Laredo Urban Transportation Study

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

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2018 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Melisa Montemayor, District Administrator

Regular members not present:

Honorable Charlie San Miguel, City Councilmember, District VI
Honorable Roberto Balli, City Councilmember, District VIII
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1

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
	Eduardo Bernal, Transit, El Metro
	Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
	Rogelio Rivera, City Engineering
	Robert Eads, City of Laredo Traffic Safety
	Mario Maldonado, City of Laredo Airport
State:	Sara Garza, TxDOT
	Mike Graham, TxDOT
	Ana Duncan, TxDOT
	Roberto Rodriguez, TxDOT

County:	Luis Perez Garcia, Webb County Engineering Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering
Others:	Antonio Rodriguez, HNTB, Inc. Kurt Kraus Linda Teniente, City of Laredo Real Estate Jose Nava, City of Laredo Real Estate Julia Wallace, Laredo Morning Times Jay Crossley, Farm & City Ashkan Jahaugiri, Farm & City Carlos Garcia, UISD Ricardo Ramos, AZ&B Engineering Richard Sertz, Dannenbaum Engineering Stephen Ratke, FHWA

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Kurt Kraus, Pinnacle Industries, managing partner and organizer, of a coalition for the development of Hachar Road, spoke in favor of the Hachar Project.

He stated developers and landowners were very interested and wanted to assist in any possible way.

CM. Altgelt made a motion to bring up item IV-E.

Second:	Judge Tijerina
For:	5

Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

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

1. Report on the funding and schedule for the Hachar-Reuthinger Road project.

Melisa Montemayor, TxDOT, stated TxDOT anticipated the contract for the Reuthinger leg to be reviewed within one week. She stated TxDOT had comments compiled and would share them with the County for their review. She also stated the procurement process was approved by TxDOT approximately two weeks ago. The approved procurement process was not followed precisely; however TxDOT's attorneys had allowed the deviation in this instance from said procurement process. She stated the County had received official approval to procure a consultant for Hachar from Beltway to IH 35.

Nicholas Fansterburn, Hachar Trust, stated all engineering was complete in 2015-2016. He stated they were waiting for the development of the remaining leg of the project.

Mr. Bratton stated the project is 90 percent complete and the 10 percent to be completed entails getting the final documents submitted to TxDOT.

He also stated the contract with Dannenbaum Engineering expired and the City decided not to proceed at that time.

Judd Gilpin, Gilping Engineering, representing the Reuthingers, stated the combined project would obtain TxDOT approval by September 10, 2018 and the combined schematic would be approved by TxDOT by April 5, 2019.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on May 21, 2018.

No action or discussion was had on the item.

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2018-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

1. Amending Chapters 1-13, as indicated in attached Exhibits A and B, to achieve compliance with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

2. **Amending Table 12-10, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Summary; and,**
   Figure 12-1, entitled Roadway and Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects; and,
   Table 12-11, entitled Roadway Projects; and,
   Figure 13-1, entitled Natural Resources and Federally Funded Projects; and,
   Figure 13-2, entitled Cultural Resources and Federally Funded Projects; and,
   Figure 13-3, entitled Low Income Areas, and Federally Funded Projects; and,
   Table 13-1, entitled Federally Funded Projects Environmental Assessment Results; and,
   Table 13-3, entitled Federally Funded Projects and Environmental Justice Populations; and,
   Figure 13-4 entitled Colonias and Federally Funded Projects, as necessary to incorporate the following revisions:

   a. ***Adding* project CSJ 0922-33-178 for the construction of the Inspection Booths on the World Trade Bridge, with an estimated construction cost of $12,067,384. Estimated letting date is FY 2021.**

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

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

Motion carried unanimously

Judge Tijerina made a motion **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2018-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2015-2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and initiate a 20 day public review and comment period for the draft 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

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

Second: Judge Tijerina

For: 5
Against: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Cm. Algelt made a motion to **initiate** a 20 day public review and comment period for the draft 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

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

Motion carried unanimously

CM. Algelt made a motion to **move up** items V-A & B.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

B. Presentation by Jay B. Crossley of Farm & City on Vision Zero efforst in cities and MPO's across Texas and elsewhere.

Jay B. Crossley, Farm & City, gave a brief presentation on Vision Zero. He discussed the steps Farm and City follows for implementation of Vision Zero principles which included:

Step 1-Farm and City seeks to work with a diverse set of jurisdictions, including TxDOT districts as well as diverse stakeholders including those representing people with disabilities, pedestrians, business districts, low income communities, and transit providers, to explore benefits and barriers to implementation of slower target speed concepts, drawing from the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidance for designing urban streets with appropriate speeds.

Step 2-Farm and City also provides guidance to cities, counties, and Districts regarding the ability to set speed limits based on the target speed concept.

Step 3-Consider potential changes to Sec. 545.356 of the Transportation code "AUTHORITY OF MUNICIPALITY TO ALTER SPEED LIMITS" to allow cities to use safe target speed and remove unintended barriers to implementation of safe neighborhood streets.

Step 4-Implement pilot programs to develop pilot arterial and collector "slow zones" and other safe design speed pilots across the state in various jurisdictions and various overlapping bureaucracies.

Step 5-Evalutate effectiveness and how to spread effective treatments of pilot "slow zones" and other safe design speed treatments.

Step 6-Write guidance on road design to achieve target speed based upon lessons learned, best practices, and proven circumstances.

Step 7-Build and retrofit streets with target speeds that consider pedestrians, land use, and the roadway context.

Cm. Galo and Mayor Saenz left the meeting at approximately 2:50 p.m.

He also stated the ideal implementation in our city or county would be as followed:

- Vision Zero task force
- Vision Zero goal and commitment
- Add to comprehensive plan
- Traffic fatality review board
- Vision Zero action plan
- Pedestrian and/or bicycle advisory committee
- Funding for countermeasures
- Data analysis and evidence based prioritization of countermeasures, interventions

A. Presentation by Stephen Ratke of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on Vision Zero.

Stephen Ratke, FHWA, gave a brief presentation on Vision Zero.

He stated the Principles of Vision Zero which are as follows:

- Traffic deaths and severe injuries are preventable.
- The protection of human life is the highest priority of the transportation system.
- Human error is inevitable, and the transportation system should be forgiving.
- Safe systems are more important than influencing behavior in reducing crashes.
- A comprehensive approach involving public health, law enforcement, education, infrastructure improvements, technology advancements, and more is necessary in order to address said deaths.

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

Due to time constraints, neither discussion nor action was had on the following items.

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

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

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

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

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

D. Status report on TxDOT/MPO meeting to discuss possible strategies for corridor preservation.

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11p.m.

Nathan R. Bratton
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson