

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, MAY 08, 2008
MERCEDES CITY HALL
400 SOUTH OHIO, MERCEDES, TEXAS
Mercedes, Texas**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 08, 2008 at the City of Mercedes, Texas.

In attendance were:

Board Members

Mr. Dennis Burleson, Chairman
Mr. Ramiro, Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Ramon Garcia
Mr. Joe Olivarez

Others

Mr. Ken Jones, LRGVDC
Ms. Mary Escalona, HCMPO
Ms. Maria Champine, HCMPO
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein
Sandoloski Agather LLP
Mr. Gerry Pate, Pate Engineering
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting
Ms. Veronica De la Fuente, HCRB
Mr. Ron Morrison, RBC Capital Market
Mr. Sam Maldonado, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Joe Califa, J.E. Saenz & Assoc.
Mr. Richard Zamora, HCRB
Mr. Joe A. Marks, P.E., Ballenger
Ms. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

Chairman Burleson advised the Board members if they would prefer to approve the new template agenda with the constant monthly items. Mr. Burleson stated that he would like to try the new template for a couple of months and see if that would work better for the board members. He also advised the Board members that he would like to have the reports from Legal Counsel, Everett Owen, TxDOT and HCRB to be under constant items. ***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve to use the new Agenda Template and to have the Legal Counsel, Everett Owen, TxDOT and HCRB are to be added under constant items. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Burleson moved to item 3. - Public Comment; and noted no one had signed up for Public Comment.

3. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. April 10, 2008

B. Discussion and/or action including but not limited to the approval of Expense Reports

Ms. Champine stated that the only change in the Expense Report was the addition of Everett Owen Invoice.

C. Travel Items Requests

None at this time

Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the all of the Constant items as presented and the additions to the Expense Report. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. WELCOME AND UPDATE FROM THE CITY OF MERCEDES

Chairman Burluson introduced Commissioner Diana Tovar, City of Mercedes, welcomed the HCRMA Board members and the audience to the City of Mercedes. She invited the HCRMA to hold future meetings in the City of Mercedes.

5. KATHRYN SANCHEZ, TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Tolling & Considerations on the Border

Ms. Kathryn Sanchez gave a brief presentation regarding the Tolling and Considerations on the Border. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

A. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation District Engineer.

Norma Garza, TxDOT, stated that they are working on the letter for the La Joya Bypass and this item may be brought back to the either the June Meeting. At this time they have been reviewing the Advance Funding Agreement. Mr. Burluson stated that the Hidalgo County MPO will need to pass a resolution to give the Hidalgo County RMA jurisdiction to develop the project. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

B. Everett Owen, Project Consultant

Mr. Everett Owen stated that the RMA has been working diligently with Hidalgo County Road Builders and TxDOT. He stated that HCRB has been preparing for the workshop meetings that have been scheduled in Hidalgo County. He advised the Board that as soon as the Advance Funding Agreement is ready, it will take the place of the proposed MOU between the Hidalgo County RMA and TxDOT.

C. Gerry Pate, Hidalgo County Road Builders

Mr. Gerry Pate gave a brief presentation to the Board Members regarding the proposed alignment of the Hidalgo County Loop. He stated that the map of the Loop is also being presented at all of the Public Meetings.

D. Ron Morrison, RBC Capital Markets

Mr. Ron Morrison reviewed the financing schedule with the board. Mr. Barron Wallace, Vinson & Elkins LLP, will be giving a more thorough update report regarding the Credit Agreement between Hidalgo County RMA and First National Bank.

E. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein

Ms. Fernandez made no report. Barron Wallace, Vinson & Elkins LLP, bond counsel, reviewed the credit agreement and resolution with board.

7. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION AND ACTION:

A. Approval of Line of Credit Agreement and related documents to finance preliminary work on Loop Project

Mr. Barron Wallace, Vinson & Elkins LLP, stated that this agreement ratifies the agreement that was originally approved at last month's RMA meeting. He stated that in response to discussions with the Attorney General, there were a couple of changes being proposed to the board. Mr. Wallace stated that due to the changes to the credit agreement, he was presenting a revised resolution and credit agreement to the board for approval. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the new updated Resolution and Credit Agreement with the additions and changes. Mr. Joe Olivarez seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Consideration and possible approval of a resolution and request for Letter of Interest for the possible hiring of an Executive Director.

Mr. Burleson stated that the Letter of Interest for the Executive Director position has been presented to the board several times. The Board members requested that the position be advertised. Mr. Burleson stated that the advertisement will take about one month and the interviewing process will be another month. **Mr. Ramon Garcia made a motion to go ahead and advertise for the position of an Executive Director. Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

C. Consideration and possible selection of a Bookkeeping and Accounting Services firm.

Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC Procurement Officer, stated that there were three firms that had submitted a proposal. Mr. Morales stated that after reviewing all three proposals; they were recommending Salinas, Allen & Schmitt LLP. Mr. Joe Olivarez asked if all three firms were going to be interviewed by the entire Board. Mr. Burleson stated the Executive Committee met and reviewed all three proposals. After further discussion, the board recommended Salinas, Allen & Schmitt LLP. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to select Salinas, Allen & Schmitt LLP as the Bookkeeping and Accounting Firm for the Hidalgo County RMA. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion and upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

8. PREVIEW OF OPEN HOUSE PRESENTATIONS FOR THE LOOP PROJECT

Mr. Gerry Pate presented the format and schedule for open house meetings on the project. He stated there will be additional maps available for the public to review. The maps will be divided into different sections. There will be someone to greet the public as they are coming in and various staff members from all of the HCRB team. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 551:

- A. Section 551.071. Consultation with Attorney
- B. Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property
- C. Section 551.074. Personnel Matters

No executive session was held.

10. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- A. Possible Action
- B. Possible Action
- C. Possible Action

No action items were taken.

11. NEW OR OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer

Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority
Approved On:
June 12, 2008
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