

MINUTES

**HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (HCRMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5:30 P.M. – THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2007**

**MCALLEN CITY HALL, CITY COMMISSION ROOM
1300 HOUSTON, MCALLEN TX.**

PRESIDING: DENNIS BURLESON, CHAIRMAN

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (HCRMA) Board of Directors held a regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at the McAllen City Commission Room in McAllen, Texas. 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. Ruben Plata

Others

Mr. Ken N. Jones, LRGVDC
Mr. Victor Morales, LRGVDC
Ms. Debby Morales, LRGVDC
Mr. Jose G. Reyes, TEDSI
Mr. Jody Ellington, TxDOT
Mr. Leon Wright WB
Mr. Gary Walker, WB
Ms. Jennie Tarabove, PTP
Mr. Gerry Pate, PTP
Mr. Richard Zamora, PTP
Mr. Jesse Salinas, TEDSI
Mr. Jose A. Califa, J.E. Saenz & Assoc. Inc.
Ms. Reza Badiozzaman, L & G
Mr. Raul Garza, Jr., Halff Associates
Ms. Veronica delaFuente, Hidago Co. Judge's Office
Mr. David A. Diaz, www.edinburgpolitics.com
Ms. Joanne Walsh, Halff Associates
Mr. Donato Medina, LRGVDC Board Member
Mr. Jim Dannenbaum, DEC

1. Call to Order & Establishment of a Quorum

Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and announced that a quorum of voting members was present.

Chairman Dennis Burleson introduced Mayor Richard Cortez, City of McAllen. Mayor Cortez welcomed the RMA Board members and the audience to the City of McAllen, and mention the traffic needs in the City of McAllen and the Rio Grande Valley emphasizing the importance of the tasks set out for the HCRMA.

2. Public Comment

Chairman Burleson then moved to item 2. – Public Comment. No one had signed up for Public Comment, however, the Chairman invited visitors to introduce themselves. Mr. John Trevino of CAP Metro from Austin, Texas introduced himself and congratulated the Board on the successful passage of the bill sponsored by Representative Armando Martinez.

3. **Coffee and Conversation with Chairman Mike Krusee, Chairman of the House Transportation Committee**

Chairman Burleson introduced Mr. Mike Krusee, Chairman of the House Transportation Committee. Mr. Krusee congratulated the Board on their recent formation and emphasized the importance of the RMA and its vital role to the Rio Grande Valley. Mr. Krusee stated that the triangular area from Dallas to the Rio Grande Valley and back up to Houston is the size of Ohio which has a population of 10 million, and that 85% of Texans (20 million people) live in that triangular area. Mr. Krusee stated that the population of this area in Texas is predicted to increase to over 40 million people in the next twenty-five years, and that traffic congestion will be a major problem if we do not start planning to relieve it now. In order for the Valley to continue to thrive and attract big business, traffic issues need be addressed now. Mr. Krusee made the following suggestions to the Board to help with their planning tasks:

- Become involved with the Interstate System
- Building a northern as well as a southern loop
- Plan “World Class” regional airport
- Not to wait to apply for Pass Through Financing for funding from TxDOT

4. **Consider Revisions to Request For Qualifications for the Southern Loop Project (ACTION ITEM)**

Chairman Burleson then moved to Item 4 and recognized Ms. Blakely Fernandez. Ms. Fernandez stated that a small provision of SB 792 changed the design/build authority for RMAs and put it under local government code, and that this had other implications through HB 1886 which were outlined in the memo provided to the Board. Ms. Fernandez stated that as it had been the direction of the Board not to wait to enter into a procurement process she recommended to remove the design/build possibilities from the RFQ and to leave it as a pass through finance project. Ms. Fernandez also asked for consideration of reevaluation of the Response Evaluation Procedure (the percentages awarded to the different sections of the RFQ), and for the timing regarding the schedule that was initially posted. *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to revise the RFQ to be a Pass Through Finance project; for the schedule to be revised with the deadline for questions on July 2nd, the response due date on July 16th, and the selection of Short List on July 25th. Mr. Rick Perez seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Regarding the Response Evaluation Procedure portion of the RFQ *Mr. Ruben Plata made a motion to assign a 50/50 importance to both the value of experience and the project. Mr. Ruben Serna seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Following action on these points *Mr. Ramiro Salazar made a motion to except revisions to the RFQ as recommended by Legal Counsel. Mr. Ruben Plata seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

5. **New or Old Business**

Chairman Burleson announced the resignation of Board Member Mr. Roberto Villarreal as Mr. Villarreal had accepted a position with Hidalgo County. It was the consensus of the Board to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Villarreal for all his time and effort serving on the Board.

6. **Adjournment**

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn. *Mr. Rick Perez made a motion for adjournment; Mr. Ramiro Salazar seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.*

ATTEST:

Ramiro E. Salazar, Secretary-Treasurer