

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008
LRGVDC TRANSIT CENTER
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, February 28, 2008, LRGVDC Transit Center, 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, TX 78596.

In attendance were:

Board Members

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

Others

Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Mary Escalona, HCMPO
Mr. Andrew A. Canon, HCMPO
Mr. Gerry Pate, Pate Engineering
Mr. Jose G. Reyes, Hidalgo County/ TEDSI
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein Sandoloski Agather LLP
Mr. Allen Butcher, Raba-Kistner
Mr. Joe Hernandez, Raba-Kistner
Ms. Veronica De la Fuente, HCRB
Mr. Richard Zamora, HCRB
Mr. Joe Califa, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Ms. Jessica Mendoza, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Sam Maldonado, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT
Mr. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT
Mr. David Diaz, EdinburgPolitics.com

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

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

2. **Public Comment**

Chairman Burleson moved to item 2. - Public Comment; and noted that no one had signed up for Public Comment.

3. **Status Report**.....Chairman

A. Report from TxDOTMario Jorge

1. Consider Local Transportation Project Advance Funding Agreement

A. Mr. Jorge stated that a Commission Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2008 to discuss the HCRMA's SIB Loan Application. Mr. Jorge will be attending this meeting and will give the Board Members a report but if this item is placed on the Commission Agenda, he recommends that a Board Member attend the meeting and make a brief presentation.

B. Mr. Jorge stated that a draft Earmark agreement for the Southwest Segment of the Loop was given to the Board Members for review, and emphasized that this agreement is only a draft and will be brought back at a later time for consideration. Mr. Jorge then offered to meet with Board Members to address any questions or concerns.

C. Mr. Jorge stated that a memo was given to the Board Members regarding the continuing project development on Military Highway. He stated that staff was expecting correspondence from the HCRMA Board members in order to continue working on the environmental study.

D. Mr. Jorge stated that TxDOT has initiated the Market Valuation for the La Joya Loop is currently in progress and a meeting on this matter will be scheduled in the near future. Mr. Burlison advised Mr. Jorge that he would like Mr. Everett Owen to be the point of contact for Market Valuation.

E. Mr. Jorge stated that TxDOT is finalizing the selection for the Rail Consultants for the Rail Study and an up on this item will be presented to the HCRMA Board in May 2008.

B. Report from Hidalgo County Road BuildersGerry Pate

Mr. Jacinto Garza, HCRB, gave a brief report regarding the Hidalgo County Loop Project and briefly described the phases that staff had been working on. He stated that a workshop will be scheduling in the near future to discuss in detail the maps that will be provided. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

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

1. Consider Resolution and Request for Letter of Interest Re: HCRMA Executive Director (Tabled 2/13/08).

No reports were given at this time regarding the Resolution and Request for Letter of Interest Re: HCRMA Executive Director. Mr. Burlison stated that this item will be left on the table and will be brought back at the March 13, 2008 HCRMA meeting.

2. Consider Resolution and RFQ for Bookkeeping and Accounting Services (Tabled 2/13/2008)

Mr. Ramon Garcia made a motion to remove this item from the table for release, Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion and upon a vote this item was taken off the table.

Mr. Burleson recommended the adoption of the Resolution and RFQ for Bookkeeping and Accounting Services and the release of the RFQ for advertisement. The RFQ will be advertised in the local papers, HCRMA website and other Transportation websites. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to adopt the Resolution and RFQ for Bookkeeping and Accounting Services, Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

3. Consider Preliminary Development Agreement with Hidalgo County Roadbuilders

Mr. Burleson asked Mr. Owen for a report. Mr. Ramiro Salazar asked Mr. Owen about the negotiations with HCRB. Mr. Owen gave a brief report on the process and the outcome. Mr. Owen stated that the contract along with attachment D had been received and that after meeting with legal counsel and the Executive Committee; HCRB submitted a contract fee of \$49,557,000. After further negotiation; an agreement amount of \$46,556,715 was approved. Mr. Ramon Garcia asked several questions regarding Right of Way acquisition and condemnation. He requested that Legal Counsel report on the condemnation process. Mr. Burleson asked if the Board Members would like to go into Executive Session to meet with counsel on legal issues related to the proposed contract. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:10 pm, Mr. Rick Perez, Vice-Chairman, second the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Burleson adjourned into Executive Session pursuant to Texas Open Meetings Act Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney, noting that no action would be taken.*

Reconvened at 6:58pm.

Mr. Burleson stated that no action was taken during Executive Session. Mr. Burleson stated that the County initiated environmental work on the Hidalgo County Loop Project. He asked Mr. Gerry Pate if the Hidalgo County study was going to be used in the current environmental review. Mr. Jacinto Garza, HCRB, answered in the affirmative. Mr. Garza stated that the County study will save time in certain aspects of the project and in funding. Mr. Ramon Garcia asked several questions regarding the map attached as Attachment A to the Agreement and that outlines the segments of the Loop Project. Mr. Garza advised Mr. Garcia that section D on the map is not currently included in the preliminary work but noted that the Hidalgo County MPO currently has section D in their Long Range Plan. Mr. Burleson asked the Board Members if they would like to wait until next month's Board Meeting to adopt this agreement or to adopt the agreement subject to final legal review. *Mr. Rick Perez, Vice-Chairman, made a motion to adopt the agreement subject to final legal review, Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that the Board Members had been provided with Financial Disclosures forms and instructions and that the disclosures were due by April 30, 2008. She stated that the HCRMA Annual Report was due to the County no later than March 30th,

2008. Mr. Burleson confirmed that a report has been mailed out to the County. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

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

1. Discussion and Consideration of Resolution Re: Investment Policy
No reports were given at this time.

4. **New or Old Business**

No reports were given at this time.

5. **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. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.***

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer