Laredo-Webb County Area (LWCA)

Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee
Virtual Meeting

LIVE WEB LINK: http://laredotx.swagit.com/live
PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL: Spectrum TV channel 1300

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL APRIL 20, 2020 MEETING

Regular members present:

Honorable Pete Saenz, Mayor and LWCA Chairperson
Honorable Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County Judge
Honorable Jesse Gonzalez, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 1
Honorable Dr. Marte Martinez, City Councilmember, District VI
David M. Salazar, Jr., TxDOT District Engineer

Regular members not present:

Honorable Norma "Nelly" Vielma, City Councilmember, District V
Honorable John Galo, Webb County Commissioner, Pct. 3
Honorable George Altgelt, City Councilmember, District VII
(Member At Large- Currently Vacant)

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 LWCA Agencies) Present:

City:	J. Kirby Snideman, City Planning/MPO Staff
	Vanessa Guerra, City Planning/MPO Staff
	Jason Hinojosa, City Planning MPO Staff
	Angie Quijano, City Planning, MPO Staff
	Ramon Chavez, City Engineer
	Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro
	John Porter, Environmental Services
State:	Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, TxDOT

Others: Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering

I. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

II. CHAIRPERSON TO CALL ROLL

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

III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

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 on 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.

There were no citizen's comments.

IV. ITEMS REQUIRING POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION:

A. Approval of the minutes for the meeting held on February 18, 2020 and the virtual special meeting held on April 6, 2020.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **approve** the minutes for the meetings held on February 18, 2020, and virtual meeting of April 6, 2020.

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

Motion carried unanimously

B. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2020-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

1. ***Addition*** of project CSJ 2150-04-078 intended to provide for the construction of a right turn lane at the intersection of Killam Industrial Blvd. and FM 1472, from

Killam Industrial Blvd. to 0.187 miles N. of Killam Industrial Blvd intersection, with an estimated total project cost of $1,410,667. The proposed letting date is FY 2020.

2. ***Revision*** of project CSJ 0018-06-136 intended to widen main lanes and construct railroad grade separation on IH 35, from Shiloh Dr. to 0.38 miles south of IH 35 interchange (INT), proposed to let in 2020. ***Purpose*** of the amendment is to convert funding from Federal funds to State funds, and adjust funding to $54,000,000.

3. ***Revision*** of project CSJ 0018-06-198 intended to provide for widening of IH 35 from 4 to 6 lanes, from 0.38 miles south of US59/IH 35 INT to 0.80 miles north of US59/IH 35 INT, proposed to let in 2020. ***Purpose*** of amendment is to convert funding from Federal to State funds, and adjust funding to $5,000,000.

4. ***Revision*** of project CSJ 0018-06-183 intended to provide for the construction of a Direct Connector Interchange (DC #5), from 0.50 miles south of US59-SL20 to 0.50 miles east of IH35/US59-SL20, proposed to let in 2020. ***Purpose*** of amendment is to convert funding from Federal to State funds, and adjust funding to $30,000,000.

5. ***Revision*** of project CSJ 0018-06-184 intended to provide for construction of a Direct Connector Interchange (DC #8), from 0.50 miles west of IH 35 to 0.50 miles south of US59, proposed to let in 2020. ***Purpose*** of the amendment is to convert funding from $22,000,000 in Federal to $22,000,000 in State funds. The total amount of funds allocated will remain unchanged at $22,000,000.

6. ***Revision*** of project CSJ 0086-14-084 intended to provide for widening of IH 69W from 4 to 6 lanes, from World Trade Bridge to IH 35, proposed to let in 2020. ***Purpose*** of amendment is to convert funding from Federal to State funds, and adjust funding to $15,000,000.

7. ***Revision*** of project CSJ 2150-04-076 intended to provide for the construction of additional travel lane on FM 1472, from Big Bend Blvd to Killam Industrial Blvd., proposed to let in 2020. ***Purpose*** of the amendment is to convert funding from Federal to State funds, and adjust funding to $3,340,000.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **open** the public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Ms. Guerra reviewed each project and the proposed modifications.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2020-04, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Ms. Guerra reviewed the projects.

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

Motion carried unanimously

C. Receive public testimony and approve Resolution No. MPO 2020-05, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2020-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):

1. Amending Table 10-2, entitled List of TxDOT UTP 2020-2030 Programmed Projects, & Figure 10-1, entitled Map of TxDOT UTP Programmed Projects, as necessary to incorporate the following revisions:

   a) ***Addition*** of project CSJ 2150-04-078 intended to provide for the construction of a right turn lane at the intersection of Killam Industrial Blvd. and FM 1472, from Killam Industrial Blvd. to 0.187 miles N. of Killam Industrial Blvd intersection, with an estimated total project cost of $1,255,375. The proposed letting date is FY 2020.

2. ***Addition*** of a chapter on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The new chapter is intended to identify: the 8 step CMP process, the related project prioritization efforts, and the specific CMP projects resulting from the process.

Dr. Martinez asked if any comments were received.

No comments were received.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **open** the public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** Resolution No. MPO 2020-05, adopting the proposed amendment(s) of the 2020-2025 MTP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

D. A motion to consider the award or rejection of funding for three (3) projects submitted for funding through the Laredo MPO's Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Program. $1,176,000 in federal funds are available for allocation, which require a 20% match of the $294,000, totaling $1,470,000 in total project costs. The proposed projects and funding requests are as follows:

a. Plum Street Shared Use Path/Mier Street Shared Use Path - $816,000
b. East Chacon Creek Hike and Bike Connector - $160,000
c. El Metro ADA Bus Stops and Bicycle Plazas Enhancement Project - Phase II $100,000.

Kirby Snideman stated the source for the 20% match has not been determined.

Claudia San Miguel, Transit, El Metro, stated the 20% match for the transit project would be coming from district priority funds approved by District 8, Councilmember Roberto Balli.

John Porter, Environmental Services Director, stated the 20% match for the East Chacon Hike and Bike connector project would be coming from stormwater funds.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated the 20% match for the Plum/Mier Street shared use path project would be coming from district priority funds.

Kirby Snideman stated City Council had already adopted a resolution approving the 20% match.

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **approve** the funding of the three projects submitted as requested.

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

Motion carried unanimously

E. Receive public testimony and approve a motion initiating a twenty-day (20) public review and comment period for the proposed draft of the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **open** the public hearing.

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

Motion carried unanimously

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **close** the public hearing and **approve** a motion initiating a 20-day public review and comment period for the proposed 2021-2024 TIP.

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

Motion carried unanimously

F. Discussion with possible action on Hachar-Reuthinger.

Guillermo Cuellar, Webb County Engineering, gave a brief update on Hachar-Reutinger.

He stated the consultant was finalizing the 100 % percent schematic with comments provided by TxDOT. He also stated the consultant would be sending the Environmental Assessment for TxDOT review. Once the comments for the Environmental Assessment were provided by TxDOT, the document would be revised and finalized for further processing.

Mayor Saenz inquired whether the issues with the Right-of-Way (R.O.W.) on the Hachar portion of the corridor had been resolved.

Ramon Chavez, City Engineer, stated he would check with Mr. Van Steenberg and city management on any additional information regarding the R.O.W. He also stated City Staff would be having a meeting with TxDOT, Thursday (April 23rd) regarding the project. He stated he would be able to provide more details after said meeting.

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

A. Status report on the ongoing Active Transportation Plan. (Cm. Altgelt)

B. Update by Transit on its working relationship with El Aguila, the Laredo College South Campus Transit hub, and any matters incidental thereto. (Cm. Altgelt)

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **table** the item # V-A & B to the next meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously

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

Mr. Snideman advised the members that the RMA submitted a status report via-email and a copy would be emailed to the committee immediately after the meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Martinez made a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously

J. Kirby Snideman,
MPO Director

Pete Saenz, Mayor and LUTS
Chairperson