

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
510 SOUTH PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE, WESLACO, TX**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at the LRGVDC Transportation Center Conference Room, 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX.

In attendance were:

Board Members

Mr. Dennis Burleson, Chairman
Mr. Rick Perez, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Ramiro, Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Joe Olivarez
Mr. Ruben Serna
Mr. Ricardo Perez
Mr. Ramon Garcia

Others

Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Ms. Mary Escalona, HCMPO
Mr. Gerry Pate, Pate Engineering
Mr. Jose G. Reyes, TEDSI
Mr. Joe Garza, Edinburg Star. Net
Mr. Ron Morrison, RBC Capital Markets
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein
Sandoloski Agather LLP
Ms. Alma Walzer, S & B Infrastructure
Mr. Tom Griebel, Pape-Dawson Engineers
Mr. Steve Bonnette, Pape-Dawson Engineers
Mr. Tom Rayfield, Law Office
Mr. Justo Gonzalez Jr., Civil Engineer
Ms. Veronica De la Fuente, HCRB
Mr. Robert Diaz de Leon, Alamo EDC
Mr. Eddie Saenz, J.B. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Sam Maldonado, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Gary Raba, Raba Kistner
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT
Mr. Jody Ellington, TxDOT
Ms. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT
Mr. David Diaz, EdinburgPolitics.com
Mr. Oscar Cuellar Jr., City of Peñitas
Mr. Joseph Palacios, Hidalgo County Pct. 1
Mr. Paul M. Vazaldua Jr., Border Visions Consulting

1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

2. Swearing in of New Board Member Ramon Garcia.....Chairman

Chairman Dennis Burleson introduced Mr. Ramon Garcia as the new Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board Member. Mr. Garcia stated that he was pleased and honored to be a part of the HCRMA. Mr. Garcia then introduced Judge Luis Garza who performed the swearing in ceremony for the Oath of Office.

3. **Consider Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2007 HCRMA Meeting**Chairman
Chairman Burleson moved to item 3. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the minutes from October 11, 2007 as presented. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

4. **Public Comment**
Chairman Burleson moved to item 4. - Public Comment; however no one had signed up for Public Comment.

5. **Consider Approval RE: Expense / Budget Reports**.....Chairman
Chairman Burleson moved to item 5. Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC, was recognized and stated that \$81,328.00 in contributions had been received from several entities in Hidalgo County. Mr. Jones then informed the Board that in consultation with Secretary/Treasure Salazar, the format of the Expense Report had been revised with the assistance of the LRGVDC Finance Department. Mr. Jones then summarized the expenses from October 2007 and November 2007. Mr. Ramiro Salazar, Board Secretary/Treasurer, requested further clarification of expenses in the form of written explanations for internal expenses that do not generate invoices. Mr. Jones confirmed that future expense reports would include said information. Mr. Salazar then noted the decrease in the amount of interest earned on the balance of the HCRMA funds. Mr. Jones stated he would inquire on this matter and provide the Board with an answer at the earliest opportunity. Upon conclusion of discussion *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve payment of the October 2007 and November 2007 expenses with an explanation of the change to the amount of interest earned. Mr. Rick Perez, Vice Chairman, seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

6. **Consider Approval of Contract with City of McAllen RE: Funds in Support of Administrative Budget**..... **Ken Jones**
Chairman Burleson moved to item 6. Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC, informed the Board that the City of McAllen awarded \$50,000 to the HCRMA toward the 2008 budget, and in order to receive the funds the City of McAllen required the HCRMA to enter into a non-restrictive contract. Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that legal counsel reviewed the contract and approved it. *Mr. Ruben Serna made a motion to approve entering into the Contract with the City of McAllen for a \$50,000 budget contribution. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

7. **Consider Procurement of Professional Services**.....**Chairman**
Chairman Burleson moved to item 7. The Chairman stated that the Board had a need to secure professional services. Ms. Fernandez recommended approval of the Resolution regarding Solicitation for Letters Of Interest (LOI) for a Project Development Consultant. The recommended method of distribution for the resolution would be via U.S. Postal service to entities who had expressed an interest in providing this type of service, as well as posting it to the HCRMA website, the Team Texas website and to the Texas Register on the Secretary of State website with a deadline of January 2, 2008 for submittals. Ms. Fernandez stated the selection would be based solely on the qualifications of the applicant. Upon conclusion of discussion *Mr. Rick Perez, Vice Chairman, made a motion to approve*

the Board Resolution for the Solicitation for Letters Of Interest RE: Project Development Consultant, for said resolution to be mailed to interested parties, and posted to the HCRMA website, the Team Texas website and to the Texas Register. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

8. **Discussion RE: HCRMA’s Authority to Borrow Money**.....**Ron Morrison**
 Chairman Burluson moved to item 8. Mr. Ron Morrison gave a brief presentation on Financing Mechanisms for Transportation. The presentation illustrated various means of borrowing money for transportation projects. Mr. Jesus Ramirez recommended the Board plan a workshop to further discuss this topic. Upon conclusion of the presentation and discussion it was the consensus of the Board that this item should be brought back at a later date. *No action taken.*

9. **Consider Approval RE: Intent to Reimburse Expenditures with Proceeds of Tax Exempt Obligations**.....**Ron Morrison**
 Chairman Burluson moved to item 9. Mr. Jesus Ramirez recommended approval of “A Resolution Designating the Chairman of the Board of the HCRMA as Authorized Representative of the HCRMA to Give Notice of Intent to Reimburse Expenditures with Proceeds of Tax Exempt Obligations”. Mr. Ramirez stated that from time to time the Board may undertake certain transportation projects as authorized by the Texas Transportation Code, which may include expenditures for certain professional services. This resolution would designate Chairman Burluson as the authorized representative of the HCRMA to give “Notice of Intent to Reimburse Project Expenditures”. Upon conclusion of discussion *Mr. Rick Perez, Vice Chairman, made a motion to approve “A Resolution Designating the Chairman of the Board of the HCRMA as Authorized Representative of the HCRMA to “Give Notice of Intent to Reimburse Expenditures with Proceeds of Tax Exempt Obligations”. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

10. **Consider Request RE: Update Law Firm of Montalvo & Ramirez with Law Firm of Ramirez & Guerrero****Jesus Ramirez**
 Chairman Burluson moved to item 10. Mr. Jesus Ramirez advised the Board that he was no longer in partnership with Montalvo and Ramirez, and that he had formed a new law firm, Ramirez and Guerrero. Mr. Ramirez had worked with Mr. Guerrero for approximately 17 years. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the update of the Law Firm of Montalvo & Ramirez to the Law Firm of Ramirez & Guerrero. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

11. **Status Report**.....**Chairman**

A. Report from TxDOT**Mario Jorge**
 Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, welcomed Mr. Ramon Garcia as the new Hidalgo County RMA Board Member. Mr. Jorge informed the Board that the HCRMA SIB loan was approved by the Pharr TxDOT office and submitted to TxDOT in Austin for final approval. At this time Mr. Jorge did not anticipate difficulty with approval from Austin. Mr. Jorge then informed the Board that a Market Evaluation Workshop was scheduled to take place the following week and invited the Board to attend; further information on this event was to be provided at a later date. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

B. Report from Hidalgo County Road Builders**Gerry Pate**

Mr. Gerry Pate stated that HCRB has had several meetings with TxDOT and other entities involved with the Southern Loop Project. Mr. Pate commented that even though the HCRMA SIB loan was being reviewed by TxDOT in Austin there may or may not be funding available for the loan due to the TxDOT funding crisis. Mr. Pate added that because of the \$10.00 vehicle registration fee from Hidalgo County, the HCRMA was probably the only entity like this in the state of Texas that was positioned to move forward with its own revenue source to develop needed projects. Mr. Pate added that basically the fee was designed to provide the HCRMA with funds to move forward with roadway projects without dependence on outside sources of funding. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

C. Legal Counsel Update..... Blakely Fernandez

Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that the status of current legal council activities was covered under previous agenda items.

D. Report from Financial Advisor..... Ron Morrison

Mr. Ron Morrison had provided his status report along with his presentation on item #9.

12. **New or Old Business**

Chairman Burleson recognized Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones suggested that in order for the Board to receive an expense report complete with all the requested attachments prior to the meeting, the Board may want to consider scheduling its regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month instead of the second Thursday. This extra week would allow the LRGVDC Finance Department ample time to prepare the requested documentation. Chairman Burleson stated that, at least for January 2008, scheduling the meeting for the third Thursday would conflict with prior engagements. Chairman Burleson then informed the Board that arrangements had been made for the January meeting to be held at the Tech Center at UTPA in Edinburg.

Chairman Burleson then stated that at this time he would like to appoint a Planning Committee and a Finance Committee. The committees were formed as follows:

Finance Committee

Mr. Ricardo Perez, Chair of Finance Committee
Mr. Ruben Serna
Mr. Ramon Garcia

Planning Committee

Mr. Joe Olivarez, Chair of Planning Committee
Mr. Ramiro Salazar
Mr. Rick Perez

No action needed.

13. **Adjournment**

As there was no further business to conduct, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.***

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer