Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2015 MEETING

LAREDO, TEXAS
1755

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 did exist.

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Roque Vela, Jr., City Councilmember, District V (joined the meeting at 12:05 p.m.)
Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI (joined the meeting at 12:22 p.m.
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable Jaime Canales, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 4
Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT

Regular members not present:

Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
Pete Alvarez, TxDOT

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
Roberto Murillo, Traffic Safety Department
Robert Peña, Traffic Safety Department

State: Ana Duncan, TxDOT
Albert Ramirez, TxDOT
Sara Garza, TxDOT

Others: Anthony Garza, Dannenbaum Engineering
Edgar Kraus, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI)
Jing Li, TTI
John Villarreal, International Bank of Commerce (IBC)
Richard Ridings, Howard, Needles, Tammen, & Bergendoff (HNTB, Inc.)
Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc.
Ruben Soto, Regional Mobility Authority (RMA)
Mike Graham, TxDOT

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

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

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on October 19, 2015.

Cm. Galo made a motion to **approve** the minutes of October 19, 2015.

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	5
Against:	0
Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously

B. Discussion with possible action regarding the roadway improvements to the Guadalupe Street Kansas City Southern (KCS) overpass.

Nathan Bratton, MPO Director, stated a town hall meeting had been held the week prior to discuss the possible roadway improvements to the Guadalupe Street KCS overpass.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated representatives from City of Laredo, Traffic Safety, and Engineering Departments were in attendance. She also stated the citizens in attendance expressed their concerns regarding the number of vehicle collisions occurring on or near the overpass. Ms. Montemayor remarked that both the City and TxDOT would work together to develop improvements which would reduce the likelihood of continued vehicle collisions.

Mayor Pete Saenz requested the item be brought back at the next Policy Board meeting. He also requested that a representative from the Kansas City Southern Railroad attend the meeting.

Cm. Vela joined the meeting at this point during the proceedings. (12:09 p.m.)

C. Discussion with possible action to add amendments to the Highway MTP/TIP to program Loop 20/U.S. 59 from International Blvd. to U.S. 59 Business for Engineering, Right-of-Way acquisition, and Construction.

Ms. Montemayor stated TxDOT's special projects office has committed to have reports finished by the end of November and would possibly be able to present at the December Policy Board meeting.

Ruben Soto, Chairman, RMA, stated that the RMA was handling the priority project listed on the RMA's petition which is the Loop 20/I-69 project.

Cm. Vela made a motion to **table**, time certain till the December Policy Board meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously

D. Discussion with possible action on Hachar Road.

Judge Tijerina stated the County authorized the Request for Proposals for the Reuthanger section of Hachar Road.

Mr. Bratton stated Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds will be used for the Reuthanger section of Hachar Road.

E. Discussion with possible action on Mines Road.

1. Presentation by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) on the FM 1472 medium-range improvement strategies with Hachar and Vallecillo Roads and any possible action related thereto.

Edgar Kraus, TTI, gave a brief presentation on the FM 1472 Medium-Range improvement strategies.

Mr. Kraus stated the study area was extended to FM 3338/Las Tiendas.

Supplemental Analysis to Medium-Range Strategies included:

- Locally funded off-system highway strategies
  -Adding Hachar Loop
  -Adding Vallecillo Road
- Possible impacts

-Serve as alternative routes
-Stimulate local developments (new traffic generation).

Recommended Medium-range Strategies include the following proposed improvements:

- Add third Northbound lane between Killam and Muller
- Add third Southbound lane between Muller and Interamerica
- Improve Killam intersection
- Dual Eastbound to Southbound right-turn lanes at Interamerica
- Re-timing signals as needed
- Extend Northbound to Westbound left-turn bay at Trade Center
  -975 ft. (storage, decal, and taper)
- Extend Northbound to Westbound left-turn bay at Panamerica
  -1133 ft. (storage, decal, and taper)

Summary

- Hachar and Vallecillo will initially provide additional mobility, although will generate new traffic over time
  -Future traffic pattern in the study area will depend on new land developments
  -Need additional evaluation of the intersection connections with FM 1472, e.g., exclusive right-turn lanes, etc.
- Medium term strategies will reduce average vehicle delay significantly.
- Medium term strategies will reduce travel time between Killam and Conway significantly.

Alberto Ramirez, TxDOT stated during the development of a schematic, traffic counts are taken with the percentage of trucks and percentage of vehicles to develop a level of service to simulate existing lane capacity and future needs. A consultant would need to be sought to develop a schematic with the traffic projections that TTI has developed.

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

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

Ruben Soto, RMA Chairman, gave a brief status report on the RMA. He stated the RMA is finalizing an agreement with their financial advisors. He also stated there was an update given on the proposed work authorization by HNTB relating to Loop 20 and the I-69 project. It was decided not to duplicate efforts and costs for said authorization and wait on TxDOT to come up with a financial study. He also stated discussion was made on authorizing an overweight corridor.

Mr. Soto stated they also had a presentation by Pete Sepulveda, Chairman, Cameron County RMA, on the various projects in Cameron County.

Mr. Richard Ridings, HNTB, stated a brief presentation on funding alternatives for Vallecillo Road was given at the RMA's meeting earlier that morning.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Cm. Vela made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Second:	Cm. Canales
For:	6
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