

# MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007  
MISSION CITY HALL – COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM  
1201 E. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET – MISSION, 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, January 11, 2007 at the Mission City Hall Commissioner's Meeting Room, in Mission, 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 Plata

Mr. Ruben Serna

Mr. Roberto Villarreal

Maria Champine, HCMPO

Mary Escalona, HCMPO

Jose G. Reyes, TEDSI

Melba R. Ramos, TxDOT

Richard Zamora, Pate Transportation Partners

Lori Winland, Lock, Liddell, & Sapp

Duane Bell, Penitas Properties

John Womack, Penitas Properties

Jerry Bell, Penitas Properties

Carolyn Maddox, Penitas Properties

Don Medina, LRGVDC Board Member

Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC

Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

Others

Victor Morales, LRGVDC

David A Diaz, [www.edinburgpolitics.com](http://www.edinburgpolitics.com)

Blakely Fernandez, Loeffler Tuggey

Godfrey Garza, Hidalgo County

Andrew Canon, HCMPO

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5: 31 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present. Chairman Burleson then moved to item 2. – Consider Approval of December 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes. As there were no changes ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Ruben Plata seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 3. – Public Comment. As there were no Public Comments the Chairman then moved to item 4. – Discussion and Possible Action RE: Meeting Schedule. At the conclusion of discussion it was the consensus of the Board to meet on January 30, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court Room in Edinburg, Texas to hear presentations from the three law firms that submitted Requests For Qualifications (RFQ) for Legal Counsel, then have the regular Board meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2007. No Action needed.

At conclusion of Discussion on the Meeting Schedule Chairman Burleson moved to item 5. – Presentation by Gerry Pate, Pate Engineering RE: Pass Through Toll Financing and recognized Mr. Gerry Pate. Mr. Pate gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding his firms experience on planning and building Pass Through Tolls. Mr. Pate stated that historically road improvements went exclusively through

TxDOT for approval and financing, but currently TxDOT was requiring local governments to finance their road improvements. In conclusion, Mr. Pate suggested that the best strategic route for the HCRMA to achieve its transportation goals would be to hire a team, such as Pate Engineering, that would implement what they plan.

Upon conclusion of the Pate Engineering Presentation Chairman Burleson moved to item 6. – Discussion of Preparation of 2007 Budget, and recognized Mr. Ken Jones. Mr. Jones asked the board to consider authorization for the LRGVDC and HCMPO to prepare a budget to offset the costs incurred for support cost sharing on an as needed basis with the HCMPO. This budget could be prepared for consideration for the February Board meeting. It was the consensus of the Board to include this item on the February Agenda.

The Chairman then moved to item 7. – Presentation of Expense Report. Mr. Ken Jones was again recognized and informed the Board that the Expense Report included funding from Hidalgo County received in December 2006, and cost for the TML Errors & Omissions Coverage and Bond coverage received in early January 2007. Mr. Jones asked for approval of the format presented as well as payment of the expenses. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to ratify the Expense Report format as presented as well as payment of the expenses detailed therein. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*** Mr. Jones added that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court had approved, for 2007, an additional \$200,000 on a loan basis to help support getting the HCRMA off the ground. Chairman Burleson stated that the Executive Committee had decided to request that the county transfer those funds to the HCRMA to begin education programs and pay expenses. Mr. Jones stated that a letter of request on, HCRMA letterhead, from the Chairman to the Hidalgo County Budget Office would be the proper course of action to get the funds transferred.

Upon conclusion of action on item 7, Chairman Burleson then moved to item 8. – Status Reports.

Regarding item 8.A. - Selection of General Counsel Services, the Chairman informed the Board that Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC Procurement Officer and he had opened the three (3) RFQ packets received for General Counsel Services at the designated date and time. The firms that submitted the RFQs were: Loeffler Tuggey, Bernstein & Rosenthal; Lock, Liddell, & Sapp; and Allen, Boone, Humphries & Robinson. The Chairman stated that the Executive Committee had met with Mr. Morales prior to the Board meeting and determined that these firms did meet the qualifications set forth by the Board and determined that the best way to decide which firm would represent the Board would be to have each firm give a thirty to forty-five minute presentation during a special meeting scheduled for January, 30, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

Regarding item 8.B. – Team TX Meeting held Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> in Austin. Chairman Burleson stated that Mr. Andrew Canon, HCMPO, Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC, and he had attended the Team TX meeting. The Chairman stated that one of the more interesting topics discussed was regarding increasing the Gasoline Tax. The next Team TX meeting was scheduled in Dallas in April 2007. Mr. Ken Jones added that the HCRMA was an official member of Team TX, and that no membership dues was required for any of the members.

Regarding item 8.C. – TxDOT Meeting with RMA's and Associated MPO's (Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>). Chairman Burleson stated that Mr. Ken Jones, Mr. Andrew Canon and he would be attending this meeting and the Chairman planned on asking Mr. Raul Lozano, Hidalgo County to also attend.

Regarding item 8.D. – RFQ RE: Website Services. Mr. Ken Jones was recognized and reported that the

RFQ for Website Services would be ready for consideration by the Board at the February meeting.

Chairman Burleson then gave a summary of activities for the next month:

- Select Firm for Legal Counsel
- Invite Alamo RMA or CTRMA to give presentation on public involvement
- Release RFP for Financial advisor
- Establish subcommittees for Finance, Planning, Rail, and Extra County Relations.

Mr. Jones invited the Board and guests to attend the LRGVDC Groundbreaking ceremony of the Rio Transit Services Expansion on Thursday, January 25, 2007. Mr. Jones stated that the HCMPO, legislators and elected officials would also be invited.

At the conclusion of the status reports ***Chairman Burleson called for a motion for adjournment. Mr. Ruben Plata so moved; Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.***

ATTEST:

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Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer