Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2016 MEETING

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **excuse** members not present.

Second: Cm. Galo
In Favor: 7
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII (arrived at 12:09 p.m.)
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Regular members absent:

Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI

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 Angie Quijano, City Planning/LUTS Staff
State:	Albert Ramirez, TxDOT Ana Duncan, TxDOT Sara Garza, TxDOT Carlos Rodriguez, TxDOT
County:	Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Others:	Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff (HNTB, Inc.) Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Mike Graham, TxDOT Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering Louie Jones, Dannenbaum Engineering Berry O'Bryan, Anderson Colombia

III. COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

There was nothing to report from either the Committee or the Director.

IV. CITIZEN COMMENT

Speakers are required to fill out a witness card and submit it to the MPO staff no later than 15 minutes after the start of the meeting. The speaker 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 particular issue, they need to select not more than three (3) representatives to speak for them and the presiding officer may limit the public comments further in the interest of an orderly meeting. Speakers may not pass their minutes to any other speaker. Comments should be relevant to City business and delivered in a professional manner. No derogatory remarks will be permitted.

V. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on June 20, 2016.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meeting held on June 20, 2016.

Second: Judge Tijerina

In Favor: 7
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-08, adopting the proposed FY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Bratton gave a brief presentation on the proposed UPWP.

Listed below is a summary of the proposed budget.

Subtask	Amount
1.1 Program support administration	$100,000.00
1.2 Travel, training, equipment	$20,000.00
2.1 Growth monitoring, projections, website	$20,000.00
2.2 2013-2045 Travel Demand Model Update Proj	$100,000.00
3.1 TIP/UPWP/PPP/LEP/By-Laws/Title VI	$20,000.00
4.1 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan	$5,000.00
5.1 Transit Plan Update	$40,000.00
5.2 Outer Loop Alignment Study	$250,000.00
5.3 Freight Mobility Plan	$250,000.00
5.4 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	$5,000.00
TOTAL	**$810,000.00**

Cm. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Judge Tijerina
In Favor: 7
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-08, adopting the FY 2017 UPWP.

Second: Cm. Balli
In Favor: 7
Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **combine** consideration and discussion of agenda items V-C and VI-A, B, and C together.

Second: Cm. Canales
In Favor: 7
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

C. Discussion with possible action on the proposed amendment of the Highway MTP/TIP to revise funding on projects 0086-14-081 and 0086-14-065 to facilitate programing of grade separations along Loop 20/U.S. 59 from US 59 to Jacaman for engineering, Right-of-Way acquisition, and construction as proposed by Webb County.

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

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

1. **Report on Feasibility Study of a possible Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) on Vallecillo Road.**
2. **Status of the RMA's FASTLANE Grant.**
3. **Status of the Loop 20 project.**

B. Status report by TxDOT on public and private acreage Right-of-Way on the US 59/ Loop 20 Project.

C. Status report by TxDOT on the Fast Lane Grant application submitted for the Main Lanes on Loop 20 over IH 35.

Cm. George Altgelt arrived at the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, stated the Fast Lane Grant applications submitted by: TxDOT for the Loop 20/IH 35 projects, the RMA for the Jacaman Overpass project, and the City of Laredo for the Toll Booth project, were all denied. He stated no FAST LANE Grant application from Texas was approved.

Cm. Galo stated that in light of the outcome of the FAST LANE Grant application process, the Committee should consider funding the needed Loop 20 overpasses, locally. He stated the total estimated project cost for all proposed overpasses was approximately 180 million dollars.

Mr. Soto stated that alternative methods including a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) or a Transportation Reinvestment Zone (TRZ) were still viable option worthy of exploration. He also stated that the RMA's attorneys were in the process of requesting a written opinion form the State Attorney General regarding the formation of a TRZ by the County.

Cm. Canales asked if the MPO was able to allocate funds previously programmed to other projects, and if said monies could be spent on design/build projects.

Mr. Bratton stated that while the MPO may reallocate funds if necessary, the State only allows design/build project development on projects over 250 million dollars.

Pete Alvarez stated TxDOT was in the process of performing an internal analysis to evaluate whether design/build project development would be appropriate for the entire Loop 20 project.

Berry O'Bryan, Anderson Colombia, Inc., stated that some time ago, his firm had submitted a letter to TxDOT proposing the design/build methodology for the project intended to improve Loop 20 to interstate standards.

Louie Jones and Anthony Garza from Dannenbaum Engineering gave a brief presentation on Loop 20/I69 funding plan as proposed by their firm.

The summary of the proposed revisions are as followed:

- **Revision** of project CSJ 0086-14-065 intended to construct an interchange facility over IH 35, from 0.330 miles west of IH 35 to 0.160 miles west of McPherson Road, with an estimated project cost of $39.1 million dollars. **Purpose** of the revision is to reduce funding amounts per the latest construction estimate from $39.1 million, to $26,564,945, a reduction of $12,535,055.

- **Revision** of project CSJ 0086-14-058 which will develop the Schematics / Environmental / PS&E of the Loop 20 Extension, currently funded with $3.2 million dollars. **Purpose** of the revision is to allocate an additional $4,641,030 in Coordinated Border Infrustructure Funds (CBI) for the development of the Plans, Specifications and Estimates(PS&E) from US59 to Jacaman. Total project funding for these task will increase from $3.2 million, by$4,641,030 to a total of $7,841,030.

- **Addition** of a project (CSJ yet to be assigned) to fund the acquisition of Right-of-Way from US 59 to the Airport Overpass, to be funded with $4,806,663 in CBI funds and will be let in FY 2017.

- **Addition** of project CSJ 0086-14-077 to fund the construction of the Airport Overpass. The project construction cost is $14,785,990 will be funded with

$2,430,000 in 2017 Proposition 1 funds and $12,355,991 in Proposition 1 & 7. The project will let in FY 2018.

- **Addition** of project CSJ 0086-14-078 for the construction of the Jacaman Overpass. The project construction cost is $19,691,424 and will be funded with $19,691,424 in 2020 in Proposition 1 & 7 Planning funds as listed in the planning targets table released by TxDOT as part of the latest UTP update. The project will let in FY 2020.

Judge Tijerina made a motion to **approve** the proposed funding as presented by Dannenbaum Engineering.

Second: Cm. Canales

Peter Alvarez, District Engineer, requested the Judge Tijerina please amend his motion to reflect the difference between the pre-bid engineer's estimate and the actual bid in January 2017.

Judge Tijerina **amended** his motion as stated by Pete Alvarez, TxDOT District Engineer.

Second: Cm. Canales
In Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-09, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which are as follows:

1. **Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary and Table 12-12 and 12-15, entitled Category 7 and 10 Roadway Projects, respectively, Figure 13-1, entitled Natural Resources and Federally Funded Projects; Figure 13-2, entitled Cultural Resources and Federally Funded Projects; Figure 13-3, entitled Low Income Areas and Federally Funded Projects; Table 13-1, entitled Federally Funded Projects Environmental Assessment Results; Table 13-3, entitled Federally Funded Projects and Environmental Justice Populations and Table 13-4 entitled Colonias and Federally Funded Projects by:**

   a. ***Adding* project CSJ 0086-14-081 intended to provide for the constructing and engineering of the ITS portion of an interchange facility over IH35, from 1.400 miles west of IH 35 to 0.600 miles west of**

McPherson Road, with an estimated project cost of $1,000,000. Proposed project letting date is FY 2017 (January 2017).

b. ***Adding*** **project CSJ 0922-33-175 intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to IH35 with an estimated project cost of $1,634,277. Proposed letting date is FY 2017 (February 2017).**

c. ***Revising*** **project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide for construction, engineering, and contingencies for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project, from FM 1472 to 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway. *Purpose* of amendment is to revise funding amounts from $22,936,054 in local funds to $21,437,521 in Category 7 funds and $5,359,380 in local funds. Proposed letting date is FY 2019 (September 2018).**

d. **Revision of CSJ 0922-33-166 intended to provide for the construction, engineering and contingencies for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road project, a 5 lane rural roadway, from 0.1 miles east of Beltway Parkway to IH 35 West Frontage Road. Purpose of amendment is to revise funding amounts from $28,193,851 in local funds to $17,152,535 in Category 7 funds and $3,430,507 in local funds. Proposed letting year is FY 2023.**

Cm. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Balli
In Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-09, adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2015-2040 Laredo Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Second: Cm. Balli
In Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

E. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2016-10 adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

1. ***Addition*** **of project CSJ 0086-14-065 intended to construct an interchange facility over IH35, from 0.330 miles west of IH 35 to 0.160 miles west of**

McPherson Road, with an estimated project cost of $38,100,000. Proposed project letting date is FY 2017 (January 2017).

2. ***Addition*** **of project CSJ 0086-14-081 intended to provide for the constructing and engineering of the ITS portion of an interchange facility over IH35, from 1.400 miles west of IH 35 to 0.600 miles west of McPherson Road, with an estimated project cost of $1,000,000. Proposed project letting date is FY 2017 (January 2017).**
3. ***Addition*** **of a project CSJ 0922-33-175 intended to provide funds for PS&E (including right-of-way mapping) for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project from FM 1472 to IH35 with an estimated project cost of $1,634,277. Proposed letting date is February 2017 (FY 17).**
4. ***Revision*** **of project CSJ 0922-33-165 intended to provide for construction, engineering, and contingencies for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road Project, from FM 1472 to Beltway Parkway.** ***Purpose*** **of amendment is to revise funding amounts from $22,936,054 in local funds to $21,437,521 in Category 7 funds and $5,359,380 in local funds. Proposed letting date is FY 2019 (September 2018).**
5. ***Revision*** **of project CSJ 0922-33-076 intended to realign Flecha Lane and Las Cruces along FM 1472.** ***Purpose*** **of amendment is to revise the existing funding amounts. Funding amounts will be adjusted from $1,372,973 Category 10 funds and $707,412 local funds to $1,440,411 in Category 10 funds, and $606,788 local funds.**
6. ***Revision*** **of project CSJ 0922-33-093 intended to construct a grade separation at the Calton Road/Santa Maria intersection.** ***Purpose*** **of amendment is to revise the existing funding amounts. Funding amounts will be adjusted from $10,139,817 Category 10 funds and $11,938,307 local funds to $12,926,124 Category 10 funds, and 10,088,018 local funds.**

Cm. Galo made a motion to **open** a public hearing.

Second: Cm. Balli
In Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Galo made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2016-10 adopting the proposed revision(s) of the 2017-2020 TIP, subject to "reflecting the difference between the pre-bid engineer's estimate and the actual bid" as stated by TxDOT's District Engineer in the previous motion.

Second: Judge Tijerina
In Favor: 8

Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

F. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

No action was taken on this item.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Balli made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Second: Judge Tijerina
In Favor: 8
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Prepared by: _____ Reviewed by: _____
Angie Quijano
MPO Staff

Vanessa Guerra,
MPO Coordinator

Reviewed by: _____

Nathan R. Bratton,
MPO Director

_____

Melisa Montemayor,
District Administrator

_____

Pete Saenz,
Mayor and LUTS Chairperson