

# MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
5:30 P.M. – TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008  
CITY OF WESLACO – LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS  
200 S. KANSAS AVE.  
WESLACO, TEXAS**

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 14, 2008 at the, 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

Others

Ms. Mary Escalona  
Ms. Maria Champine  
Mr. Ken N. Jones, 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. Gerry Pate, HCRB  
Ms. Veronica De La Fuente, HCRB

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

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

Chairman Burleson introduced Honorable Buddy De La Rosa, City of Weslaco. The Mayor welcomed the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board members and the audience to the City of Weslaco. He invited the HCRMA to hold future meetings in the City of Weslaco.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Burleson introduced Hidalgo County Commissioner Sylvia Handy. Commissioner Handy expressed her concerns regarding the Technically Preferred Alignment (TPA) for the Hidalgo County Loop Project. She briefly described the impact to all of the cities located in the Eastern Section of Hidalgo County and recommended that the current section that was chosen for further evaluation be re-evaluated to include the Eastern Section. Commissioner Handy introduced the Honorable Joel Quintanilla, City of Mercedes; the Honorable Buddy De La Rosa, City of Weslaco; the Honorable Omar Vela, City of Progreso; Mr. Paul Vazaldua, City of Elsa; Commissioner Eddie Gonzalez, City of Edcouch; the Honorable Hector Elizondo, City of La Villa; Mr. Lupe Castillo, Councilman, City of Donna; and Mr. Robert De Leon, City of Alamo were in attendance and representing the Eastern Section of Hidalgo County. The delegation members individually voiced their concerns regarding the selection of Exhibit A as the TPA. Chairman Burleson stated that the HCRMA Board will re-evaluate Phases E and F. The Board will also request that Hidalgo County Road Builders (HCRB) do a further study to for these phases. Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB, stated that he would be able to present a more thorough analysis report at the next HCRMA Board Meeting. Chairman Burleson stated that he will have HCRB make a presentation at the RMA Board Meeting in September.

Chairman Bureson introduced Hidalgo County Judge J.D. Salinas. Judge Salinas expressed his concerns regarding the TPA for the Hidalgo County Loop. He stated that he had the understanding from previous meetings that the Eastern Section of Hidalgo County would not be left out of the Hidalgo County Loop Project. He requested that this issue be re-evaluated further. Mr. Bureson stated that all of the comments and suggestions are going to be taken into consideration and will be discussed at next month's RMA meeting.

### 3. CONSENT ITEMS:

A. Consideration and Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 01, 2008

***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the July 01, 2008 Meeting Minutes as presented. Vice Chairman Rick Perez seconded the motion and, upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

B. Consideration and Approval of Financial Reports – Cheryl Bellamy, SAS, LLP.

Ms. Cheryl Bellamy, SAS, gave a brief summary of the Financial Reports. She advised the Board members that her financial reports will be given on a monthly basis. Ms. Bellamy stated that the transfer of funds from the LRGVDC accounts are almost finalized and only a certain amount is pending due to invoices that have not cleared.

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

C. Consideration and Approval of Travel Requests

Ms. Mary Escalona stated that the expense report listed all of the invoices that needed to be paid. She stated that Board Member Ramiro Salazar had previously reviewed all of the billing and had approved them for payment.

***Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve the Travel Requests 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**

None at this time.

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

Mr. Jody Ellington, TxDOT, gave a brief report on the Freight Rail Study. He stated that a consultant has been chosen. Mr. Ellington stated that the Advance Funding Agreement is almost finalized. TxDOT has been working diligently with Mr. Everett Owen and HCRB.

**C. EVERETT OWEN, PROJECT CONSULTANT**

Mr. Everett Owen gave a brief report regarding the Market Evaluation. He stated that he has been working diligently with Jody Ellington, TxDOT, on this matter. Further information will be provided at a later date and time as it becomes finalized.

**D. GERRY PATE, HIDALGO COUNTY ROAD BUILDERS**

Mr. Gerry Pate stated that the Public Meetings held in August went very well. About 195 people attended the meetings and 36 comments were submitted. Comments and testimony will be reviewed to determine whether they impact the current TPA.

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

Mr. Ron Morrison noted that currently the municipal bond market is getting tougher but the market is adjusting.

**5. DISCUSSION OF THE LOOP PROJECT WITH THE EASTERN HIDALGO COUNTY DELGATION LED BY HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER SYLVIA HANDY.**

This item was discussed during item #2 Public Comment.

**6. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF AN ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO TXDOT REQUESTING A MARKET VALUATION WAIVER.**

Mr. Gerry Pate, HCRB, and Mr. Everett Owen gave a brief report regarding the Market Valuation Waiver. Mr. Brian Cassidy, HCRB, gave the Board a brief report on how the process regarding Market Valuation Waivers is handled. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to approve Resolution 2008-14 and approve the letter to be submitted to TxDOT. Mr. Ramon Garcia seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

**7. 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.**

Mr. Burleson reminded the Board that the HCRMA will need to give a presentation the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court on the transportation reinvestment zone. Mr. Gerry Pate stated that it would be good if this is finalized by the end of the year. He asked Chairman Burleson to submit the RMA's formal request to the County and make a presentation at the October 2008 meeting. Mr. Burleson stated that he will submit a letter to Judge JD Salinas. Ms. Blakely Fernandez advised the Board that this letter was approved at last month's Board Meeting.

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

Mr. Gerry Pate stated that HCRB scheduling a meeting with TxDOT. He advised the Board that once all of the information is provided it will be brought back for approval. Mr. Burleson stated that this item will be brought back at a later time for approval.

**9. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN UPDATE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EMPLOYMENT SUBMISSIONS.**

Mr. Burleson stated that this item has been tabled for a couple of months. He recommended that the Finance and Planning Committees meet to review the applications that were submitted and either develop a short list of candidates or recommend reposting the position.

**10. DISCUSSION REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS AND THE OPEN HOUSES IN AUGUST.**

This item was discussed during item #4. D.

**11. 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.

**12. ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

No action items were taken.

**13. NEW OR OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Burluson advised the Board members that he will be out of town the week of September 11<sup>th</sup> and recommended that the September RMA Board Meeting be rescheduled to another date. He stated that a Team Texas meeting is being scheduled to meet on November 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2008 here in McAllen. He stated that further information will provided at a later date.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Ramon Garcia made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rick Perez seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

ATTEST:

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Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer