

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008
HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS’ COURTROOM
100 E. CANO, EDINBURG, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at the Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Courtroom, 100 E. Cano, Edinburg, Texas.

In attendance were:

Board Members

Mr. Dennis Burleson, Chairman
Mr. Rick Perez, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Ramiro, Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Ruben Serna
Mr. Ricardo Perez
Mr. Ramon Garcia
Mr. Joe Olivarez

Others

Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC
Mr. Andrew A. Canon, HCMPO
Ms. Mary Escalona, HCMPO
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein
Sandoloski Agather LLP
Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB
Mr. Jacinto Garza, HCRB
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
Ms. Veronica De la Fuente, HCRB
Mr. Ron Morrison, RBC Capital Market
Mr. David Diaz, EdinburgPolitics.com
Mr. Joe Califa, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Ms. Jessica Mendoza, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Sam Maldonado, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT

1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

2. Consider Approval Meeting Minutes.....Chairman

Chairman Burleson moved to item 2. Chairman Burleson asked the Board members if they would prefer to approve the February 13, 2008 and February 28, 2008 Minutes together. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2008 and February 28, 2008 as presented. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

3. Public Comment

Chairman Burleson moved to item 3. - Public Comment; and noted no one had signed up for Public Comment.

4. **Presentation RE: Tolling & Considerations on the Border**.....Catherine Sanchez, TxDOT
Chairman then moved to item 4. Mr. Burleson advised the Board members that Ms. Catherine Sanchez, TxDOT, was unable to attend. This item will be rescheduled for next month's meeting.

5. **Consider Request from Anzalduas Bridge Board Re:**.....Chairman
Resolution Supporting Implementation of the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Program at Anzalduas Bridge
Chairman Burleson then moved to item 5 and recognized Mayor Richard Cortez, City of McAllen; Mr. Mike Perez, McAllen City Manager; and Bridge Director George Ramon. Mr. Mike Perez gave a brief summary of the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) Program at Anzalduas Bridge. Mr. Perez stated that the City of McAllen is in favor of the Anzalduas Bridge creating a Commercial Crossing. Mr. Perez requested that the RMA Board approve a Resolution to Support the FAST Program. Mr. Perez stated that the border commercial crossing will benefit the region in the future and open up a door for more tourists from Mexico. Mr. Jessie Medina, City of Pharr, came forward and stated that the City of Pharr opposes the resolution. Mr. Medina presented the board with an article permit which protects the City of Pharr for future business. This permit was issued by the State Department for the City of Pharr. Vice-Chairman Rick Perez suggested that the Board members wait to make a decision until further information is provided to them for review. Mr. Ramon Garcia stated that he agreed to support the Anzalduas Bridge to have access to commercial crossing. *Mr. Ricardo Perez made a motion to approve the Resolution to Support the Anzalduas Bridge to have access to commercial crossing. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion, Mr. Ruben Serna and Vice-Chairman Rick Perez opposed the motion; and upon a vote the motion carried by a majority vote to support the Resolution.*

6. **Consider Approval RE: 2008 Budget Plan**Chairman
Chairman Burleson then moved to item 6. Chairman Burleson stated that an updated budget report was passed out to all of the Board members. Mr. Burleson stated that there was only a slight modification from the original copy. He stated that the FY2008-09 budget presented allowed for the salary of an Executive Director, Controller and other administrative services as well as fees for Legal Counsel, Consultant -Everett Owen, and the Financial Adviser. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the FY08-09 Budget with updates, Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

7. **Consider Approval RE: Approval of the Local Transportation Project Funding Agreement**Chairman
Chairman Burleson then moved to item 7. *This item was combined with item 9. A.*

8. **Consider Approval RE: Expense Report**.....Chairman
Chairman Burleson moved to item 8. Mr. Ramiro Salazar stated that he reviewed all of the documents enclosed with Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC, and is in agreement to submit all invoices for payment. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Expense Report as presented. Mr. Ricardo Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

9. Status Report.....Chairman

A. Report from TxDOT Mario Jorge

Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that TxDOT needs direction regarding how to use the federal funding that is currently available to the RMA. Mr. Jorge advised the Board members that if they decide to use the funding available for engineering services, TxDOT, including TxDOT's office of general counsel, would need to be involved with the. Mr. Jorge suggested that the funding available as earmark funds be used for construction only. Mr. Gerry Pate stated that HCRB was agreeable to having the funds allocated for construction only. Chairman Burleson requested a consensus of the Board to allocate the \$1.3 million of federal project funds for construction costs only. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

Mr. Jorge stated that the SIB loan is being reviewed by TxDOT's finance division. The SIB loan will be reviewed at the April Commission Meeting which is scheduled to for April 24, 2008 in Austin, TX. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

B. Report from Hidalgo County Road Builders Gerry Pate

1. Consider Request RE: HCMPO to approve the Loop, Bridge Relief Route and La Joya Bypass as Toll Projects

Mr. Jacinto Garza stated that the Hidalgo County MPO currently has this item scheduled on the Transportation Policy Agenda. Mr. Jorge briefly gave a description regarding the MPO's Long Range Plan. He stated that the Hidalgo County MPO will need to look into how the Loop can be included into the Long Range Plan. Mr. Andrew Canon, Hidalgo County MPO, stated the Loop project is not identified as a Toll Road in the MTP. It was the consensus of the Board to withdraw the aforementioned letter to the Hidalgo County MPO. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Legal Counsel Update..... Blakely Fernandez

1. Consider Resolution and Request for Letter of Interest RE: HCRMA Executive Director (Tabled: 2/13/08)

Chairman Burleson moved to item C.1. It was the consensus of the Board to leave this item tabled and have the Finance Committee review it and bring a recommendation to the April 10, 2008 RMA meeting for consideration. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

2. Update on RFQ for Bookkeeping and Accounting Services

Chairman Burleson moved to item C.2 and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones stated that the RFQ had been advertised in the local papers as well as directly mailed to local firms who are known to have the requested qualifications. The deadline for submittals is April 18, 2008. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

D. Report from Financial Advisor..... Ron Morrison

1. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution RE: Investment Policy (Tabled: 2/13/08)

Chairman Burleson moved to item D. 1. Mr. Burleson stated that this item was presented to the Board for consideration last month. The Finance committee was unable to meet and discuss this item more thoroughly. Mr. Ramiro Salazar requested to keep this item tabled until next month. Mr. Ron Morrison added a reminder that the Investment Policy needs to be reviewed every year.

2. Discussion and Consideration RE: Banking Relationship and Line of Credit

Chairman Burleson moved to item D. 2. Vice-Chairman Rick Perez disclosed a conflict of interest and recused himself from discussions and voting on this item. The Vice Chair submitted an affidavit noting the same for the record. Mr. Ron Morrison gave a brief presentation to the Board members. Mr. Morrison stated that information was forwarded to three local banks: First National Bank, Texas State Bank and Inter National Bank. Mr. Ramon Garcia expressed concerned regarding the information being sent to only these three local banks. Mr. Ramiro Salazar stated that only these banks were qualified locally to provide the funds requested. *Mr. Joe Olivarez made a motion to move forward and start negotiations with First National Bank, then come back to the April 10th RMA meeting with the information provided. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, Mr. Ramon Garcia abstained, and upon a majority vote the motion passed.*

E. Discuss and Consider Meeting Schedule.....Chairman

Chairman Burleson stated that in the past there was a conflict to have the RMA meetings on Tuesday. Mr. Burleson asked if everyone will be comfortable with having the next RMA meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

10. New or Old Business

Ms. Blakely Fernandez reminded the Board Members that the Personal Financial Statements are due April 30th.

11. Adjournment

As there was no further business to conduct, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.*

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer