

## **AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

*The bylaws of the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (the “Authority”), initially adopted by the Authority on October 12, 2006, and amended by that First Amendment to the Bylaws on May 20, 2008, and Amended and Restated on March 26, 2015 is hereby amended and restated as provided below by the Board of Directors of the Authority on August 25, 2020.*

### **§ 1. The Authority**

These bylaws are made and adopted for the regulation of the affairs and the performance of the functions of the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (the “Authority”), a regional mobility authority authorized and existing pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Texas Transportation Code, as the same may be amended from time to time (the “RMA Act”), as well as rules adopted by the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”), as may be amended from time to time, concerning the operation of regional mobility authorities, located at Title 43 Texas Administrative Code, Rule 26.01, *et seq.* (the “RMA Rules”).

- a. The Authority was created pursuant to Texas Transportation Commission (the “Commission”) Minute Order Number 110315 adopted by the Commission on November 17, 2005.
- b. The Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Texas.

### **§ 2. Principal Office**

The domicile and principal office of the Authority shall be in Hidalgo County.

### **§ 3. General Powers**

The activities, property, and affairs of the Authority will be managed by its Board of Directors (the “Board”), which may exercise all powers and do all lawful acts permitted by the Constitution and statutes of the State of Texas (the “State”), the RMA Act, the RMA Rules, and these bylaws.

### **§ 4. Initial Board**

- a. The initial Board of the Authority shall be composed of seven (7) Directors, appointed as follows:
  - (1) The Governor shall appoint one (1) Director, who shall serve as the presiding officer of the Board. The Governor’s Appointee must be a resident of Hidalgo County.
  - (2) The Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County shall appoint five (5) Directors, two (2) with terms of two (2) years and three (3) with terms of (1) year. Each Director must be a resident of Hidalgo County.

- (3) The City of McAllen shall recommend one (1) Director with a term of two (2) years to the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County for appointment to the Authority. Such Director may be a resident of the City of McAllen and must be a resident of Hidalgo County.
- b. The terms of the initial Directors of the Authority shall begin on the date of their appointment by the office or entity which appointed them through February 1 of the year in which the term of each initial Director expires.
- c. Directors may be reappointed at the discretion of the entity which appointed them.
- d. Each initial Director shall serve until his or her successor has been duly appointed and qualified or until his or her death, resignation, or removal from office in accordance with these bylaws.

### **§ 5. Subsequent Directors**

- a. When the term of an initial Director of the Authority expires, and thereafter, when the term of each Director subsequently appointed Director expires, the entity that appointed or recommended the Director whose term is expiring shall appoint or recommend a successor to that Director.
- b. Subject to Section 7 of these bylaws, each successor to an initial Director, and each Director thereafter appointed, shall be appointed for a two (2)-year term commencing on February 2 of the year of appointment and expiring on February 1 two (2) years later. Each Director shall serve until his or her successor has been duly appointed and qualified or until his or her death, resignation, or removal from office in accordance with these bylaws or provisions of state law.
- c. Upon the admission of a new entity into the Authority, the number of Directors may be increased in accordance with any then-applicable laws and regulations.
- d. In the event that the addition or withdrawal of a county from the Authority results in an even number of Directors on the Board, the governor shall appoint an additional Director.
- e. Directors qualified to serve under applicable law and these bylaws may be reappointed following the expiration of their terms. Except as otherwise provided by applicable law, there is no limitation on the number of terms a Director may serve.

### **§ 6. Qualifications of Directors**

- a. All Directors will have and maintain the qualifications set forth in this Section 6 and in the RMA Act or RMA Rules.
- b. All appointments to the Board shall be made without regard to disability, sex, religion, age, or national origin.

- c. Each Director appointed by the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County or recommended by a municipality located within Hidalgo County must be a resident of the County at the time of their appointment. All gubernatorial appointees must also be residents of Hidalgo County at the time of his or her respective appointments.
- d. An elected official is not eligible to serve as a Director.
- e. An employee of a city, county, or other governmental entity located wholly or partly within the boundaries of the Authority is not eligible to serve as a Director. An employee of TxDOT is not eligible to serve as a Director.
- f. A person who is an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of road construction or maintenance, public transportation or aviation, or whose spouse is an officer, manager, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the aforementioned fields, is not eligible to serve as a Director or as the Authority's Executive Director.
- g. A person who owns an interest in real property that will be acquired for an Authority project is not eligible to serve as a Director, if it is known at the time of the person's proposed appointment that the property will be so acquired.
- h. A person is not eligible to serve as a Director or as the Authority's Executive Director if the person or the person's spouse:
  - (1) is employed by or participates in the management of a business entity or other organization, other than a governmental entity, that is regulated by or receives money from TxDOT, the Authority, or Hidalgo County, unless the Commission approves an exception;
  - (2) owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more than a ten percent (10%) interest in a business entity or other organization that is regulated by or receives money from TxDOT, the Authority, or Hidalgo County, other than compensation for acquisition of highway right-of-way;
  - (3) uses or receives a substantial amount of tangible goods, services, or money from TxDOT, the Authority, or Hidalgo County;
  - (4) is an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a Texas trade association in the field of road construction or maintenance, public transportation, or aviation; or
  - (5) is required to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government Code, because of the person's activities for compensation on behalf of a profession related to the operation of TxDOT, the Authority, or Hidalgo County.
- i. A person is not ineligible to serve as a Director or Executive Director of the

Authority if the person has received funds from TxDOT for acquisition of highway right-of-way, unless the acquisition was for a project of the Authority.

- j. All Directors shall annually certify that he or she is qualified to serve as a Director of the Authority, pursuant to and in accordance with these bylaws, the RMA Act, and the RMA Rules, as may be amended. Such certification shall be made in a form as provided by the Authority; provided, however, that the submission of those similar certifications required by the State of Texas shall satisfy this requirement.

## **§ 7. Vacancies**

A vacancy on the Board shall be filled promptly by the entity that made the appointment that falls vacant. Each Director appointed to a vacant position shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the Director's predecessor in that position. Reappointment to a full term is permitted thereafter.

## **§ 8. Resignation and Removal**

- a. Resignation. A Director may resign at any time upon giving written notice to the Authority and the entity that appointed that Director.
- b. Removal. A Director may be removed from the Board if the Director does not possess at the time the Director is appointed, or does not maintain, the qualifications required by the RMA Act, the RMA Rules, or these bylaws; or, if the Director violates any of the foregoing. In addition, a Director who cannot discharge the Director's duties for a substantial portion of the term for which he or she is appointed because of illness or disability, or a Director who is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled Board meetings during a given calendar year, may be removed. If the Executive Director of the Authority knows that a potential ground for removal of a Director exists, the Executive Director shall notify the Chairman of the potential ground for removal. The Chairman then shall notify the entity that appointed such Director of potential ground for removal. Additionally, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or the City Council may respectively remove a Director appointed by that entity for cause. A Director shall be considered removed from the Board only after the Authority receives notice of removal from the entity that appointed such Director.

## **§ 9. Compensation of Directors**

Directors shall serve without compensation, but will be reimbursed for their actual expenses of attending each meeting of the Board and for such other expenses as may be reasonably incurred in their carrying out the duties and functions as set forth herein.

## **§ 10. Conflicts of Interest; Ethics and Compliance**

- a. A Director or employee of the Authority shall not:

- (1) accept or solicit any gift, favor, or service that might reasonably tend to influence that Director or employee in the discharge of official duties on behalf of the Authority or that the Director or employee knows or should know is being offered with the intent to influence the Director or employee's official conduct;
  - (2) accept other employment or engage in a business or professional activity that the Director or employee might reasonably expect would require or induce the Director or employee to disclose confidential information acquired by reason of the official position;
  - (3) accept other employment or compensation that could reasonably be expected to impair the Director's or employee's independence of judgment in the performance of the Director's or employee's official duties;
  - (4) make personal investments, including investments of a spouse, that could reasonably be expected to create a substantial conflict between the Director's or employee's private interest and the interest of the Authority or that could impair the ability of the Director or employee to make independent decisions;
  - (5) intentionally or knowingly solicit, accept, or agree to accept any benefit for having exercised the Director's or employee's official powers or performed the Director's or employee's official duties in favor of another;
  - (6) have a personal interest in an agreement executed by the Authority; or
  - (7) contract with the Authority or be directly or indirectly interested in a contract with the Authority or the sale of property to the Authority.
- b. Directors shall familiarize themselves and comply with all applicable laws regarding conflicts of interest, including Chapters 171 or 176 of the Texas Local Government Code and any conflict of interest policy adopted by the Board.
- c. The Authority shall adopt a written internal compliance and ethics program within the first anniversary of its creation. The ethics and compliance program shall satisfy the requirements of Rule 10.51 of Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, and shall:
- (1) be designed to detect and prevent violations of the law, including regulations, and ethical standards applicable to the entity or its officers or employees; and
  - (2) provide that:
    - (A) High-level personnel are responsible for oversight of compliance

with the program's standards and procedures;

- (B) Appropriate care is being take to avoid the delegation of substantial discretionary authority to individuals whom the Authority knows, or should know have a propensity to engage in illegal activities;
- (C) Compliance standards and procedures are effectively communicated to all of the Authority's employees and Board by requiring them to participate in periodic training in ethics and the requirements of the compliance program;
- (D) Compliance standards and procedure are effectively communicated to all of the Authority's agents;
- (E) Reasonable steps are being taken to achieve compliance by using monitoring and auditing systems reasonably designed to detect non-compliance and providing and publicizing a system for reporting noncompliance without fear of retaliation;
- (F) Consistent enforcement of compliance standards and procedures is administered through appropriate disciplinary mechanisms;
- (G) Reasonable steps are taken to respond appropriately to detected offenses and to prevent future offenses; and
- (H) A written code of conduct is adopted to address record retention, fraud, equal opportunity employment, bullying, sexual harassment and misconduct, conflicts of interest, personal use of Authority property, and gifts and honoraria.

### **§ 11. Additional Obligations of Directors**

Directors shall comply with additional requirements provided by the RMA Act and RMA Rules, including:

- a. The requirement to file an annual personal financial statement with the Texas Ethics Commission as provided by §370.2521 of the RMA Act;
- b. The requirement to complete training on the RMA's responsibilities under the Open Meetings Act and the Public Information Act as provided by §§551.005 and 552.012 of the Texas Government Code;
- c. The nepotism laws under Chapter 573, Texas Government Code; and
- d. The HCRMA Ethics and Compliance Program as adopted by the Board under

Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code, Rule 10.51.

## **§ 12. Meetings**

- a. Regular Meetings. All regular meetings of the Board shall be held in Hidalgo County, at a specific site, date, and time to be determined by the Chairman. The Chairman may postpone any regular meeting if it is determined that such meeting is unnecessary or that a quorum will not be achieved, but no fewer than four (4) regular meetings shall be held during each calendar year.
- b. Special Meetings. Special meetings and emergency meetings of the Board may be called, upon proper notice, at any time by the Chairman or at the request of any three (3) Directors. Special meetings and emergency meetings shall be held at such time and place as is specified by the Chairman, if the Chairman calls the meeting, or by the three (3) Directors, if they call the meeting.
- c. Agendas. The Chairman shall set the agendas for meetings of the Board, except that the agendas of meetings called by three (3) Directors shall be set by those Directors.
- d. Chairman-Pro Tem. In the event that neither the Chairman or Vice Chairman is available to preside over the called meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present, the Directors present at the meeting may elect a Chairman-ProTem to preside over the meeting.

## **§ 13. Voting; Quorum**

- a. Voting. Each Director, including the Chairman, has equal voting status and may vote on Authority matters.
- b. Quorum. A majority of the Directors constitutes a quorum, and the vote of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be necessary for any action to be taken by the Board. No vacancy in the membership of the Board will impair the right of a quorum to exercise all of the rights and to perform all of the duties of the Board. Therefore, if a vacancy occurs, a majority of the Directors then serving in office will constitute a quorum.

## **§ 14. Meetings by Telephone**

As authorized by §370.262 of the RMA Act, the Board, committees of the Board, staff, or any combination thereof, may participate in and hold open or closed meetings by means of teleconference or other electronic communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other and at which public participation is permitted by a speaker telephone or other electronic communications equipment at a conference room of the Authority or other facility in a

county of the Authority that is accessible to the public. Such meetings are subject to the notice requirements set forth in §§551.125(c) – (f) of the Texas Open Meetings Act, however they are not subject to the additional requirements of §§551.125(b) of the Act. The notice must state the location where members of the public can attend to hear those portions of the meeting open to the public. Participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section 14 constitutes being present in person at such meeting, except that a Director will not be considered in attendance when the Director appears at such a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened as generally provided under Section 17 of these bylaws. Each part of a meeting conducted by telephone conference call or other electronic means that by law must be open to the public shall be accessible to the public at the location specified in the notice and shall be tape-recorded and documented by written minutes. On conclusion of the meeting, the tape recording and the written minutes of the meeting shall be made available to the public within a reasonable period of time.

### **§ 15. Procedure**

All meetings of the Board and its committees shall be conducted generally in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order pursuant to statutorily proper notice of meeting posted as provided by law. The Chairman at any time may change the order of items to be considered from that set forth in the notice of meeting, provided that all agenda items that require a vote by the Board shall be considered at the meeting for which they have been posted. To the extent procedures prescribed by applicable statutes, the RMA Rules or these bylaws conflict with Robert's Rules of Order, the statutes, the RMA Rules, or these bylaws shall govern.

### **§ 16. Committees**

- a. Executive Committee. The Authority shall establish an Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the Authority as identified in Section 21, and such other members as the Chairman may direct. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be conducted on no less than three (3) days' notice to the Executive Committee members, unless such members agree to waive this notice requirement. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum of the Committee, and the vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be necessary for any action taken by the Executive Committee. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Executive Committee. Consistent with this Section 16, the Executive Committee shall have and may exercise all of the authority of the Board, subject to the limitations imposed by applicable law; provided, however, that the Executive Committee shall not enter into or approve any contract, nor authorize the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Authority, except to the extent explicitly authorized in a resolution of the Board. Actions requiring Board approval shall be submitted to the Board as recommendations of the Executive Committee.



- b. Ad Hoc and Standing Committees. The Chairman at any time may designate from among the Directors one or more ad hoc or standing committees, each of which shall be comprised of three (3) or more Directors, and may designate one (1) or more Directors as alternate members of such committees, who may, subject to any limitations imposed by the Chairman, replace absent or disqualified members at any meeting of that committee. The Chairman serves as an ex-officio member of each committee.
  
- c. Authority of Committees. If approved by resolution and passed by a majority vote of the Board, a committee shall have and may exercise all of the authority of the Board, to the extent provided in such resolution and subject to the limitations imposed by applicable law; provided that no Committee shall be authorized to enter into or approve any contract, nor authorize the expenditure of funds on behalf of the Authority. All contracts and expenditures of the Authority shall be made by the Board of Directors.
  
- d. Committee Members. The Chairman shall appoint the chairman of each committee, as well as Directors to fill any vacancies in the membership of the committees. At the next regular meeting of the Board following the Chairman's formation of a committee, the Chairman shall deliver to the Directors and the Secretary a description of the committee, including (a) the name of the committee, (b) whether it is an ad hoc or standing committee, (c) its assigned function(s) and/or task(s), (d) whether it is intended to have a continuing existence or to dissolve upon the completion of a specified task and/or the occurrence of certain events, (e) the Directors designated as members and alternate members to the committee, and its chairman, and (f) such other information as requested by any Director. The Secretary shall enter such written description into the official records of the Authority. The Chairman shall provide a written description of any subsequent changes to the name, function, task, term, or composition of any committee in accordance with the procedure described in the preceding two sentences. A committee also may be formed by a majority vote of the Board, which vote (and not independently the Chairman) also shall specify the committee's chairman and provide the descriptive information otherwise furnished by the Chairman in accordance with the preceding three sentences.
  
- e. Committee Meetings. A meeting of any committee formed pursuant to this Section 16 may be called by the Chairman, the chairman of the applicable committee, or by any two members of the committee. All committees comprised of a quorum of the Board shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings and report to the Board as required. The designation of a committee of the Board and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board, or any Director, of any responsibility imposed upon the Board or the individual Director by law. To the extent applicable, the provisions of these bylaws relating to meetings, quorums, meetings by telephone, and procedure shall govern the meetings of the Board's committees.

## **§ 17. Notice of Meetings**

Notice of each meeting of the Board shall be sent by mail, electronic mail, or facsimile to all Directors entitled to vote at such meeting. If sent by mail, such notice will be deemed delivered when it is deposited in the United States mail with sufficient postage prepaid. If sent by electronic mail or facsimile, the notice will be deemed delivered when transmitted properly to the correct email address or number, provided that an additional copy of such notice shall be sent by overnight delivery as confirmation of the notice sent by electronic mail or facsimile. Such notice of meetings also may be given by telephone, provided that any of the Chairman, Executive Director, Secretary, or their designee speaks personally to the applicable Director to give such notice.

## **§ 18. Waiver of Notice**

Whenever any notice is required to be given to any Director by statute or by these bylaws, a written waiver of such notice signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time required for such notice, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

## **§ 19. Attendance as Waiver**

Attendance of a Director at a meeting of the Board or a committee thereof will constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except that a Director will not be considered in attendance when the Director appears at such a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the ground that the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

## **§ 20. Officers**

The officers of the Authority shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held simultaneously by the same person. The individuals elected as officers shall not be compensated for their service as officers. However, officers shall be reimbursed for all expenses incurred in conducting proper Authority business and for travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. If desired, the Board may also designate an Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, who shall also be considered officers of the Authority.

## **§ 21. Election and Term of Office**

Except for the office of Chairman, which is filled by the Governor's appointment, officers will be elected by the Board for a term of one (1) year, subject to Section 22 of these bylaws. The election of officers to succeed officers whose terms have expired shall be by a vote of the Directors of the Authority at the first meeting of the Authority held after February 1 of each year or at such other meeting as the Board determines.

## **§ 22. Removal and Vacancies of Officers**

Each officer shall hold office until a successor is chosen and qualified, or until the officer's death, resignation, or removal, or, in the case of a Director serving as an officer, until such officer ceases to serve as a Director. Any officer, except the Chairman, may resign at any time upon giving written notice to the Board. The Chairman may resign at any time upon giving written notice to the Board and the Governor. Any officer except the Chairman may be removed from service as an officer at any time, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Directors of the Authority. The Directors of the Authority may at any meeting vote to fill any vacated officer position except the Chairman position due to an event described in this Section 22 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

### **§ 23. Chairman**

The Chairman is appointed by the Governor and is a Director of the Authority. The Chairman shall appoint all committees of the Board as specified in these bylaws (except as otherwise provided in Section 16 of these bylaws), call all regular meetings of the Board, and preside at and set the agendas for all meetings of the Board (except as provided in the concluding sentence of Section 12 of these bylaws). The Chairman shall review and approve all requests for reimbursement of expenses sought by the Executive Director.

### **§ 24. Vice Chairman**

The Vice Chairman must be a Director of the Authority. During the absence or disability of the Chairman, upon the Chairman's death (and pending the Governor's appointment of a successor new Chairman), or upon the Chairman's request, the Vice Chairman shall perform the duties and exercise the authority and powers of the Chairman.

### **§ 25. Secretary**

The Secretary need not be a Director of the Authority, The Secretary shall:

- a. keep true and complete records of all proceedings of the Directors in books provided for that purpose and shall assemble, index, maintain, and keep up-to-date a book of all of the policies adopted by the Authority;
- b. attend to the giving and serving of all notices of meetings of the Board and its committees and such other notices as are required by the office of Secretary and as may be directed by the RMA Act, any trust indenture binding on the Authority, Directors of the Authority, or the Executive Director;
- c. seal with the official seal of the Authority (if any) and attest all documents, including trust agreements, bonds, and other obligations of the Authority that require the official seal of the Authority to be impressed thereon;

- d. execute, attest, and verify signatures on all contracts in which the total consideration equals or exceeds an amount established in resolutions of the Board, contracts conveying property of the Authority, and other agreements binding on the Authority which by law or Board resolution require attestation;
- e. certify resolutions of the Board and any committee thereof;
- f. maintain custody of the corporate seal, minute books, accounts, and all other official documents and records, files and contracts that are not specifically entrusted to some other officer or depository; and
- g. hold such administrative offices and perform such other duties as the Directors or the Executive Director shall require.

## **§ 26. Treasurer**

The Treasurer need not be a Director of the Authority. The Treasurer shall:

- a. execute all requisitions to the applicable bond trustee for withdrawals from the construction fund, unless the Board designates a different officer, Director, or employee of the Authority to execute any or all of such requisitions;
- b. execute, and if necessary attest, any other documents or certificates required to be executed and attested by the Treasurer under the terms of any trust agreement or supplemental trust agreement entered into by the Authority;
- c. maintain custody of the Authority's funds and securities and keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, and endorse, or cause to be endorsed, in the name of the Authority and deposit, or cause to be deposited, all funds in such bank or banks as may be designated by the Authority as depositories;
- d. render to the Directors at such times as may be required an account of all financial transactions coming under the scope of the Treasurer's authority;
- e. give a good and sufficient bond, to be approved by the Authority, in such an amount as may be fixed by the Authority;
- f. invest such of the Authority's funds as directed by resolution of the Board, subject to the restrictions of any trust agreement entered into by the Authority; and
- g. hold such administrative offices and perform such other duties as the Directors of the Authority or the Executive Director shall require. If, and to the extent that, the duties or responsibilities of the Treasurer and those of any administrator conflict and are vested in different persons, the conflicting duties and responsibilities shall be deemed vested in the Treasurer.

## **§ 27. Administrators**

The chief administrator of the Authority shall be the Executive Director. Other administrators may be appointed by the Executive Director with the consent of the Board. All such administrators, except for the Executive Director, shall perform such duties and have such powers as may be assigned to them by the Executive Director or as set forth in Board Resolutions. Any administrator may be removed, with or without cause, at any time by the Executive Director. All administrators will be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performance of their duties as approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Director's expense reimbursements shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

## **§ 28. Executive Director**

- a. The Executive Director will be selected by the Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, performing all duties assigned by the Board and implementing all resolutions adopted by the Board.
- b. In addition, the Executive Director:
  - (1) shall be responsible for general management, hiring and termination of employees, and day-to-day operations of the Authority;
  - (2) shall be responsible for preparing a draft of the Strategic Plan for the Authority's operations as described in Section 37 of these bylaws;
  - (3) shall be responsible for preparing a draft of the Authority's written Annual Report, as described in Section 37 of these bylaws;
  - (4) at the invitation of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or of the city council of a municipality located within the County, shall appear, with representatives of the Board, before the inviting body to present the Authority's Annual Report and respond to questions and receive comments regarding the Report or the Authority's operations;
  - (5) may execute inter-agency and interlocal contracts and service contracts approved by the Board;
  - (6) may execute contracts, contract supplements, contract change orders, and purchase orders not exceeding amounts established in Resolutions of the Board; and
  - (7) shall have such obligations and authority as may be described in one or more Resolutions enacted from time to time by the Board.
- c. The Executive Director may delegate the foregoing duties and responsibilities as

the Executive Director deems appropriate; provided such delegation does not conflict with applicable law or any express direction of the Board.

### **§ 29. Interim or Outsourced Executive Director**

The Board may designate an Interim Executive Director to perform the duties of the Executive Director during such times as the position of Executive Director is vacant. The Interim Executive Director need not be an employee of the Authority. Alternatively, the Board may contract with any municipality in Hidalgo County through an interlocal agreement to provide administrative and other professional services in lieu of or in addition to hiring an Executive Director.

### **§ 30. Indemnification by the Authority**

- a. Indemnification. Any person made a party to or involved in any litigation, including any civil, criminal or administrative action, suit or proceeding, by reason of the fact that such person is or was a Director, officer, administrator, or employee of the Authority or by reason of such person's alleged negligence or misconduct in the performance of his or her duties as such Director, officer, administrator, or employee shall be indemnified by the Authority, to the extent funds are lawfully available and subject to any other limitations that exist by law against liability and the reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and necessarily incurred by him or her in connection with any action therein, except in relation to matters as to which it is adjudged that such Director, officer, or administrator is liable for gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duties.
- b. Exception. In the event of a conviction for an offense involving the conduct for which the Director, officer, administrator, or employee was indemnified, the officer, Director, administrator, or employee shall be liable to the Authority for the amount of indemnification paid, with interest at the legal rate for interest on a judgment from the date the indemnification was paid, as provided by §370.258 of the RMA Act. A conviction or judgment entered in connection with a compromise or settlement of any such litigation shall not by itself be deemed to constitute an adjudication of liability for such gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- c. Right to be Paid. The right to indemnification will include the right to be paid by the Authority for expenses incurred in defending a proceeding in advance of its final disposition in the manner and to the extent permitted by the Board in its sole discretion. In addition to the indemnification described above that the Authority shall provide a Director, officer or administrator, the Authority may, upon approval of the Board in its sole discretion, indemnify a Director, officer, or administrator under such other circumstances, or may indemnify an employee, against liability and reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred in connection with any claim asserted against him or her in said party's capacity as a Director, officer, administrator, or employee of the Authority, subject to any

limitations that exist by law. Any indemnification by the Authority pursuant to this Section 30 shall be evidenced by a resolution of the Board.

### **§ 31. Expenses Subject to Indemnification**

As used herein, the term “expenses” includes fines or penalties imposed and amounts paid in compromise or settlement of any such litigation only if:

- a. independent legal counsel designated by a majority of the Board, excluding those Directors who have incurred expenses in connection with such litigation for which indemnification has been or is to be sought, shall have advised the Board that, in the opinion of such counsel, such Director, officer, administrator, or other employee is not liable to the Authority for gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of his or her duties with respect to the subject of such litigation; and
- b. a majority of the Directors shall have made a determination that such compromise or settlement was or will be in the best interest of the Authority.

### **§ 32. Procedure for Indemnification**

Any amount payable by way of indemnity under these bylaws may be determined and paid pursuant to an order of or allowance by a court under the applicable provisions of the laws of the State of Texas in effect at the time and pursuant to a resolution of a majority of the Directors, other than those who have incurred expenses in connection with such litigation for which indemnification has been or is to be sought. In the event that all the Directors are made parties to such litigation, a majority of the Board shall be authorized to pass a resolution to provide for legal expenses for the entire Board.

### **§ 33. Additional Indemnification**

The right of indemnification provided by these bylaws shall not be deemed exclusive of any right to which any Director, officer, administrator, or other employee may be entitled, as a matter of law, and shall extend and apply to the estates of deceased Directors, officers, administrators, and other employees.

### **§ 34. Contracts and Purchases**

All contracts and purchases on behalf of the Authority shall be entered into and made in accordance with rules of procedure prescribed by the Board and applicable laws and rules of the State of Texas and its agencies.

### **§ 35. Sovereign Immunity**

Unless otherwise required by law, the Authority will not by agreement or otherwise waive or impinge upon its sovereign immunity.

### **§ 36. Termination of Employees**

Employees of the Authority shall be employees at will unless they are a party to an employment agreement with the Authority executed by the Chairman upon approval by the Board. Employees may be terminated at any time, with or without cause, by the Executive Director subject to applicable law and the policies in place at the time of termination.

### **§ 37. Reports**

The Executive Director shall direct that all reports required under State law, the RMA Act, the RMA Rules or requested by TxDOT shall be prepared and delivered. At the time of the adoption of these bylaws, the required reports include:

- a. Strategic Plan. Each even-numbered year, the Authority shall issue a Strategic Plan of its operations covering the next five (5) fiscal years, beginning with the next odd-numbered fiscal year. A draft of each Strategic Plan shall be submitted to the Board for review, approval, and, subject to revisions required by the Board, adoption. (Section 370.261(a), Texas Transportation Code)
- b. Annual Report. Under the direction of the Executive Director (or in the absence of an Executive Director, the Chairman), the staff of the Authority shall prepare a draft of an Annual Report on the Authority's activities during the preceding year and describing all revenue bond issuances anticipated for the coming year, the financial condition of the Authority, all project schedules, and the status of the Authority's performance under the most recent Strategic Plan. The draft shall be submitted to the Board not later than January 30th for review, approval, and, subject to revisions required by the Board, adoption. Not later than March 31 following the conclusion of the preceding fiscal year, the Authority shall file with the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court the Authority's Annual Report, as adopted by the Board. (Section 370.261(b), Texas Transportation Code)
- c. Financial Reports. The Authority shall submit to Hidalgo County and the City of McAllen (i) its annual operating and capital budgets for each fiscal year, along with any amended or supplemental operating or capital budget, within ninety (90) days of the beginning of the fiscal year; (ii) its annual financial information and notice of material events required to be disclosed under Rule 15c2-12 of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, within thirty (30) days after disclosure; and (iii) a statement of any surplus revenue held by the Authority and a summary of how the Authority intends to use such surplus, within ninety (90) days of the of the beginning of the fiscal year. Such financial reports must be approved by the Board and certified as correct by the Executive Director of the Authority. (Rule 26.61, Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)
- d. Annual Audit. The Authority shall submit annual audit, conducted by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted



auditing standards (as modified by the governor's Uniform Grant Management Standards, or the standards of the Office of Management and Budget A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-profit Organizations, as applicable) to Hidalgo County and the City of McAllen within one hundred twenty (120) days after the end of the fiscal year. (Section 370.182, Texas Transportation Code; Rule 26.62, Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)

- e. Investment Reports. Within thirty (30) days' of acceptance of an independent auditor's report, the Authority shall submit to Hidalgo County and the City of McAllen an independent auditor's review of the annual reports of investment transactions prepared by the Authority's investment officers. Such investment reports must be approved by the Board and certified as correct by the Executive Director of the Authority. (Rule 26.61, Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)
- f. Project Report. Not later than December 31 of year, the Authority shall submit to the Commission a written report that describes the progress made during that year on each transportation project or system of projects of the Authority, including the initial project for which the Authority was created. (Rule 26.65(b), Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)
- g. Presentation of Reports. At the invitation of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or of the city council of a municipality located within Hidalgo County, representatives of the Board and the Executive Director shall appear before the inviting body to present the Annual Report, provide any other information requested, and respond to questions and receive comments. (Rule 26.63, Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)
- h. Notice of Debt. The Authority shall give ninety (90) days' notice to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court of the date of issuance of revenue bonds. (Section 3701.261(c), Texas Transportation Code.
- i. Compliance Report. Within one hundred fifty (150) days after the end of the fiscal year, in the form required by TxDOT, the Authority shall submit to TxDOT's Executive Director a report that lists each duty the Authority is required to perform under Title 43 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 26(G) that indicates the Authority has performed the requirements for the fiscal year. The Compliance Report must be approved by the Board and certified as correct by the Executive Director of the Authority. (Rule 26.65(a), Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)
- j. Overweight Permits. The Authority shall provide monthly and annual reports, in a format approved by TxDOT, to TxDOT's Finance Division regarding all permits issued and all fees collected during the during the period covered by the report. (Rule 28.102(j), Title 43, Texas Administrative Code)

### **§ 38. Rates and Regulations; Compliance with Law**

The Board shall, in accordance with all applicable trust agreements, the RMA Act, the RMA Rules, or other law, establish toll rates and fees, weight restrictions, designate speed limits, establish fines for toll violators, and adopt rules and regulations for the use and occupancy of said project.

### **§ 39. Seal**

The official seal of the Authority shall consist of the embossed impression of a circular disk with the words “Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority, 2006” on the outer rim, with a star in the center of the disk.

### **§ 40. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year for the Authority shall be from January 1 to December 31.

### **§ 41. Public Access Policy**

The Authority shall maintain an access policy to be adopted by the Board that provides the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the Board to speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the Authority.

### **§ 42. Appeals Procedure**

The Authority shall maintain an appeals procedure to be adopted by the Board and amended from time to time that sets forth the process by which parties may bring to the attention of the Authority their questions, grievances, or concerns and may appeal any action taken by the Authority.

### **§ 43. Amendments to Bylaws**

Except as may be otherwise provided by law, these bylaws may be amended, modified, altered, or repealed in whole or in part, at any regular meeting of the Board after ten (10) days' advance notice has been given by the Chairman to each Director of the proposed change. These bylaws may not be amended at any special or emergency meeting of the Board.

### **§ 44. Dissolution of the Authority**

#### **a. Voluntary Dissolution**

- (1) The Authority may not be dissolved unless the dissolution is approved by the Commission. The Board may submit a request to the Commission for approval to dissolve.
- (2) The Commission may approve a request to dissolve only if:

- (A) all debts, obligations, and liabilities of the Authority have been paid and discharged or adequate provision has been made for the payment of all debts, obligations and liabilities;
- (B) there are no suits pending against the Authority, or adequate provision has been made for the satisfaction of any judgment, order or decree that may be entered against it in any pending suit; and
- (C) the Authority has commitments from other governmental entities to assume jurisdiction of all Authority transportation facilities.

b. Involuntary Dissolution

- (1) The Commission by order may require the Authority to dissolve if the Commission determines that the Authority has not substantially complied with the requirements of a Commission Rule or an agreement between the department and the Authority and the Commission has given the Board thirty (30) days' written notice of its intention to adopt such an order.
- (2) The Commission may not require dissolution unless:
  - (A) The Conditions described in Section 44(a)(2)(A) and (B) have been met; and
  - (B) The holders of any indebtedness have evidenced their agreement to the dissolution.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Adopted October 2, 2000*  
*First Amendment approved May 20, 2008*  
*Amended and Restated Bylaws approved September 24, 2014*  
*Amended and Restated Bylaws approved March 26, 2015*  
*[Amended and Restated Bylaws approved August 25, 2020]*