

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, JANURARY 29, 2009
CITY OF MCALLEN
City Commission Room
1300 HOUSTON AVENUE
MCALLEN, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 29, 2009 at the City of Mission, City Commission Room, 1201 East 8th St, Mission, Texas.

In attendance were:

Board Members

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

Others

Ms. Maria Champine
Ms. Mary Escalona
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT
Ms. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT
Ms. Flor Koll, HCRB
Mr. Jacinto Garza, L & G Engineering
Commissioner Angie Garza, Hidalgo County MPO Chairman
Commissioner Scott Crane, City of McAllen
Ms. Cheryl Bellamy, SAS, LLP
Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

2. WELCOME FROM THE CITY OF MCALLEN

Chairman Burleson welcomed everyone in the audience to tonight's meeting. Mr. Burleson acknowledged Commissioner Angie Garza, Hidalgo County MPO Chairman, and thanked Mrs. Garza for attending. Mr. Burleson also acknowledged Commissioner Scott Crane, City of McAllen and thanked him for permitting the RMA to hold their monthly meeting in their facility. Commissioner Crane welcomed the RMA and advised them that working diligently together we all will have accomplished more goals.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None at this time.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2008

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that minutes have been provided for everyone to review. Mr. Salazar stated that there were only minor changes on item 5 and 6. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes with minor corrections to Items 5 and 6. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Consideration and Approval of Outstanding Invoices and Travel Requests – Maria Champine

Ms. Maria Champine gave a brief summary of the outstanding invoices. She stated that after speaking with First National Bank, they have agreed to move the date up to the middle of the month so we can have ample time to review the invoices for the interest payments. She also advised the Board Members that there were only minor changes to the expense report but all of the invoices were included in the original packets. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the outstanding invoices and travel requests as presented. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion and, upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Cheryl Bellamy, SAS, LLP, gave a brief report on the RMA current income statement for the entire year. She also stated that the reports show all of the total expenses for the entire year. She advised the Board the Debt Service account has also been added to the report. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Consideration and Approval of Monthly Recurring Invoices – Limit \$5,000

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that this item will be brought back at a later time. **No action taken at this time.**

5. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

A. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation

1. Update on Texas Transportation Commission, Forum, and Legislative Proposals
2. Update on TxDOT's review of Loop Project

Mr. Mario Jorge stated that TxDOT has already submitted their comments regarding the schematics to HCRB. He stated that the Market Evaluation is ready and will be submitted to Austin for approval. He stated that the Advance Funding Agreement has been submitted. TxDOT is waiting for the original paperwork to be signed. Mr. Jorge briefly stated that the Pharr District is hoping to receive about \$2.4 Billion in funds. This amount will be divided between Hidalgo, Harlingen/San Benito and Brownsville MPO. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

B. Gerry Pate, Hidalgo County Road Builders

1. Loop Project Update
2. Public Outreach Update
3. Right of Way Update
4. Report and discussion on status of Pass-Thru Funding Application to TxDOT

Mr. Gerry Pate stated that a handout was provided for everyone to review. Mr. Pate gave a brief update on the status report. He also passed out two different bills from the House and Senate bills regarding the Stimulus Package. He stated that the TRZ is coming along very well. Any applications that will be submitted to TxDOT will be brought to the RMA Board for approval. He stated that the Public Hearing Meetings have been scheduled to meet in different locations in the Hidalgo County Area. He noted that a list of dates and times were provided for everyone to review. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Tracy Hill/ Sharon Becca, PBS&J

1. Update on Environmental Review Process
 - A. Update on Environmental Process
 - B. Status of Deliverables

Ms. Sharon Becca gave a brief update regarding the Environmental Review Process. She stated that a handout was passed out for everyone to review. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

D. Blakely Fernandez, TRPSA

1. Discussion on Preliminary Development Agreement
2. Discussion of Ethics Filing Deadline
3. Consideration and Approval of Legislative Agenda
4. Memo Outlining Traffic and Review due diligence process

Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that Ethics Filing Deadline is April 30, 2009 and all of the Board members need to submit one. Ms. Fernandez briefly went through the resolution regarding the approving the Legislative Agenda. **Mr. Ramon Garcia made a motion to approve the Legislative Agenda. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Fernandez stated that the memo Outlining Traffic and Review due diligence process was submitted from Gustavo Baez. Ms. Fernandez discussed the status of the review of the development proposal in light of the transition in the RMA's financial advisory team. She suggested to the board that general counsel retain the appropriate expertise on its team to review the financial component of the proposed contract. The board concurred that general counsel should proceed with identifying and engaging the appropriate expertise.

E. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting

1. Update on Market Evaluation

Mr. Owen stated that the request for expedited Market Evaluation is being considered by TxDOT. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

F. Chairman's Report

- 1. Hidalgo County RMA Washington Trip
- 2. State of City Address

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that several of the members attended the Washington trip was a good trip. We received new information regarding the Stimulus package and we thank Congressman Ruben Hinojosa for all of his assistance. He advised the board members that the City of Edinburg and McAllen are scheduling a State of the City Address in February 2009. Mr. Burleson reminded everyone that another TeamTX meeting is being scheduled for late February or early March.

Reports only, no action taken at this time.

6. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that he asked Ramiro Salazar and Ricardo Perez to serve on the Audit Committee. He stated that they will have direct contact with the Audit Consultant. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

7. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF US 281

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that a resolution was provided for everyone to review. He advised that board members that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court has already approved a similar resolution. The County has asked the RMA if we could approve a Resolution in support of US281. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of US281. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551:

- A. Section 551.071. Consultation with Attorney
- B. Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.074. Personal Matters

No executive session was held.

9. NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that next month's Meeting will be held at the LRGVDC Transportation Center in Weslaco.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer