

# MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2007**

**PHARR CITY HALL,  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM, 2<sup>ND</sup> Floor  
118 S. CAGE  
PHARR, TX.**

**PRESIDING: DENNIS BURLESON, CHAIRMAN**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2007 at the Pharr City Commission Room, Pharr, Texas. In attendance were:

Board Members

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

Others

Ms. Mary Escalona, HCMPO  
Mr. Ken N. Jones, LRGVDC  
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC  
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC  
Mayor Leopoldo Palacios, City of Pharr  
Mr. Jody Ellington, TxDOT  
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT  
Mr. Sam Maldonado, J. E. Saenz  
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Loeffler Tuggey Pauerstein Rosenthal LLP  
Mr. Jesus Ramirez, Montalvo & Ramirez Attorney's At Law  
Mr. Oscar L. Garza, III, Hidalgo County Resident  
Mr. Jose Reyes, TEDSI  
Mr. Jim Dannenbaum, Dannenbaum Eng.  
Mr. Mark W. Lupher, TEDSI  
Ms. Veronica De La Fuente, Hidalgo County Judges Office  
Mr. Rick Martinez, PCT Chair Co., Pharr

**1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum**

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

Chairman Dennis Burleson introduced Mayor Leopoldo Palacios, City of Pharr. Mayor Leopoldo Palacios welcomed the RMA Board members and the audience to the City of Pharr. Mayor Leopoldo Palacios briefly went through some history of Pharr and invited the RMA to have more Board meetings in the City of Pharr.

**2. Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

**A. Consider Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2007 Meeting**

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 2. A. – Mr. Ruben Serna made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Consider Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2007 Meeting**

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 2. B. – Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

**3. Public Comment**

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

**4. Consider Approval of Re: Expense Report (ACTION ITEM)**

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 4. Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC, stated that an invoice from Legal counsel was provided for everyone to review. Staff recommends approval of payment in the amount of: \$4658.13. Mr. Jones stated there was one change. The expense report stated that Mr. Rick Perez attended the Team Tx. Meeting but it was the Transportation Forum. The registration fee for the Tx. Transportation Forum also changed from \$225 to \$175. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Expense Report. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

**5. Consider Selection of Short List for RFQ Re: To Plan and Develop the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority's Southern Loop Project (ACTION ITEM)**

Chairman Burleson then moved to Item 5. Mr. Burleson stated that there were two proposers that need to be interviewed. Mr. Victor Morales stated that both proposers met all of the requirements. There are only minor things pending from the proposers. Both proposers gave a ballpark figure amount, excluding engineering fees, on the scope of the project. This figure will help the RMA Board to estimate more or less how much the project will cost. Mr. Rick Perez asked several questions regarding Public Information. Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that out of courtesy we could advise the proposers that their information might be made public. Mr. Burleson asked both proposers, Dannenbaum and Pate Engineering if they would step out of the room when the other is being interviewed. Dannenbaum and Pate stated that they would step out of the room until it was their turn. The next RMA Board Meeting will be held on August 9, 2007 at 4:00pm. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve both proposals and be interviewed at the August 09, 2007 meeting and having each proposers stepping out of the room during the other is being interviewed. Mr. Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

**6. Consider Approval Re: 2008 Annual Budget and Request of Contributions from Local Governments (ACTION ITEM)**

Chairman Burleson then moved to Item 6. Mr. Burleson stated that he met with staff and estimated what was going to be needed for the upcoming year. With the construction projects starting and starting to have public awareness we will need staff coming in the New Year. We will be asking all of the cities in the valley to help finance our organization. The request for funds from the cities will depend on population. The local contributions may need to go through their local council. Staff will be available for assistance in providing information to the cities. *Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to approve the 2008 Annual Budget and Request of Contributions from Local Governments. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

7. **Status Report** (ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS)

- A. Discussion RE: Establishment of Subcommittees & Task Forces  
No reports were given at this time.

8. **New or Old Business**

Chairman Bureson then moved to Item 8. Mr. Bureson stated that the RMA / Hidalgo County workshop went very well yesterday and thanked all of the members for being present. Mr. Bureson stated that he would like permission to send a letter to J.D. Salinas supporting SB1888 and to be put on the Hidalgo County Commission Agenda for approval. Mr. Bureson stated the Vehicle Registration Fee Increase of \$10 needs to be adopted by September 1, 2007 deadline; in order to be effective by January 1, 2008. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to send the letter to Judge J. D. Salinas regarding the Vehicle Registration Fee Increase of \$10 and be added to the August Agenda. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, gave a brief update the Texas Transportation Forum Conference that was held in Austin, Tx. He stated that there was a link on the TxDOT website where you could listen to the entire conference.

9. **Adjournment**

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.***

ATTEST:

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Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer