

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:00 P.M. – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2006
HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT ROOM
100 EAST CANO – EDINBURG, TX**

PRESIDING: DENNIS BURLESON, CHAIRMAN

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at the Hidalgo County Administrative Building, Commissioner's Court Room in Edinburg, Texas. In attendance were:

Board Members

Chairman: Mr. Dennis Burleson
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Rick Perez
Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Ramiro Salazar
Mr. Joe Olivarez
Mr. Ruben Plata
Mr. Ruben Serna
Mr. Roberto Villarreal

Others

Mr. Godfrey Garza, HCDD #1
Mr. Asael Pecina, HCDD #1
Ms. Robin Boone, TxDOT
Ms. Melba Ramos, TxDOT
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT
Com. Hector "Tito" Palacios, Hidalgo County
Mr. Steven Austin, Hidalgo County
Mr. David A. Diaz, Edinburg Politics.com
Mr. Juan Lopez, City of Edinburg
Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. and announced that a quorum of Board members was present. The Chairman then moved to agenda item 2. – Consider approval of September 22, 2006 Meeting Minutes. ***Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

The Chairman then moved to agenda item 3. – Receive Presentation and Review of Projects by TxDOT and Hidalgo County Drainage District #1. Mr. Godfrey Garza, Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 (HCDD #1) was recognized and gave a presentation on the Master Drainage System Phase 2, 2006 Bond Election. Mr. Garza began with historical photos and data of damage from Hurricane Beulah in 1967 in order to demonstrate the need for current Drainage System improvements. The presentation also included photos and data of the current drainage system operating at capacity after 4"-5" of rain. Mr. Garza stated that the current system was designed for agricultural use, for water to be taken slowly to and from the system; but with the development of subdivisions and roads, water from storm drains was being introduced into the system in a matter of minutes and hours, overtaxing the system. Mr. Garza explained that based on this data the HCDD #1 Board of Directors approved putting this bond issue on the November 7, 2006 ballot. Mr. Garza then detailed the proposed improvement projects including levee improvements.

Mr. Garza then discussed some of the road projects Hidalgo County had been involved in. One of the projects was the Loop Corridor. Mr. Garza stated that the Loop Study had been originated by Hidalgo

County and had been in progress for two and a half years. Hidalgo County had been working in conjunction with TxDOT, and the corridor analysis had been cleared through public meetings. Mr. Garza stated that Hidalgo County was considering turning the Loop Corridor project and all the studies that had been done over to the HCRMA for consideration of possible improvements. Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, and Hidalgo County Commissioner Hector “Tito” Palacios were recognized to elaborate on the road projects.

Chairman Burleson asked Com. Palacios for a brief explanation of how the county built roads and the relationship between the county and TxDOT. Com. Palacios stated that the county had the responsibility of county road maintenance, construction, and re-construction, and each precinct received an allotment for road improvements. The allocation of funds was determined by the state, who distributed the limited funds earmarked for road systems to the counties. Next, certain projects were submitted to the MPO for consideration; if the MPO approved a project, then TxDOT would use allocated funds for a portion of the work on that project. Mr. Mario Jorge added that projects with the highest volume of traffic were the projects that would be selected for funding by the MPO. Mr. Jorge stated that these projects competed for limited funds; the HCMPO received an average of \$8,000,000 per year for category 7 (funds that could be used for added capacity) projects and the cost of one mile of re-curving gutter road was \$4,000,000, so the funds were stretched thin. Mr. Jorge stated that the future of the transportation for the Lower Rio Grande Valley relied on the HCRMA, because the HCRMA had the opportunity to create projects that generate revenue, such as toll roads. Mr. Jorge suggested that the HCRMA consider as one of its first projects a segment of the Loop Corridor. He informed the board that Hidalgo County had already done quite a bit of work on the connector section of the Loop, from the Military Highway to Expressway 83, and that the HCRMA could pick up the work where the County left off. Mr. Jorge suggested that the HCRMA could request a Toll Equity Loan from TxDOT that would allow the Board to complete the engineering studies. Chairman Burleson asked Mr. Jorge if doing segment studies was required, or if a grant could be obtained for a study on the entire loop project. Mr. Jorge stated that a grant for a study on the entire loop was definitely possible, and that it would be a decision of the Board to request either one.

Upon conclusion of presentation and discussion Chairman Burleson moved to item 4. – Consider Adoption of By Laws. Chairman Burleson stated that the law firm of Locke, Liddell, and Sap had written the By Laws presented to the Board for consideration as well as By Laws for many other RMA’s in the state of Texas. Upon conclusion of discussion ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the By Laws as presented. Mr. Ruben Plata seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

Upon conclusion of action on item 4, Chairman Burleson moved to item 5. – Consider Action on Surety Bonds for HCRMA Board Members. The Chairman stated that one of the statutory requirements for an RMA is that the Board Members be bonded for insurance purposes. Chairman Burleson inquired of Mr. Jones if he had received a quote for the cost of the Bonds; Mr. Jones stated that TML required the applications to be submitted prior to a quote being made. The Board Members then completed the Miscellaneous Surety Applications, which were then notarized by Ms. Sandra Boyd of the LRGVDC. No Board action was required.

The Chairman then moved to item 6. – Consider Approval of Letterhead. It was the consensus of the Board to accept the letterhead, with changes.

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 7. – Consider Adoption of Procurement Policies. The Chairman stated that the Central Texas RMA had provided a revised version of their Procurement Policy that they had adopted for the HCRMA. Upon conclusion of discussion the Board decided to review the Procurement Policies prior to taking action. ***Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to table this item. Mr. Joe***

Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Upon conclusion of action Chairman Burleson moved to item 8. – Consider Approval of Policy for Public Input. Mr. Jones explained this form had been successfully used by the LRGVDC, the Rio Grande Regional Water Planning Group, the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, and other groups associated with the LRGVDC. Mr. Jones stated that “Public Input” could be added as an agenda item, and members of the public desiring to appear before the board could fill out the form to formally address to Board for a three minute period, or simply fill out the form and ask to be included in the HCRMA mailing list. Upon conclusion of discussion **Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to adopt the Public Input Policy. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Upon conclusion of action on item 8, Chairman Burleson moved to item 9. – Consider Adoption of Conflict of Interest Policy. Chairman Burleson recognized that this was received just the previous day, and asked the Board if they would like time for review. **Mr. Rick Perez made a motion to table this item stating that he would like to take this item under advisement prior to acting on it. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 10. – Consider Engagement of Temporary Legal Council. The Chairman stated that CTRMA had provided the Board a copy of their request for Proposal for General Council, but that temporary council was not required by the Board at this time. Chairman Burleson stated that this item could be reviewed in future Board meetings. **Mr. Rick Perez made a motion to table this item. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

The Chairman then moved to item 11. – New or Old Business. Chairman Burleson recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones suggested the next meeting location be discussed. Chairman Burleson asked the Board to review a form that indicated a selection of dates and times for a TxDOT Mobility 101 Workshop. It was the consensus of the Board to attend the workshop on Friday, November 17th from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and conduct a brief meeting prior to the start of the workshop at the TxDOT office in Pharr, TX.

Upon conclusion of discussion, Chairman Burleson moved to item 12. – Pubic Comment. As there were not public comments, the Chairman then moved to item 13. – Adjournment. Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Roberto Villarreal seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer