noted that any project cost overruns would be the responsibility of the project sponsor, substantial scope changes would require Policy Committee approval, and periodic project status reports may be requested following execution of Advanced Funding Agreements with TxDOT.

No questions were raised following the presentation.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion approve the selection and funding of projects submitted through the MPO Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside Program 2025 Call for Projects.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Discussion with possible action on canceling or rescheduling the July 15th MPO Policy Committee meeting to allow interested MPO committee members and staff to attend the 2026 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference (PLANCON) in San Antonio, Texas from July 14th through July 16th.

CM. Gutierrez, made a motion approve the canceling or rescheduling the July 15th MPO Policy Committee meeting to allow interested MPO committee members and staff to attend the 2026 TxDOT Transportation Planning Conference (PLANCON) in San Antonio, Texas from July 14th through July 16th.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

There were no questions from the Committee.

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. He stated that the Vallecillo Road project continues to progress satisfactorily. Mr. Brown, also provided an update regarding the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant application. He explained that the previous application submitted by the RMA was unsuccessful however, feedback received during the federal debrief indicated that the requested funding amount exceeded the preferred project scale for the program. As a result, the RMA is preparing to resubmit a revised implementation grant application with a reduced funding request. He stated that the revised application focuses on projects identified in the original study that demonstrated the highest crash rates, injuries, and safety concerns, thereby strengthening the application's competitiveness.

Mr. Brown, noted that the prior application received the highest possible evaluation score without receiving funding and stated that federal agencies indicated that resubmitted applications are viewed favorably. He added that the RMA is coordinating with the City of Laredo and TxDOT regarding participation in the resubmission effort, which involves minimal additional cost because much of the preparatory work has already been completed. He further noted that each City Council district and County precinct would benefit from projects included in the proposed application. Mr. Brown, also discussed

ongoing coordination efforts with the City of Laredo related to traffic congestion issues in the Unitech area. He stated that although no formal agreement has been finalized, the RMA has participated in meetings with City representatives, engineers, property owners, and representatives associated with the Majestics Industrial Park development to explore possible transportation solutions for the area. He emphasized the importance of long-term transportation planning and the need to begin addressing congestion issues proactively.

Lastly, Mr. Brown, announced that he had received a reappointment from Governor Greg Abbott effective April 1, 2026, for an additional two-year term as RMA Chairman.

Committee members congratulated Mr. Brown on his reappointment.

There were no further questions from the Committee.

The following report provided by the RMA was included as part of the packet:

WC-CL RMA March and April 2026 Status Report to LWCAMPO

1. **The Vallecillo Road Project** – See supplemental memorandum.

2. **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. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2026.

3. **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. We are awaiting notification of grant award.

4. Since adoption of the Vision Zero Webb Laredo Comprehensive Transportation Plan by the WCCL RMA, LWCAMPO, and City of Laredo in Spring of 2025, the RMA submitted an application for an FY25 SS4A Implementation Grant. Though Laredo was not selected for that round, the application received a rating of "Highly Recommended," which is the highest possible rating. The WCCL RMA has been coordinating with TxDOT and City of Laredo to determine a path toward re-applying during the FY26 round requesting less funding. Additional consideration is given to applicants that were not awarded previously. **No other activities occurred during the month of February and March.**

5. **Vision Zero Webb Laredo Safety Action Plan (Safe Streets for All)**- See supplemental memorandum.

6. **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 the details of the agreements. The City will move forward with letting once the agreements are finalized and executed. On 4/7/2026, City Council passed resolutions to complete the ROW acquisition for the project from both property owners. They authorized the City Manager to enter into agreements with both property owners to finalize the ROW acquisition. The City anticipates the agreements to be completed by the end of April (2 to 3 weeks). Upon execution of the agreements, the City will complete the design of the project and proceed to bid advertisement for construction.

7. **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. While our coordination is ongoing, we are completing the data collection from the Webb County Appraisal District and have started developing the revenue projection

model. We will work with the City to commence the stakeholder meetings and beginning defining the limits of the preliminary zone.

8. **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. While our coordination with the City is ongoing, we are completing the data collection from the Webb County Appraisal District and have started updating the revenue projection model. We have received direction from the City on the refinement of the preliminary zone for implementation. Once we finalize the zone, we can develop updated projection revenue numbers. We will work with the City to commence the stakeholder meetings.

9. **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.

10. **Other Items:**
    - The WC-CL RMA is targeting the next Board meeting in late April.

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

B. TxDOT Project Updates

Mr. Mendive, introduced the next agenda item and stated that Mr. Vargas would provide a TxDOT project update. He also noted that Mr. Rafael Guzman would present an additional update regarding one of the ongoing projects.

Mr. Jose Vargas, TxDOT Laredo Area Engineer, presented the TxDOT project updates, he reported that TxDOT was currently oversees approximately $700 million in active transportation projects, encompassing a total of 16 projects. He stated that the projects include a broad range of transportation improvements, including full roadway reconstructions, roadway widening projects, bridge improvements, reconstruction of facilities to interstate standards, safety improvement projects, and preventive maintenance projects such as overlays and seal coat work. Mr. Vargas noted that Mr. Guzman would provide a more detailed overview of several ongoing projects following his presentation.

CSJ: 0086-14-075 – US 59 Expansion

Mr. Vargas, reported that the US 59 Expansion project, a total investment of approximately $344 million with an expected completion date of 2029. He stated that the project is currently about 40% complete. Mr. Vargas, described ongoing construction activities, including the development of future frontage roads, installation of concrete pavement, and construction of retaining walls that will support a future ramp structure. He also referenced an aerial view of the reconstructed intersection at Del Mar, highlighting progress within the project limits extending from International Boulevard to just south of Jacaman Road.

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

Mr. Vargas stated that the Hachar–Reuthinger Road project, stating that the contract was awarded to Weber Construction with an investment of approximately $122 million. He noted that the contractual completion date is 2027, although the project may be finalized earlier, potentially by the end of the year, weather permitting and subject to favorable conditions. Mr. Vargas, reported that concrete pavement work began recently, but operations were temporarily suspended due to weather conditions. He described ongoing construction of the final roadway surface and widening activities at the intersection connecting to Mines Road. He clarified that lane shifts are being implemented to maintain capacity while allowing construction to proceed. He added that the project is approximately 60% complete, spans about 8 miles, and remains on track within its scheduled timeline.

CSJ: 0086-01-073 – SH 359 Widening

Mr. Vargas reported that the SH 359 Widening project, represents an investment of approximately $50 million. He stated that the project is approximately 81% complete and has recently included placement of hot mix asphalt within the project limits. Mr. Vargas, explained that remaining work includes final surface paving, installation of safety elements such as guardrails and treatments, and final grading activities. He noted that once the final surface is completed, striping operations will be mobilized. He concluded that the project is anticipated to be completed by summer of this year.

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

Mr. Vargas provided an update on the Lomas Del Sur Overpass project, noting an estimated investment of approximately $50 million with Anderson Columbia serving as the contractor. He reported that the project is approximately 22% complete. Mr. Vargas, explained that traffic was recently shifted to allow for the start of bridge construction within the center of the Lomas del Sur intersection. He referenced ongoing work on newly constructed frontage roads and the installation of concrete safety barriers, including slip-form barrier construction conducted during nighttime operations near Cuatro Vientos Boulevard. He noted that the overpass is intended to provide connectivity extending from

the US 359 corridor to the new overpass area. The expected completion date for the project is April 2028.

CSJ: 3586-02-006 – SH 255 Rehabilitation

Mr. Vargas reported that that the project is approximately 16% complete with a total investment of about $25 million. He stated that the reconstruction phase has already been completed and that remaining work includes placement of the final surface layer, restriping, and installation of signage. Mr. Vargas, noted that the project includes approximately seven miles of roadway reconstruction along SH 255, extending westward from Interstate 35. He added that the project is expected to be completed in Fall 2026.

CSJ: 0018-06-181 – SBML Overlay

Mr. Vargas provided an update on preventive maintenance projects, noting that the program includes multiple locations in Duval County; however, he focused his remarks on a Webb County project for the purposes of the presentation. He stated that the project represents a total investment of approximately $10 million and includes about 4.7 miles of mill-and-inlay work along southbound IH-35. He explained that the work is being performed as night operations and involves placement of a new hot-mix asphalt surface as part of routine preventive maintenance to extend pavement life.

CSJ: 3586-02-007 – SH255 Rehabilitation

Mr. Vargas, provided an update on the SH 255 reconstruction project on the western segment of the corridor near the connection with Mines Road. He reported that the project represents an investment of approximately $26 million with an expected completion date of Fall 2027.

Mr. Vargas stated that the project is approximately 20% complete and includes about 7miles of full reconstruction as a continuation of work previously completed on the eastern segment of SH 255. He explained that the work includes in-place rehabilitation using recycled existing roadway materials, with hot mix asphalt being placed as part of the new intermediate layer. He clarified that approximately 3.7 miles of reconstruction have been completed to date. He noted that project limits extend from FM 1472 to approximately half a mile east of FM 3238. He also described the addition of turnaround locations, including improvements at the Las Minas intersection, designed to improve mobility and support truck traffic movements toward SH 255 and Interstate 35.

CSJ: 2150-04-099 – FM 1472 & US 59

Mr. Vargas, provided a brief overview of a safety improvement project, noting that additional technical details would be presented by Mr. Guzman. He stated that the project includes multiple locations, including Pinto Valle and Vidal Cantu, as well as installation of concrete barrier along US 69 from McPherson Road to IH-35. The project represents an

investment of approximately $3.9 million and is currently about 13 percent complete, having recently begun construction. Mr. Vargas, explained that the scope includes reconfiguration of roadway crossovers to improve traffic flow and enhance overall roadway safety. He concluded his remarks and indicated that Mr. Guzman would provide additional project details.

Mr. Guzman, TxDOT Director of Transportation Operations Laredo Area, presented detailed information on the safety improvement project at FM 1472 Pinto Valle area. He explained that the project is focused on addressing safety and traffic flow concerns within a heavily industrial corridor connecting Mines Road between FM 3238 and US 255.

Mr. Guzman, referenced a prior fatal crash involving a double fatality at the crossover near Pinto Valle, noting that the incident highlighted significant safety risks associated with high-speed traffic interactions and heavy truck movements in the area. He explained that the crossover in front of Pinto Valle has been identified as a safety concern due to conflicts between large industrial vehicles and smaller passenger vehicles. He stated that the project includes closing the existing crossover in front of Pinto Valle and reconfiguring nearby access points to improve safety and operational efficiency. As part of the improvements, acceleration and deceleration lanes are being constructed to allow safer merging and exiting movements for industrial traffic. He emphasized that the design provides sufficient weaving distance to reduce conflict points between vehicles traveling at different speeds.

Mr. Guzman, further explained that nearby crossovers to the north and south are being modified to one-way operations to reduce short weaving distances that previously created safety risks. He noted that these adjustments are intended to eliminate unsafe turning movements, particularly where drivers previously attempted U-turns across multiple lanes in short distances, sometimes resulting in vehicles leaving the roadway to avoid collisions. He concluded that the overall project strategy is to consolidate access points, improve traffic flow continuity, and enhance safety for both industrial and passenger vehicles traveling through the corridor.

CM. Gutierrez, raised concerns regarding IH-35 and its congestion near the checkpoint, noting that the issue has been repeatedly discussed over several years without clear progress reflected in current project updates. He questioned what TxDOT has done or is planning to do to address severe traffic congestion, particularly the accumulation of hundreds of stopped trucks near the checkpoint that restrict vehicular movement. CM. Gutiérrez, emphasized that while improvements on corridors such as FM 1472 are important, they do not address the significantly higher traffic volumes and operational challenges on IH-35. He requested clarification on TxDOT's current or planned strategies to improve mobility and reduce congestion in the I-35 corridor near the port of entry and inspection areas.

Ms. Denisse Garcia, TxDOT Transportation Planning and Development Director, responded to concerns regarding Interstate 35 near the international checkpoint, stating that TxDOT has a project planned for improvements to the northbound I-35 corridor with an anticipated letting year of Fiscal Year 2030. She explained that the project is currently in the design and development phase and includes a proposed expansion from the existing two northbound lanes to six total lanes. The design would separate traffic by assigning three lanes to truck traffic on the east side of I-35, while passenger vehicles would be routed separately, with the goal of improving operational efficiency and reducing congestion at the checkpoint approach.

Ms. Garcia, noted that the project includes significant coordination efforts, including right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and coordination with checkpoint operations. She emphasized that right-of-way acquisition is a time-intensive process and is one of the key factors affecting project delivery timelines. She also stated that TxDOT is actively working to accelerate the project where possible and is preparing to move forward as funding becomes available. She indicated that current preliminary cost estimates are approximately $100 million, subject to refinement as the project advances.

Mr. Guzman, continued the TxDOT safety project presentation by providing updates on several ongoing and upcoming safety improvement projects throughout the Laredo area. Mr. Guzman, first discussed a new traffic signal project at FM 1472 and SH 255, noting that the location has experienced serious crashes, including fatalities, involving traffic crossing SH 255 and heavy truck traffic traveling along Mines Road. He stated that the project had recently been let in April 2026 and is intended to improve safety and traffic operations for both corridors. He also presented a pedestrian safety project near the HEB area at Guadalupe St. and Chihuahua St.

Mr. Guzman, explained that TxDOT identified significant pedestrian activity in the area, including elderly pedestrians and transit users accessing nearby bus stops. To improve safety, TxDOT plans to install two standard pedestrian traffic signals that will stop vehicular traffic when activated by pedestrians. He added that an additional traffic signal planned at Guadalupe St. and McPherson Rd. will provide another protected pedestrian crossing in the area. Mr. Guzman, further discussed a proposed traffic signal project at US 359 and Willow Oaks, as well as another safety project at FM 1472 and Riverbank. He explained that the Riverbank project is intended to improve pedestrian safety near a school crossing area where children must cross a heavily traveled truck corridor. Improvements will include a traffic signal and additional lighting to improve visibility and safety for pedestrians. He also reviewed planned operational improvements at FM 1472 and Vidal Cantu Rd., where TxDOT has observed long queues and spillback conditions following installation of a traffic signal. The project will add an additional left-turn lane to improve capacity and reduce traffic conflicts caused by vehicles blocking through lanes.

Mr. Guzman, then addressed the Loop 20/Cuatro Vientos safety barrier project previously referenced by TxDOT staff. He explained that the project was initiated in response to

head-on collisions, pedestrian fatalities, and recurring safety concerns along the corridor. Improvements include installation of concrete barriers extending from US 359 along the Loop 20 corridor to prevent crossover crashes and discourage unsafe pedestrian crossings. He noted that additional deterrent features will be installed above the barrier to reduce pedestrian access to the roadway. He also stated that TxDOT's Transportation Management Center has implemented video analytics technology capable of detecting pedestrians within the corridor and alerting the Laredo Police Department when pedestrians are observed near the roadway.

Mr. Guzman, also discussed a safety improvement project at US 83 and the US 359/Three Points area following a recent fatal crash. He explained that vehicles approaching the curved off-ramp at high speeds have experienced visibility and control issues. To address these concerns, TxDOT plans to install concrete barriers, reflective pavement markers, and additional visibility enhancements along the curve to improve driver awareness and reduce the risk of vehicles leaving the roadway.

CM. Gonzalez, raised concerns regarding flooding conditions near the US 83 and Three Points area, noting that heavy rainfall frequently causes water accumulation that approaches the highway.

Ms. Garcia responded that TxDOT has recently increased internal discussions regarding flooding and low-water crossing concerns throughout Texas. She stated that the location referenced by CM. Gonzalez has already been identified as an area requiring future drainage and flooding improvements.

Mr. Guzman, additionally presented a sidewalk improvement project along US 83 near Southgate and South Florida, which is anticipated to let in Fiscal Years 2027 or 2028. The project will construct sidewalks from Riverhills Loop to approximately the Bruni area to improve pedestrian access for students, families, and nearby residents. He explained that the sidewalks are planned along the west side of the corridor where sufficient right-of-way exists to provide greater separation between pedestrians and traffic. He also noted that TxDOT plans to complete installation of cable barriers along the divided highway section of US 83 from Palo Blanco Road to the Zapata County line.

Lastly, Mr. Guzman discussed recent low-cost safety improvements implemented near the Casablanca Golf Course following a fatal crash in the area. Improvements included installation of reflective pavement markers and enhanced pavement markings to improve nighttime visibility and driver awareness along the curve. He stated that TxDOT routinely evaluates locations following serious crashes to identify quick-response safety improvements that can be implemented through maintenance funding.

CM. Gonzalez, commented that although long-term expansion plans are anticipated for the corridor, interim safety improvements remain important.

Mr. Guzman, responded that TxDOT is coordinating current safety enhancements with future project planning to ensure long-term improvements are incorporated into future corridor expansions.

Judge Tijerina, added that multiple crashes have occurred in the area over recent years and stated that Webb County has previously raised concerns regarding the safety conditions near the golf course corridor.

CM. Gonzalez, also acknowledged TxDOT's prompt response to an additional safety concern associated with construction near the overpass project. He referenced a roadway dip along the southbound lanes that could create a potential safety hazard for motorists, noting that it could catch drivers off guard. CM. Gonzalez, stated that TxDOT staff had quickly coordinated with the contractor earlier in the week to address the issue by adjusting and grading the roadway surface to improve driving conditions and safety.

VI. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director's Report April 15, 2026

Mr. Mendive, congratulated Mr. Brown on his reappointment by Governor Greg Abbott to continue serving on the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

Mr. Mendive, also welcomed and introduced Denisse Garcia as the new TxDOT Transportation Planning and Development Director. He expressed appreciation for her participation and noted that she would also be serving on the MPO Technical Committee.

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

1. **MPO Staff Updates:**

   - On April 7th, MPO staff attended the Texas Freight Mobility Plan Stakeholder Workshop. The workshop provided an opportunity to provide feedback on freight mobility priorities, challenges, and needs in our region.

   - MPO staff will be attending the American Planning Association (APA) National Planning Conference in Detroit, MI from April 24th through April 28th.

   - MPO Directors have been invited to attend a meeting with TxDOT Senior Leadership in Austin, Texas on May 7th. The TxDOT/MPO Senior Leadership meetings are being held quarterly. Key topics of discussion include transportation reauthorization, statewide project delivery, and funding challenges.

- The development of the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is in progress. The draft UPWP will be presented to the Policy Committee at the May meeting with final approval expected at the June meeting.

- Letters of support were provided to the RMA and City of Laredo for their applications to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The RMA's grant request is for funds to support the design of the Vallecillo Interchange at I-35. The City of Laredo's request is for funds to support the World Trade Bridge and Colombia Solidarity Bridge expansion projects. All three projects are on the MPO's 2025-2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) fiscally constrained list.

- May is National Bike Month. The MPO Active Transportation Committee (ATC) is coordinating the annual Bike Month proclamation ceremony. Aligned with the

2. **Texas Transportation Commission Meetings**:

   - April 30, 2026
   - May 21, 2026
   - June 25, 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 – April 22, 2026
   - Technical Committee – May 12, 2026
   - Policy Committee – May 20, 2026

   Mr. Mendive, noted that information regarding the Interstate 35 Corridor Study being conducted by TxDOT had been distributed to attendees. He noted that the material included a QR code linking to a public survey intended to gather feedback regarding transportation needs and concerns along the I-35 corridor. Mr. Mendive, encouraged members and the public to participate in the survey, particularly in light of the congestion concerns discussed during the meeting, stating that the study provides an opportunity for stakeholders to submit input regarding future I-35 improvements. He then concluded his report.

   There were no questions regarding the report.

Mr. Brown mentioned that upon learning that Texas Transportation Commissioner Alex Meade was attending a meeting at City Hall, he invited him to stop by and greet the Committee. Mr. Brown thanked Commissioner Meade for his continued involvement and support for the Laredo community, noting that his frequent visits demonstrate an understanding of the region's transportation needs. He also expressed appreciation for the Commissioner's ongoing collaboration and stated that the Committee looked forward to continuing to work with him in the future.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Gutierrez made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:33 P.M.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Juan S. Mendive, AICP
LWCAMPO Director

Mayor Dr. Victor D. Treviño
LWCAMPO Chairperson