

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2007**

**CITY OF MISSION COMMISSIONERS CHAMBERS
1201 8TH STREET, MISSION, TX**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 11, 2007 at the City of Mission City Commission Room in Mission, TX.

In attendance were:

Board Members

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

Others

Mr. Ken N. Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC
Ms. Mary Escalona, HCMPO
Mr. Andrew A. Canon, HCMPO
Ms. Gerry Pate, Pate Engineering
Mr. Jose G. Reyes, TEDSI
Mr. Ron Morrison, RBC Capital Markets
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein
Sandoloski Agather LLP
Ms. Alma Walzer, S & B Infrastructure
Mr. Julio Cerda, City of Mission
Mr. Shaine Mata, Representatives Aaron Peña Office

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

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 introduced Mr. Julio Cerda, City Manager, who welcomed back the HCRMA Board members and the audience to the City of Mission. Mr. Cerda also invited the HCRMA to hold future meetings in the City of Mission.

2. **Consider Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2007 HCRMA Meeting**Chairman
Chairman Burleson then moved to item 2. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes from August 9, 2007 as presented. Mr. Ruben Plata 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 Expense Report**Chairman

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 4. Mr. Ken Jones stated that attached to the expense report provided to the Board Members was a detailed invoice from legal counsel and the combined expenditure report. He stated that the current balance was \$167,373.26 and asked for approval to pay the Legal Counsel invoice and administrative expenses and salaries in the amount of: \$9,858.00. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Expense Report and payment of the expenses listed. Mr. Ruben Plata seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Presentation of LRGVDC’s Annual Audit**.....Chairman

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 5. Mr. Ken Jones stated that the outcome of the LRGVDC Annual Audit, which included the revenue and expenditures of the HCRMA, was favorable and there were no findings or questioned costs noted by the auditor. Mr. Jones added that the LRGVDC Board of Directors approved this report as presented at their September, 2007 meeting. A full detailed copy of the LRGVDC Annual Audit would be made available upon request to anyone interested in reviewing it. Upon conclusion of Mr. Jones’ report **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Annual Audit. Mr. Ricardo Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Report from Hidalgo County Road Builders**.....Chairman

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 6. Mr. Gerry Pate stated that meetings had taken place between the Hidalgo County Road Builders and TxDOT to discuss the Hidalgo County Loop. The firm would soon open an office in the McAllen area and Ms. Veronica De La Fuente had been hired to conduct Public Outreach. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

Status Report.....Chairman

A. Discussion Re: Establishment of Sub-Committee & Task Forces

Chairman Burleson stated that Mr. Ramiro Salazar, Vice Chairman Rick Perez and Mr. Joe Olivarez would organize the Planning Committee. The consultant will meet with the Planning sub-committee before the regular scheduled RMA Meeting. Formation of the other Sub-committees was pending. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

B. Report from TxDOT

Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that TxDOT staff held meetings with Hidalgo County Road Builders regarding the SIB Loan. Final approval of the loan should take a couple of months.

Mr. Jorge stated that a Transportation Conference was scheduled to take place the following week at College Station, TX. Mr. Jorge then suggested that a full time Project Manager to oversee the Hidalgo County Loop Project would be an asset to the HCRMA staff. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Discussion Re: Overview on SIB, TRIZ and Pass Through Processes

Mr. Gerry Pate, Hidalgo County Road Builders gave a brief presentation regarding the Hidalgo County Southern Loop. Mr. Pate presented the Board members with a SIB Loan application for \$15 million. Mr. Pate stated that he had reviewed this application with TxDOT to determine if this Loan would be a benefit to the HCRMA. Mr. Ron Morrison gave a power point presentation which gave more detail regarding SIB loans. **Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to approve SIB Loan Application. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

D. Transportation Center Dedication Ceremonies

Mr. Ken Jones stated that the LRGVDC's Transit Transportation Center would be ready by the beginning of November 2007 and offered the use of the new board room facility to the HCRMA, who graciously accepted. It was then the consensus of the Board to schedule their next meeting for Thursday, November 8, 2007 at 5:30 p.m. at the new Transportation Center in Weslaco, TX. Mr. Jones invited the HCRMA Board of Directors to attend the Center's dedication ceremony that was scheduled for Thursday, November 29, 2007 immediately following the LRGVDC Board of Directors meeting. The HCMPO was scheduled to meet that same day at 5:30 p.m. following the celebration.

Mr. Jones brought the Board's attention to individualized Business Card proofs provided to each Board Member for their approval, and added that the designated HCRMA phone line was operational and also had voice mail to handle after hours calls.

E. Report from Legal Counsel

- Consideration of assumption of environmental engagement for Hidalgo County including local matching obligations.

Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein Sandoloski Agather LLP, presented a resolution authorizing the HCRB to take action to 1) initiate an environmental review, 2) the HCRMA to accept an invitation from TxDOT to serve as joint lead agency in NEPA process, and 3) the HCRMA to oversee NEPA process. ***Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Mr. Ramiro Salazar, seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

7. New or Old Business

None at this time.

8. Adjournment

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.***

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer