

# MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
5:30 P.M. – TUESDAY, JULY 01, 2008  
LRGVDC TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE ROOM  
510 S. PLEASANTVIEW DRIVE  
WESLACO, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, July 01, 2008 at the LRGVDC Transportation Conference Room, Weslaco, TX.

In attendance were:

Board Members

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

Others

Ms. Mary Escalona  
Ms. Maria Champine  
Mr. Ken N. Jones, LRGVDC  
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC  
Ms. Blakely Fernandez, Tuggey Rosenthal Pauerstein  
Sandoloski Agather LLP  
Mr. Ron Morrison, RBC  
Ms. Cheryl Bellamy, Salinas Allen & Schmitt  
Mr. Everett Owen, Owen Consulting  
Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT  
Ms. Norma Y. Garza, TxDOT  
Mr. Joe Vasquez, Hidalgo County  
Mr. Steve Taylor, Rio Grande Guardian  
Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB  
Mr. Reza Badiozzamani, L & G- HCRB  
Mr. Jacinto Garza, L & G  
Mr. Joe Marks, Ballenger Construction  
Mr. Tommy Ballenger, Ballenger Construction  
Mr. J.C. Ballenger Sr, Ballenger Construction  
Ms. Jennie Taraborelli, HCRB  
Ms. Veronica De La Fuente, HCRB  
Mr. Jeremy Santoscoy, City of McAllen  
Mr. Homero Gutierrez, JES  
Mr. Juan F. Uribe Jr., JES  
Mr. Javed R. Khan, JES

## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Burleson introduced Mr. Forrest Runnels. Mr. Runnels briefly stated his concerns for the proposed Hidalgo County Loop Alignment Section C on behalf of the Looney and Vaughan families. Mr. Burleson invited Mr. Runnels to attend the RMA Public Meetings that are scheduled for July 2008.

### 3. CONSENT ITEMS:

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. June 12, 2008.
- B. Discussion and / or action including but not limited to the approval of Expense Reports
- C. Travel Items Requests
  - None at this time.

***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve all of the Consent items as presented. Vice Chairman Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.***

### 4. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

- A. **BLAKELY FERNANDEZ, TUGGEY ROSENTHAL PAUERSTEIN SANDOLSKI AGATHER, LLP**
  - 1. Discussion and possible consideration regarding the Executive Director Employment submissions and set possible procedures for such applicants.***

Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that staff advertised for the Executive Director position in the local newspapers, government websites and the RMA website. The responses were due this past Friday and the RMA received six (6) applicants. She suggested that the RMA committees meet to review all applicants. Mr. Burleson suggested that this item be tabled to give all of the Board members an opportunity to review the applications. Mr. Rick Perez concurred. Mr. Burleson suggested having the Finance and Planning Committees meet to review the applicants. ***This item was tabled for further review and will be brought back for discussion at a future meeting.***
  
- B. **EVERETT OWEN, PROJECT CONSULTANT**
  - 1. Discussion and consideration of project timelines.***

Mr. Everett Owen distributed a list of key dates regarding the Hidalgo County Loop project. He briefly went through the list and defined what each item was. He stated that he will present project updates at each meeting. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***
  
- C. **GERRY PATE, HIDALGO COUNTY ROAD BUILDERS**
  - 1. Discussion regarding an update on public involvement and open houses scheduled for July as well as any future meetings.***

Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB, stated that a status report was distributed to all of the Board members. He stated that he will be giving a more thorough status report every month. At this time, HCRB is defining the alignment(s) and working on a preferred alignment. A list of public meetings dates and times have been scheduled for the month of July 2008. After all public input has been analyzed, the preferred alignment may change. Mr. Pate stated that a newspaper ad will also be printed in the *Monitor, Frontera* and other local newspapers promoting public involvement in the project. Mr. Ramon Garcia recommended that a copy of the proposed map be included in the advertisement in the newspapers and websites. Mr. Pate stated that a recommended ad will be submitted to Board Members for review prior to publication. ***Reports only, no action taken at this time.***

**D. RON MORRISON, RBC CAPITAL MARKETS**

Mr. Ron Morrison briefly reviewed the schedule that Mr. Everett Owen presented. He stated that an independent study is underway on the Traffic and Revenue Study by a consultant to HCRB. Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB, will be keeping everyone up to date regarding this study. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

**E. CHERYL BELLAMY, SAS, LLP**

Ms. Cheryl Bellamy gave status report on the financial record keeping. Ms. Bellamy provided the board a list of transactions. She stated that her firm is still working with the LRGVDC Finance Department in getting all final funds transferred to the new RMA bank accounts. She stated that SAS will be making electronic checks when needed. Ms. Bellamy stated that she will be giving a financial report every month. **Reports only, no action taken at this time.**

**F. MARIO JORGE, P.E. TEXAS DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. Mario Jorge stated that TxDOT will also be present at the RMA Public meetings that have been scheduled for July. Mr. Jorge also gave a brief update on the I-69 Project. He advised the Board members that TxDOT is still studying both options to connect I-69 to either US281 or US77.

**5. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TECHNICALLY PREFERRED ALIGNMENTS FOR SECTIONS A, B, C, AND D OF THE HIDALGO COUNTY LOOP PROJECT.**

Chairman Burluson stated that the RMA Planning Committee has reviewed all of the proposed alignments. Mr. Joe Olivarez stated that the Planning Committee met to discuss and analyzed all sections of the Hidalgo County Loop. They recommend approval of Exhibit A as the Preferred Alignment for the Hidalgo County Loop. Mr. Ramiro Salazar stated that once the corridor is analyzed further there could be unanticipated obstacles that may result in a need to reconsider and reapprove the technically approved alignment. Ms. Fernandez confirmed that the Board's action may be reconsidered at a later time to take into account public comment and other unanticipated facts and circumstances. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve Exhibit A as the Technically Preferred Alignment as presented. Mr. Ricardo Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously**

**6. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2008-12 APPROVING TECHNICALLY PREFERRED ALIGNMENT FOR THE HIDALGO COUNTY LOOP PROJECT.**

Chairman Burluson stated that Resolution 2008-12 reflects back to item 5 approving Exhibit A as the Technically Preferred Alignment for the Hidalgo County Loop Project. Mr. Ramon Salazar stated that there were some minor typos on the resolution. Ms. Blakely Fernandez stated that the changes will be made. Mr. Ramon Garcia recommends that someone meet with Senator Chuy Hinojosa and give him an update. Mr. Gerry Pate stated that HCRB has met with Senator Chuy Hinojosa. **Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve Resolution 2008-12 approving Exhibit A as the Technically Preferred Alignment for the Hidalgo County Loop with the changes to the Resolution. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.**

**7. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION 2008-13 REGARDING AN AGREEMENT WITH TXDOT TO ASSUME JURISDICTION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MILITARY HIGHWAY.**

Chairman Burleson stated that TxDOT has asked the RMA to assume the jurisdiction for the development of Military Highway. Mr. Burleson stated that the Hidalgo County MPO will be giving the Hidalgo County RMA jurisdiction of the Military Highway. The MPO is scheduled to approve this resolution. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve Resolution 2008-13: Regarding and Agreement with TxDOT to Assume Jurisdiction for Development of Military Highway. Vice Chairman Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

**8. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE AUTHORIZATION TO ALLOW THE CHAIRMAN TO REQUEST HIDALGO COUNTY TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSPORTATION REINVESTMENT ZONE (TRZ) REQUIRED FOR THE HIDALGO COUNTY LOOP PROJECT.**

Chairman Burleson stated that he is requesting that the board give him authorization to request that Hidalgo County take the steps necessary to authorize the transportation reinvestment zone (TRZ) required for the Hidalgo County Loop Project. Mr. Burleson stated that he will submit a memo to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court to make a formal request. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to give authorization to Chairman Burleson to submit a memo to the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

**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. Personal 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. Joe Olivarez made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

---

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer