

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER
510 SOUTH PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE
WESLACO, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a Regular Meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, LRGVDC Transportation Center, 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas.

In attendance were:

Board Members

Mr. Dennis Burleson, Chairman
Mr. Rick Perez, Vice Chairman
Mr. Ramiro Salazar, Secretary/ Treasurer
Mr. Ramon Garcia
Mr. Joe Olivarez
Mr. Juan Maldonado

Others

Ms. Mary Escalona
Ms. Maria Champine
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, TRPSA
Ms. Flor Koll, HCRB
Ms. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT
Mr. Reza Badiozzamani, HCRB
Mr. Behrooz Badiozzamani, HCRB
Mr. Robert Fina, JES/ HCRB
Mr. Gus Lopez, L & G Engineering
Mr. Anthony Garza, L & G Engineering
Mr. Victor Longoria, TEDSI

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None at this time.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS:

- A. Consideration and Approval of Minutes from April 23, 2009 and May 07, 2009
Chairman Burleson stated that minutes have been provided for everyone to review. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve both minutes as presented. Mr. Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**
- B. Consideration and Approval of Outstanding Invoices and Travel Requests
Ms. Maria Champine stated that there were two additions to the Expense report. She stated that the invoices from TRPSA and the FNB Interest Payment were added. With regard to the PBS&J contract, Ms. Champine advised the Board members that as of today; the RMA has paid about 34% of the \$2 million contract. Mr. Everett Owen stated that the contract will need to be revised. He stated that after the revision is made there should be an increase of about \$3 million on top of the original contract due to the environmental. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion 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.
Ms. Cheryl Bellamy gave a brief summary of the Financial Reports. She stated that the Debt Service account has been reconciled and is up to date. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS: DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation (Report given by Jody Ellington)
 - 1. Update on Loop Project
 - 2. Update on Pass-through application timeline

Mr. Jody Ellington stated that Mario Jorge was out of town and unable to attend. Mr. Ellington gave a brief update on the status of the Market Valuation request for the project. Additionally, he noted that TxDOT has received the Pass Through Application from HCRMA. He advised the Board members that the Commission will be reviewing all of the applications turned in on June 25th. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

- B. Andrew Cannon, Hidalgo County MPO
 - 1. Update from Hidalgo County MPO

Ms. Maria Champine stated that three projects were submitted for the ARRA funding. She advised the Board that L & G Engineering has joined the Data-Criteria Sub-Committee. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

- C. Tracy Hill, PBS&J
 - 1. Update on Loop Project
 - 2. Discussion on Environment Process and Next Steps

Mr. Everett Owen stated that neither Sharon nor Tracy were able to attend tonight's meeting.

- D. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
 - 1. Update on Loop Project, including Scope of Work
 - 2. Discussion on Environmental Process and Next Steps

Mr. Owen advised the Board that he has met with PBS&J and HCRB staff several times to discuss the Environmental issues at hand. He gave a brief presentation regarding the Environmental Process. He stated that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a 5-7 year process and the Environmental Assessment (EA) is a 2 yr process. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

- E. Gerry Pate, Hidalgo County Road Builders
 - 1. Update on Loop Project
 - 2. Pass-Through Application

Mr. Reza Badiozzamani stated that HCRB received a letter from FHWA regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on sections A and C. He gave a brief presentation on the proposed financing of the project. Mr. Behrooz Badiozzamani gave a brief update on the Saturday Public Outreach Meeting held in the City of San Juan. He stated that the meeting went very well and received very good feedback from the entire City. The City of San Juan has scheduled to sign a resolution in support of the Hidalgo County Loop. He stated the City of McAllen has passed a resolution to support the Hidalgo County Loop at their May 12th Commission Meeting. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

- F. Blakely Fernandez, TRPSA
 - 1. Update on Legislation Session

Ms. Fernandez gave a brief update on the Legislation Session.

- G. Chairman's Report
 - 1. Discussion on June RMA Meeting

Chairman Burleson asked Mary Escalona to poll everyone and we will see which date works better for everyone. He stated that if possible he would like to have a workshop prior to the regular scheduled meeting.

5. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND APPROVAL OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING SERVICES

Chairman Burluson stated that the job description for the Planner I and Planner II position were given to all of the Board members for review. He stated that we will need to advertise for either position and hire someone as soon as possible. After further discussion, the board members decided to advertise for the Planner I position. *Mr. Ramon Garcia made a motion to advertise for the Planner I Position. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

6. RATIFICATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that at the last meeting 1st Southwest was brought on board for Financial Advisory Services. Ms. Fernandez stated that the contract is for a 3-yr term with room for extension if needed. Vice Chairman Rick Perez disclosed a conflict of interest on this procurement and recused himself from discussion or decision making on this item (affidavit on file). *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Ratification of Professional Services Agreement for Financial Advisory Services. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551:

- A. Section 551.071. Consultation with Attorney
 - 1. Preliminary Project Development Agreement
- B. Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.074. Personnel Matters

No executive session was called.

8. NEW BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETING AGENDA

This item was discussed under item 4.G. Chairman’s Report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer