Laredo Urban Transportation Study

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee
City of Laredo Council Chambers
1110 Houston St. -Laredo, Texas

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2015 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL:

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director, called roll and verified that a quorum did exist.

Commissioner Canales made a motion to **excuse** members not present.

Second:	Cm. Narvaez
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr. City Councilmember, District V
Honorable Juan Narvaez, City Councilmember, District IV
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District IV
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT

Regular members not present:

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT
Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Ex-Officio Members Not Present:

Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42
Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21
Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80
Nathan R. Bratton, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Eduardo Bernal/Transit, El Metro

Claudia San Miguel, El Metro
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Enginnering

Others Present:

Ruben Soto Jr., Chairman, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Eric Davila, Dannenbaum Engineering
Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering
Maruca Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering
Javier Garza, Border Consultants, LLC
Mario Santos, Webb County Engineering
Riazul Mia, City of Laredo Environmental Department
Lalo Uribe, Webb County
Leroy Medford, Webb County
Viviana Frank, Frank Architects
Frank Rotnofsky, Frank Architects

III. CHAIRPERSON AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS (No action required)

Mr. Nathan Bratton, MPO Director, informed the Commission that Staff is in the process of preparing for the TMA Certification coming up in June. Staff had the Mock Certification in December and there were some items that are still pending. At the moment, Staff is working on those pending items.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

1. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on December 15th, 2014.

Councilman Vela made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting of December 15th, 2014.

Second:	Cm. Narvaez
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

2. Mayor Pete Saenz, his capacity as the presiding officer of the Laredo Mass Transit Board, will appoint a member of the Laredo Mass Transit Board as a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's Policy Committee.

Mayor Pete Saenz, stated Councilman Roberto Balli was appointed to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee, as a representative of the Laredo Mass Transit Board.

3. Authorizing the execution of contract Amendment #3 for the Railroad Quiet Zone Study.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed contract amendment. He clarified that the final contract fee would increase to $78,200, rather than to the $75,800 as noted on the original communication.

Councilman Vela made a motion to **approve** the execution of the contract amendment as amended to include the revised fee of $78,200.

Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

4. Authorizing the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of professional services related to the development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Master Plan.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed RFP for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Master Plan. He stated the evaluation scoring criteria will be included in the RFP.

Riazul Mia, Environmental Department, spoke in favor of the proposed RFP. He stated the project would be a great asset to the city.

Councilman Vela made a motion to **approve** the item subject to the inclusion of the evaluation scoring criteria within the RFP.

Second: Cm. Narvaez
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

5. Discussion with possible action on the programming of $6,110,000 in funds allocated to the MPO resulting from the passage of the Proposition 1 constitutional amendment.

Albert Ramirez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT recommended allocating the $6,110,000 to the Kansas City Southern (KCS) Grade Separation Widening Project, for the construction of frontage roads. He stated the proposed frontage roads would improve traffic flow.

Councilman Vela directed staff to consider which projects those funds could be allocated to.

Councilman Balli requested a presentation from TxDOT on its proposed recommended KCS Grade Separation Widening Frontage Road Project, including the construction of the frontage roads at said location.

Commissioner Canales asked whether the funds were to be programmed at full discretion of the MPO.

Mr. Bratton stated the MPO was requested to coordinate with TxDOT, but the allocation of said funds was at the discretion of the MPO.

Councilman Vela made a motion to **table** the item time certain in order to allow the development of a presentation on TxDOT's proposal.

Second:	Cm. Canales
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

6. Presentation and discussion with possible action on the Loop 20/IH-69 Improvement Project and the Hachar Parkway/Green Ranch Project.

Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering, gave a brief presentation on the Loop 20/IH-69 Improvement Project and Hachar Parkway/Green Ranch Project.

Councilman Vela asked what the MPO could do to develop the projects more quickly and whether there were Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds available for possible allocation of said projects.

Ms. Ana Duncan, TxDOT, inquired as to the status of the rail road coordination for the IH 35 overpass.

Mr. Jones stated little work had been done due to lack of funding.

Councilman Balli left the meeting at approximately 1:06 p.m.

Commissioner Canales asked if instead of utilizing possible SIB loan funds, the Hachar Parkway Project could be fully subsidized by RMA funds.

Mayor Saenz asked whether TxDOT could sponsor a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRIZ).

Mr. Jones stated the TRIZ would be sponsored by the RMA.

Mayor Saenz asked if there were sufficient funds to construct both the Loop 20 and Hachar Parkway projects.

Mr. Bratton stated the issue with the Hachar Project was that the only entity that could benefit from a TRIZ was the RMA. A study would need to be done to determine the total projected tax revenue would be raised through that development of a reinvestment zone.

Mr. Bratton stated that the RMA petition previously submitted to the State of Texas, identified $48,367,669 in CBI monies.

Councilman Vela asked what was necessary from the City and the County to transfer the CBI funds to the RMA.

Mr. Bratton stated the City and the County would need to establish the physical boundaries of the TRIZ prior to fund allocation.

Councilman Vela requested that TxDOT give a presentation at the next Policy Board meeting detailing CBI funds in the Laredo District and their programming to date.

IV. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT(S) (No action required)

There was nothing to report.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Narvaez made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Second:	Cm. Vela
For:	5
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by: _____
Angie Quijano
MPO Staff

Reviewed by: _____
Vanessa Guerra,
MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____
Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

_____
Melisa Montemayor,
District Administrator

_____
Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson