Laredo Urban Transportation Study

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee

Notice of Public Meeting

City of Laredo City Hall
City Council Chambers
1110 Houston Street
Laredo, Texas
September 17, 2018
1:30 p.m.

MEETING AGENDA

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on August 20, 2018.

B. Discussion with possible action on the River Road Project.

C. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.

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

A. Presentation and discussion on the benefits of transferring the US 59 overpass funds to the frontage roads. TxDOT is proposing to transfer $ 96.93 Million from the construction of US 59 Interchanges at Del Mar Blvd, Shiloh Dr., International Airport, Jacaman Rd, and University Blvd (CSJs: 0086-14-075,076,077,078,and 079)

to the construction of US 59 Frontage Roads between US 59 and International Blvd (CSJs: 0086-14-086,087,088,and 089).

A. Status report by TxDOT on the Outer Loop Alignment Study.

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

THIS NOTICE WAS POSTED AT THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES, 1110 HOUSTON STREET, LAREDO, TEXAS, AT A PLACE CONVENIENT AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES. SAID NOTICE WAS POSTED BY SEPTEMBER 14, 2018, BY 1:30 P.M.

All meetings of the MPO Committee are open to the public. Persons who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aid or services, such as: interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers of large print or Braille, or a translator for the Spanish language are requested to contact Ms. Vanessa Guerra, City Planning, 1120 San Bernardo Ave. at (956) 794-1613, vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us, at least five working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Materials in Spanish may also be provided upon request.

Disability Access Statement - This meeting is wheelchair accessible. The accessible entrances are located at 1110 Victoria and 900 Flores. Accessible parking spaces are located at City Hall, 1110 Victoria.

Ayuda o Servicios Auxiliares: Todas las reuniones del Comité del MPO están abiertas al público. Personas que planean asistir a esta reunión y que pueden necesitar ayuda o servicios, auxiliares como: intérpretes para personas con discapacidad auditiva, lectores de letra grande o en Braille, o un traductor para el idioma español deben comunicarse con la Sra. Vanessa Guerra, en el Departamento de Planificación de la Ciudad, 1120 San Bernardo Ave. al (956) 794-1613, vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us, al menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión para que los arreglos apropiados se pueden hacer. Materiales in español se proveerán a petición.

Declaración de Acceso a la Discapacidad: Esta reunión es accesible para sillas de ruedas. Las entradas accesibles están ubicadas en 1110 Victoria y 900 Flores. Las plazas de aparcamiento accesibles se encuentran en el Ayuntamiento, 1110 Victoria.

Información en Español: Si usted desea esta información en español o si desea explicación sobre el contenido, por favor llámenos al teléfono (956) 794-1623 o comuníquese con nosotros mediante correo electrónico a vguerra@ci.laredo.tx.us.

CITY OF LAREDO REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII

LAREDO MASS TRANSIT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII

COUNTY OF WEBB REPRESENTATIVES:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3

STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. David M. Salazar, Jr., P.E., District Engineer
Ms. Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator

***** EX-OFFICIO *****

Honorable Judith Zaffirini, State Senator, District 21
Honorable Richard Raymond, State Representative, District 42
Honorable Tracy O. King, State Representative, District 80

MPO Director (Vacant)
Vanessa Guerra
MPO Coordinator (For)

Jose A. Valdez, Jr.
City Secretary

Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2018 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII (joined the meeting at 1:36 p.m.)
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
David Salazar, TxDOT District Engineer

Regular members not present:

Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT District Administrator
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII

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
	Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro
	Joe Jackson, Transit, El Metro
	Gabriel Martinez, City Engineering
	Robert Peña, City of Laredo Traffic Safety
	Yvette Limon, City of Laredo Bridge
State:	Sara Garza, TxDOT
	Mike Graham, TxDOT
	Ana Duncan, TxDOT
	Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT
	Danny Magee, TxDOT

County:	Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering
Others:	Julia Wallace, Laredo Morning Times Antonio Rodriguez, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff (HNTB, Inc.) Victoria Dominguez, City of Laredo Real Estate Ricardo Ramos, Arcadis Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Santiago Araque, Kimley-Horn and Associates

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pete Saenz called the meeting order at 1:32 p.m.

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

Vanessa Guerra, MPO Coordinator, called roll and verified a quorum existed.

CM. Galo made a motion to **excuse** members not present.

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

Motion carried unanimously

III. CITIZEN COMMENT

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IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on July 16, 2018.

CM. San Miguel made a motion to **approve** the minutes of July 16, 2018.

Second: CM. Galo

For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Balli joined the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

B. Discussion with possible action to award or reject the El Metro ADA Bus Stops and Bicycles Plazas Enhancement Project for funding through the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA). The project provides for the construction and/or improvement of 17 bus stops located throughout the fixed route network. The requested amount is $200,000, which will require a $50,000 local match. The estimated total project cost is $250,000.

Joe Jackson, Transit, El Metro, gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM. San Miguel made a motion to **award** El Metro the TA funding for the El Metro ADA Bus Stops and Bicycles Plazas Enhancement Project.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. A motion to authorize the execution of the proposed Planning Agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, which has been designated the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MPO) for the Laredo urbanized area, and the City of Laredo, which serves as the MPO's fiscal agent. The Planning Agreement identifies the roles and responsibilities of the parties carrying out the transportation planning process.

CM. Galo made a motion to **authorize** the execution of the proposed Planning Agreement between the Texas Department of Transportation, the Laredo Urban Transportation Study, which has been designated the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MPO) for the Laredo urbanized area, and the City of Laredo, which serves as the MPO's fiscal agent.

Second: CM. San Miguel
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

D. Discussion with possible action on the transfer of $ 96.93 Million from the construction of US 59 Interchanges at Del Mar Blvd, Shiloh Dr., International Airport, Jacaman Rd, and University Blvd (CSJs: 0086-14-075,076,077,078,and 079) to the construction of US 59 Frontage Roads between US 59 and International Blvd (CSJs: 0086-14-086,087,088,and 089). This change will allow better access to business and residences located along the US 59 corridor. In addition, it will allow for easier future construction of the interchanges by avoiding duplicated traffic closures/detours.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT was proposing to reallocate the funds from the programmed interchanges to the construction of the frontage roads. The change in construction phasing was intended to reduce the need to disrupt traffic first while building the overpasses, then again during the construction of the frontage roads.

CM. Galo expressed his concerns with moving the funds, and repeated how important it was to construct the overpasses.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT stated the frontage roads would be constructed by 2021 and additional funding would be needed for the overpasses.

David Salazar, District Engineer, stated TxDOT, had assumed the design of the project and believed the reallocation of the funds was for the best.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mayor Saenz stated that the Committee was not comfortable with the proposed funding reallocation at this time, but would be open to reconsidering the matter after the development of the schematic.

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated he agreed with the benefits to the community and the project resulting from the proposed funding shift.

No action was taken on the item.

CM. Galo made a motion to **bring up** item IV-G.

Second:	CM. San Miguel
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

G. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.

Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering, stated the County had received concurrence from TxDOT regarding the prepared contract. He stated the County was preparing the notice to proceed and would have an updated report and timeline at the next meeting.

CM. Galo made a motion to **bring up** item V-E.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

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

Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. stated the RMA was very thankful for the funding that was approved for the projects on Vallecillo Road, Killam Industrial Boulevard proposed turning lanes, and the new arterial on Los Presidentes from Cuatro Vientos to Concord Hills.

He stated the RMA would be giving a presentation and discussion on the Transportation Reinvestment Study for US 59/US 83 to City Council.

He stated the Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) for the North Laredo/Webb County Transportation Planning Study was currently being reviewed by Federal Highway Administration and the RMA was waiting on the execution of the AFA in order to move forward.

The committee returned to the regular agenda order.

IV. E. Presentation, discussion and possible action on the Kansas City Southern Railroad Quiet Zone Study.

Santiago Araque, Kimley-Horn and Associates, gave a brief presentation on the item.

CM. Galo made a motion to **accept** the report and **move forward** to City Council.

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

Motion carried unanimously

E. Discussion with possible action on the River Road Project.

Mayor Saenz stated he had contacted Mr. Robert Muller and anticipated a meeting with Mr. Muller, himself, and the City Manager in early September. Mayor Saenz would have an update at the next MPO meeting.

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

A. Status report by TxDOT on the Laredo Mobility Study.

Mr. Bratton stated he contacted Mr. Wilson from TxDOT's Rail Division and stated TxDOT was in the final phase of rewriting sections of the report. The final report would be finished by the end of August.

B. Status report by TxDOT on the Outer Loop Alignment Study.

Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT, stated TxDOT had received a draft scope of work for the project from the consultant. He stated TxDOT was in the process of rewording the scope, adding additional tasks, and confirming that the previous study's information was incorporated in the scope. He stated TxDOT should have a finalized scope by the next MPO meeting.

C. Status report by City Engineering on the Calton Grade Separation Project.

Gabriel Martinez, City Engineering Department, stated a number of railroad related matters remained to be resolved; nonetheless the project was still on schedule for the August 2019 letting date. He stated construction was anticipated to be complete in approximately 2 ½ years after letting date.

Ricardo Ramos, Arcadis, stated the project included three phases, with the first phase to be the construction of Santa Maria westbound lanes.

D. Presentation by Transit, El Metro on revenue sources available for financing currently unfunded transit needs, especially buses.

Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro, gave a brief presentation on the item. He stated Transit system was self-sufficient, but struggled to replace obsolete fleet vehicles, which each cost approximately $500,000 to replace. He stated by 2021, the system would need to replace approximately 8 buses.

Mr. Bernal stated said the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (TA) funds that were authorized would be utilized for improvements of 17 bus stops.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

CM. Galo made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Second:	CM. San Miguel
For:	6
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

MPO Director (Vacant)
Vanessa Guerra
MPO Coordinator (For)

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson

B. Discussion with possible action on the River Road Project.

A. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger Road.

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

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