Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2018 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge (joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.)
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII (joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.)
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
David M. Salazar, Jr., District Engineer
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator

Regular members not present:

Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
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

Staff (Of Participating LUTS Agencies) Present:

City:
Nathan R. Bratton, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Robert Eads, City Traffic Safety Department
Mario Maldonado, City Airport Department
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
Gabriel Martinez, City Engineering

State:
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT
Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Danny Magee, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Marissa Montoya, TxDOT

	Tim Juarez, TxDOT Caroline Mays, TxDOT
County:	Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Others:	Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority, (RMA) Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. Ricardo Ramos, Arcadis Julia Wallace, Laredo Morning Times Charlie Martins

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Nathan R. Bratton, MPO Director called roll and verified a quorum existed.

III. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers are required to fill out witness cards, which must be submitted to MPO Staff no later than 15 minutes after the start 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 comment in the interest of order or time. Speakers may not transfer their minutes to any other speaker. Comments should be relevant to City business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks shall be permitted.

CM. Montemayor made a motion to **move up** item V-A.

Second:	CM Gonzalez
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

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

A. Presentation by Tim Juarez, TxDOT, on the Border Master Plan.

Judge Tijerina joined the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Judge returns to regularly planned agenda.

Mr. Juarez stated the previous Border Master Plan was done in 2012/2013 and was primarily focused on border crossings only. The Border Master Plan is supported by the U.S/Mexico Joint Working Committee on Transportation Planning and Programming, the Federal Highway Administration, and the U.S. Department of State. The Border Master Plan are comprehensive long range plan intended to identify port of entry infrastructure needed to facilitate trade, and prioritize planned transportation and port of entry projects within the defined study area. An objective of the Border Master Plan will be to design a stake holder agency involvement process that is inclusive and ensures the participation of all involved in port of entry projects and the transportation infrastructure serving those port of entries. Additionally, the goal is to develop and implement a plan for prioritizing and promoting port of entry and related transportation projects, including evaluation criteria.

Mr. Juarez stated TxDOT was in the process of procuring engineering services to facilitate the development of the plan. He stated the plan would be completed in 18-24 months.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on December 18, 2017.

CM. Balli made a motion to **approve** the minutes of December 18, 2017.

Second:	CM Gonzalez
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2018-01 for the proposed amendment(s) to the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

1. ***Removal*** **of project CSJ 0086-14-082 intended to provide for the development of plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) for the Jacaman and Airport overpasses. Proposed work has an estimated cost of 4.6 million dollars.** ***Rationale*****: State is taking over PS&E design cost of the future IH 69 intersections using strategy 111 funds. These funds do not need an independent CSJ for design only; it uses the construction CSJ to allocate design funds. Consequently there is no longer a need to have a design only CSJ. All 4.6 million in project funds are being transferred to project temporarily identified as CSJ 0922-33-933 intended to provide for the**

construction of a FAST lane at World Trade Bridge. Please note that only the CSJ is being canceled, not the funding.

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM. Balli made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Balli made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2018-01, adopting the proposed amendment for the 2017-2020 TIP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony adopting Resolution No. 2018-02, amending the FY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) in order to:

1. **Amend Subtask 2.2, entitled 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update Project by reducing the allocated funds by $10,000 and reallocating said funds to Subtask 4.2. The Travel Demand Model project is nearing completion and amended budget will adequately provide for project closeout; and,**
2. **Unifying Subtask 4.2 and Subtask 4.3, the FAST Act Compliance Project and The 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update, due to project activity overlap and federal requirement time constraints.**

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, gave a brief presentation on the proposed item.

CM. Balli made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Balli made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2018-02, adopting the proposed amendment for the FY 2018 UPWP.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Motion to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U) between the Laredo Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Texas Department of Transportation and El Metro (the Laredo Public Transportation Operator) as required by 23 CFR 450.314, intended to provide specific provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to the development of financial plans, the TIP, MTP, and performance based data and targets.

CM. Balli made a motion to **authorize** the execution of an M.O.U. between the Laredo MPO, TxDOT, and Transit, El Metro.

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

Motion carried unanimously

E. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2018-03, adopting and supporting the Texas Department of Transportation's 2018 targets for the five Safety Performance Measures, as listed below:

2018 Safety Targets	Number of Fatalities (FARS/CRIS/ ARF DATA)	Rate of Fatalities (FARS/CRIS/ ARF DATA)	Number of Serious Injuries (FARS/CRIS DATA)	Serious Injury Rate (CRIS DATA)	Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries (FARS/CRIS DATA)
2014	3,536	1.45	17,133	7.05	1,893
2015	3,516	1.36	17,096	6.62	2,023
2016	3,775	1.44	17,578	6.71	2,304
2017	3,801	1.45	17,890	6.68	2,224
2018 Target	3,891	1.46	18,130	6.64	2,309
2018 Target as a 5 year Average:	3,704	1.43	17,565	6.74	2,151

CM. Balli made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Judge Tijerina
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2018-03, adopting and supporting TxDOT's 2018 targets for the five Safety Performance Measures.

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

Motion carried unanimously

F. Receive public testimony and approve a Motion authorizing the award and execution of a contract in the amount of $46,400 with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the development of the update of the 2015 Kansas City Southern Railroad Quiet Zone Study.

CM. Balli made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **authorize** the award and execution of a contract in the amount of $46,400 with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the development of the update of the 2015 Kansas City Southern Railroad Quiet Zone Study.

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

Motion carried unanimously

G. Receive public testimony and approve a Motion authorizing the award and execution of a contract in the amount of $335,000 with CDM Smith for the

development of the Laredo Metropolitan Plan Update and FAST Act Compliance Project.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **authorize** the award and execution of a contract in the amount of $335,000 with CDM Smith for the development of the Laredo Metropolitan Plan Update and FAST Act Compliance Project.

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

Motion carried unanimously

H. Discussion with possible action on the letting date for Calton Railroad Grade Separation project (0922-33-093) which is proposed to move from November 2017 (FY 2018) to August (FY 2018).

Gabriel Martinez, City Engineering, stated the project was on schedule and would be ready to let in August, 2018.

Ricardo Ramos, Arcadis, stated his firm received the amendment for the project and expected to finalize the plans by the end of the month. He stated construction would take approximately two years.

I. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering, stated his department had met with providers of the statements of qualifications for the development of the environmental document. He stated the proposals had been submitted to the County's Purchasing Department for compliance review with all procurement regulations. He stated the proposals would be presented at the next County Commissioner's Court meeting in order to request permission to negotiate a contract with the selected firm.

J. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding studies, alignment and status of the Outer Loop.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated the project phases included: Planning, Environmental, R.O.W., Utilities, Design, and Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E).

He stated the environmental process would take between 24-36 months. The R.O.W. and utilities phases would take about 36 months, the develop/design process, 24 months, and the PS&E would take about 36 months. In total, all preliminary phases would be complete in no sooner than 10 years.

Charlie Martins expressed his concerns regarding the City's current and future land of congestion, as well as, the slow pace of roadway development.

K. Presentation, discussion and possible action on Pass Through Financing.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item which identified the following steps in the process:

- A group of private/public inventors would first build the roadway; and,
- TxDOT would then reimburse the construction costs based upon the rate per vehicle mile travelled determined in the agreement.

In general, Pass Through Financing Projects exhibit the following characteristics:

- Have a minimum payment plan per year.
- Have a maximum payment play per year.
- Financing costs are not reimbursable expense.
- 1st TxDOT payment is due 60 days after substantial completion of project.
- If the local entity issued bonds, typically a pledge of the Pass Through agreement payment was made, which lowered the bond costs. The local entity could also build project with cash and receive reimbursement from the Pass Through agreement.
- A typical reimbursement period is approximately 12-15 years.

L. Discussion with possible action on a North-West sector traffic impact study.

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated the RMA gave a presentation in November of 2017 detailing the overall scope of services and timeline for the project. He stated the project would encompass the area north of Loop 20, along Mines Road to Camino Colombia and IH 35.

CM. Altgelt joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

M. Discussion and possible action on a set-back development policy on Loop 20, Mines Road and other major arterials.

The Mayor requested the item be brought back on the next MPO meeting agenda.

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

B. Presentation by Danny Magee, TxDOT, on a phased Mines Road digital signage implementation project.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to fund the purchases of 3 portable signs to alert the public of upcoming congestion to be placed and messaged on FM 1472.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. Status report on the Traffic Signal Synchronization Project.

Robert Eads, Traffic Safety Department, stated a contract proposal would be presented on the March 19th City Council meeting for review and hopefully approval.

D. Letting date for the Zacate Creek Hike & Bike Trail (CSJ 0922-33-170) has been moved from November 2017 (FY 2018) to April 2018 (FY 2018).

John Porter, Environmental Services Department, stated the letting date would be moved to June or July FY 2018. He stated there were continuing issues with the R.O.W. acquisition which necessitated the change.

E. Status report by Mr. Joe Medina on discussions with the Muller family in relation to the River Bank Road Project.

No discussion was had on the item. The Mayor requested the item be placed on the next MPO Policy agenda.

Judge Tijerina left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

F. Status report on the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA).

1. **Status update on the Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) Feasibility Study.**
2. **Presentation on the RMA's role in the region.**

Ruben Soto, RMA, stated the RMA had passed a resolution supporting the Outer Loop and the Bridge 4/5 project. He stated the RMA was also looking to develop a project to construct turning lanes from Killam towards northbound on Mines Road.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Altgelt made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Nathan R. Bratton
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson