

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009
CITY OF EDINBURG
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
415 WEST UNIVERSITY DRIVE
EDINBURG, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Edinburg, City Commission Room, 415 West University, Edinburg, 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
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, TRPSA, LLP
Ms. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT
Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB
Ms. Flor Koll, HCRB
Mr. Jacinto Garza, L & G Engineering
Mr. Victor Longoria, Hidalgo County, TEDSI
Ms. Sharon Becca, PBS&J
Mr. Tommy Ballenger, Ballenger Construction
Mr. Homero Gutierrez, JES
Mr. Andrew A. Canon, HCMPO
Mr. Ken N. Jones, LRGVDC
Mr. Juan Lopez, City of Edinburg
Mr. Juan Uribe, JE Saenz

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:33pm and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Andrew A. Canon, Hidalgo County MPO, gave a brief update regarding the Stimulus Projects that were submitted to TxDOT for Approval. He stated that cities were still working diligently on making sure all the four (4) projects are approved for funding.

Reports only, no action taken at this time.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 23, 2009

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that minutes have been provided for everyone to review. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes and stated that only minor changes were made prior to the meeting. Mr. Joe Olivarez 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. Mr. Burleson stated that the interest payment for First National Bank will be paid out of the Debt Service account and every month a transfer from the Loop account will be made so the Debt. Service account will always have \$50K in the account. ***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.***

C. Consideration and Approval of Financial Reports – Cheryl Bellamy, SAS, L.L.P.

Chairman Burleson stated that Ms. Bellamy was unable to attend. He noted that she will be back next month to give a report. Mr. Burleson stated that he had reviewed the reports prior to the meeting and everything looked good. He asked the Board members if they would like to approve the reports or wait until next month. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve***

the Financial Reports as presented. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

D. Consideration and Approval of RBC Invoices dated: 2/17/09

Ms. Maria Champine stated that the RBC Invoice was accurate as presented. The hours for the other Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Baez have been clarified. **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.**

E. Consideration and Approval of HCRB Milestone Payment for T&R

Mr. Everett Owen gave a brief overview of HCRB Invoice #1494-004 in the amount of \$597,371.58. Mr. Gerry Pate stated that last month's RMA meeting section A.1 was put on hold for payment until further information was provided to the Board members for clarification. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve payment of HCRB Invoice #1494-004 in the amount of: \$597,371.58. Vice-Chairman Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

A. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation

1. Update on Project
2. Update on HCRMA presentation to Transportation Commission
3. Update on Pass-through application guidelines / timeline

Ms. Norma Garza, TxDOT, gave a brief report. She stated that TxDOT meeting with FHWA in Austin on March 9th went very well. She stated that TxDOT had requested that the RMA submit a letter to the TxDOT Commission board to give a brief annual report. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

B. Gerry Pate, Hidalgo County Road Builders

1. Loop Project Update
2. Traffic & Revenue Study (C&M)
3. Update on Community Outreach
4. Update on meeting with TxDOT/ FHWA
5. Pass Through Application

Mr. Gerry Pate gave a brief summary report to all of the board members. He stated that there were several public meetings that will be held in mid March at different locations. He stated that a handout was provided to everyone with all of the dates and locations. Mr. Pate stated that the March 9th meeting with TxDOT and FHWA went very well. The meeting was a great opportunity to present the project to both TxDOT and FHWA and detail the extensive outreach that has been conducted to receive public input and current work being conducted by PBS&J on the environmental documents. No decision was made at the meeting; however, FHWA committed to coordinate with TxDOT on this issue and return a decision to the RMA. Mr. Pate reminded the Board members that the Pass Thru Application was due May 12th. The Board members advised Mr. Pate that they would like to review the application prior to being submitted to Austin. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

Mr. Carlos Miranda, C & M, gave a brief presentation regarding the status of the Hidalgo County Loop Phase One Intermediate Traffic and Revenue Study. He stated that a more detail report was provided to the Board Members for their review. He stated that the presentation was a short version of the hard copy report. The Board members requested a copy of the short version presentation as well. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Tracy Hill/ Sharon Becca, PBS&J

1. Update on Project
2. Update on meeting with TxDOT/ FHWA

Ms. Sharon Becca gave a brief summary report on a handout she provided for review. She briefly went through the report. She also gave a brief report on the Meeting with FHWA and TxDOT in Austin. **Reports only, no action was taken at this time.**

D. Blakely Fernandez, TRPSA, LLP

1. Update on Legislation Session
2. Discussion on Ethics Filing Deadline
3. Status of review of preliminary information

Ms. Blakely Fernandez gave a brief report on the Legislation Session. She also reminded the Board members that the Personal Financial Statements are due April 30th. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

E. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting

1. Status of review of Preliminary information

Mr. Owen gave a brief status report on the meeting in Austin with FHWA and TxDOT. He stated that everything is coming along very well. He advised the Board members that he has been working very diligently with Hidalgo County Road Builders and PBS&J. **Reports only, no action was taken at this time.**

F. Chairman's Report

1. Tuggey Rosenthal Letter

2. Special March Meeting

3. TeamTexas

Chairman Burleson stated that way may need to have another meeting in late March or we can have two (2) meetings in April. He advised everyone to look at their calendar and see when they will be available. Mr. Burleson stated that several Board members need to be reappointed to the board. He requested that each one speak to the County Commissioners for reappointment. He stated that when the annual report is presented to the County Commissioners Court; he will also mention the reappointments that are needed.

5. DISCUSS, EXTEND, RENEGOTIATE OR PROCURE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Chairman Burleson stated that an amended contract was given out to everyone for review. He stated that we needed to renegotiate and extend the contract with our current Legal Counsel. **Mr. Ramon Garcia made a motion to approve the Extension, Renegotiate or Procure contract for Legal Services with a 1 year extension and with the Amended version. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

6. DISCUSS, REVIEW, AND APPROVE ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman Burleson stated Hidalgo County Road Builders helped produce the annual report. He stated that the report will need to be presented to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court next Tuesday. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Annual Report and present it to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

7. DISCUSS, REVIEW, AND APPROVE ANNUAL BUDGET

Chairman Burleson presented the annual budget for 2009 for administrative services and expenditures. He briefly went through the report. He stated that this report can be approved as is but with the probability to amend at a later time. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Annual Budget with the probability to amend at a later time. 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

Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to go into Executive Session. Vice Chairman Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Burleson announced that the board would go into Executive Session pursuant to section 551-071, Texas Government Code. Chairman Burleson stated that no action was taken during executive session.

9. NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

Chairman Dennis Burleson stated that next month's meeting in April comes in conflict with the Holiday. He advised everyone to look and see if April 07th is better for everyone.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Rick Perez made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer