Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2017 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Saenz, LUTS Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **excuse** members absent.

Second:	C.M. Altgelt
For:	5
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 2:07 p.m.)
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Regular members absent:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

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

Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
Rosa Soto, Transit, El Metro
Joe Jackson, Transit, El Metro
Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT
Mike Graham, TxDOT
Anna Lydia Benavides, TxDOT
Nelda Eureste, TxDOT
Gustavo Elizondo, TxDOT
Marissa Montoya, TxDOT

County: Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering

Others: Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Antonio Rodriguez, HTNB, Inc.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Neither the Committee nor the Director had any new business to report.

IV. 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.

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on May 15, 2017.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting of May 15, 2017.

Second: C.M. Altgelt
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Mayor Saenz requested to bring forward agenda item VI-C for discussion. There were no objections.

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

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

Ruben Soto, RMA, stated the RMA was currently working on the environmental process for the Vallecillo Road project.

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated the RMA expected a draft of the preliminary environmental document within the next two months.

C.M. Algelt requested the RMA give a presentation on the proposed Vallecillo Road's funding sources at the next Policy Committee meeting.

The committee discussed the merits of a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) versus the issuance of a bond to fund the Vallecillo project.

C.M. San Miguel joined the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

B. Presentation, discussion and possible action on Loop 20/I-69 funding plan, sponsored by Webb County for inclusion of construction funds for Five Overpasses along Loop 20 into the LUTS-MPO Planning documents.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, gave a brief presentation on the proposed item in which he remarked that during the development of the Airport and Jacaman Road projects, R.O.W. acquisition challenges have presented themselves such that the initiation of construction for the Airport overpass would move from 2018 to 2024, and the Jacaman Road overpass would move from 2020 to 2021.

Funds liberated via the rescheduling of said projects may now be reprogrammed so as to let the following projects thusly:

- Overpasses:
  - Airport (est construction cost $15 million)-2024
  - Jacaman (est construction cost $20 million)-2021
  - University (est construction cost $15 million)-2022
  - Del Mar (est construction cost $20.5 million)-2021
  - Shiloh (est construction cost $18 million)-2023

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering, stated discussions with the Armory, the Laredo airport, and the Federal Aviation Administration (F.A.A.) had yet to be undertaken and would take an undetermined period of time.

Ms. Montemayor, TxDOT, stated the discussions with affected property owners have been ongoing.

C.M. Galo asked if the overpass could be built without construction of the frontage roads.

Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT, stated that an interim construction foot print of the project could be considered during the ROW negotiations with F.A.A.

Mr. Garcia stated Webb County would develop a plan, for presentation at the next meeting, to visually demonstrate the physical layout of the overpass designed so as not to encroach on the Armory or the Airport properties.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **adopt** the funding new plan as proposed by the County.

Second:	C.M. San Miguel
For:	0
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion was not voted on.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **move up** item VI-A.

Second:	C.M. Algelt
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Altgelt stepped out of the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

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

A. Presentation by TxDOT Laredo District and ROW Division on the US 59 Loop project and the "ready to let" schedule.

Ana Duncan, Gustavo Elizondo, Mike Graham, and Nelda Euresti, TxDOT, gave a brief presentation on the item. The updated "ready to let schedule" was as follows:

- Airport Overpass/ready to let in 2024

- Jacaman Overpass/ready to let in 2021
- University Overpass/ready to let in 2021

C.M. Galo expressed his concern regarding the delay in ROW acquisition along the proposed project sites which may cause future increased costs to the City and County.

C.M. Galo asked if the City of Laredo could purchase ROW.

Ms. Euresti stated the City could buy ROW, but may jeopardize reimbursement with federal dollars.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **approve** the updated funding plan for the Jacaman, Del Mar, University, Shiloh, and Airport overpasses as presented by Webb County.

Second:	C.M. San Miguel
For:	3
Against:	0
Abstained:	2 (C.M. Alvarez, C.M. Montemayor)

Motion carried

C.M. Galo made a motion to "send a letter from the MPO in writing or via email to request if the City could purchase ROW and how it goes towards the future obligation and how it will be valued upon the local contribution."

Second:	C.M. San Miguel
For:	3
Against:	0
Abstained:	2 (C.M. Alvarez, C.M. Montemayor)

Motion carried

Ms. Euresti stated the ROW acquisition process could not start till TxDOT had the approved schematic, and had received the City's or the County's local contribution.

The MPO Policy Committee Chairman requested that the MPO Director advise the City Manager of the upcoming ROW local contribution, due possibly as soon as March of 2018.

C.M. Galo also recommended Congressman Cuellar be contacted regarding the Armory and its possible relocation.

C. Receive public testimony and initiate a ten-day public review and comment period for the following proposed amendment(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

1. ***Removal* of project CSJ 0086-14-077 intended to provide for construction of an interchange at the international airport, with an estimated construction cost of $14,785,990. *Rationale*: Latest estimated letting date is fiscal year (FY) 2024, which is outside of the current TIP horizon.**

2. ***Removal* of project CSJ 0086-14-078 intended to provide for construction of an interchange from 0.50 miles south of Jacaman Road to 0.50 miles north of Jacaman Road, with an estimated construction cost of $19,691,424. Rationale: The latest estimated letting date is FY 2021, which is outside of the current TIP horizon.**

3. ***Administrative Revision* of grouped project CSJ 0922-33-149 intended to provide for the construction of the Chacon Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Phase 3, at Chacon Creek from Eastwood Park to US 59, with a construction cost estimate of $1,400,000. Purpose: The letting date is moving from FY 2017 to FY 2019.**

C.M. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second:	C.M. San Miguel
For:	5
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and initiate a **ten-day** public review and comment period for the following proposed amendment(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Second:	C.M. San Miguel
For:	5
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2017-05, adopting transit performance measures and targets for state of good repair (SGR) as identified in Table 3.1 of the El Metro Asset Management Plan of 2017, which are as follows:

Table 3.1: Performance Measures and Targets

Asset Class	Performance Measure	Target
Rolling Stock	Mileage	75% of vehicles should be within their ULB
Equipment	Age	75% equipment should be within their ULB
Facilities	Condition	75% facilities rated on a FTA TERM scale of 3.0 or above

C.M. Galo made a motion **open** a public hearing.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2017-05, adopting the transit measures and targets for state of good repair (SGR).

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Receive public testimony and initiate a twenty day public review and comment period for the draft 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

C.M. Galo made a motion **open** a public hearing.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C.M. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **initiate** a twenty day public review and comment period for the draft 2018 UPWP.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

F. Discussion with possible action regarding the remaining 8 million dollars in Category 2 funds.

No further discussion was deemed necessary pursuant to the updated funding plan as approved in agenda item VI-A.

G. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering, stated the project is on hold due to procurement issues. He also stated Dannenabaum Engineering had requested a 365 day extension on the contract, but had not yet been approved by the City Council.

C.M. Alvarez requested to remove item V-H from future agendas as it would be included in TxDOT's monthly report on the status of ongoing construction projects.

C.M. Galo made a motion to **discuss** item V-H and VI-B currently and remove the discussion with possible action on Mines Road on all future agendas as it would be included in TxDOT's regular report on the status of ongoing construction projects.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

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

B. TxDOT report on the status of ongoing construction projects.

Mr. Alvarez, TxDOT stated the Loop 20/Spur 400 Interchange project was 73% completed and was anticipated be complete in January of 2018. Loop 20/KCS railroad overpass project was 42% completed and was anticipated to be complete in the fall of 2018. Loop 20/International was 45% completed and was anticipated to be complete in December of 2017. FM 1472/concrete paving on Mines Road was 45% completed and was anticipated to be complete in August of 2017. He stated the Flyover/Loop 20 over IH 35 project was schedule for letting in July and funded through Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

C.M. Galo made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Second: C.M. San Miguel
For: 5

Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson