

**Hidalgo County
Regional Mobility Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
10:00 a.m.
Thursday, August 24, 2006**

Minutes

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority Board of Directors convened in a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2006 at the Conference Room of the Hidalgo County Judge's Office, Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas to discuss the following agenda:

- I. Welcome and opening remarks
 - II. Presentation of Future Projects – TxDOT
 - III. Disclosure requirements by members
 - IV. Preliminary Organizational Expenses and a request to the Commissioner's Court for a loan to begin organization
 - V. Election of Officers
 - VI. Other Business
 - VII. Public Comment and setting of rules governing comments until By-Laws are in place
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Minutes are as follows:

Present: Dennis Burleson, Chairman; Rick Perez, Ramiro E. Salazar, Ruben Serna, Roberto Villarreal, and Joe Olivarez

Absent: Ruben Plata

Others: Behrooz Badiozzamani, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Pedro R. Alvarez, P.E., TxDOT
Hector P. Gonzalez, P.E., TxDOT
Steve F. Austin, CPA, Budget Control, County of Hidalgo

I. Welcome and opening remarks – After establishing a quorum, Chairman Dennis Burleson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. He welcomed and thanked everyone present for attending the first meeting of the Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) Board.

II. Presentation of Future Projects-TxDOT – Chairman Burleson introduced Behrooz Badiozzamani, Deputy District Engineer with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to make a presentation on TxDOT's future projects. Badiozzamani began the presentation by briefly describing each project listed on a prepared "Potential RMA Project" spreadsheet (attached). He mentioned that in the month of July TxDOT had been awarded a loan of \$21.6 million to fund two major projects on the list, the building of a second Causeway in South Padre Island and a West Loop project in Brownsville. Badiozzamani said that if RMA chooses to adopt one or more of the listed projects and if any of them don't go to construction then deliverables are expected to be turned in to TxDOT. If this is the case, then the loans used to fund projects will not have to be paid back. If a project does go into construction, on the other hand, then loans will have to be paid back. Projects that do not develop become the property of TxDOT. Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of the projects, ways in which RMA may engage in construction, possibilities of facing citizen or local government opposition on a project, and the economic impact of toll roads and pass thru roads (shadow tolls). No further discussion.

III. Disclosure Requirement by Members – Chairman Burleson mentioned that with the startup of the new RMA Board, certain rules apply. By-Laws and a Procurement document will be needed in order to make the organization legal. Chairman Burleson recommended the law firm of Locke, Liddell and Sapp, LLP to draft the necessary documents. That firm has experience in preparing documents for the other RMAs and had a major part in drafting the legislation that established RMAs. The By-Laws and Procurement documents will outline the organization’s rules, guidelines and Board members’ duties and responsibilities. Chairman Burleson also mentioned the necessity of an orientation meeting for Board members. He asked the Board to check their calendars for a half day orientation either on Sept. 15th or 22nd conducted by Brian Cassidy of Locke Liddell & Sapp and Mike Heiligenstin, the Executive Director of the Central Texas RMA. A notice will be sent out once the Board decides which day will work best. Chairman Burleson said unlike most state boards, Surety Bonds are still required for RMA directors. Chairman Burleson also said that temporary funding is needed to begin operating the administrative aspects of RMA. He provided a preliminary budget for the Board’s review (attached) and said that he plans on submitting a loan request to Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for \$200,000 of the total of \$375,000 needed and asked for the Board’s input on his plans. Chairman Burleson mentioned that the City of McAllen and the City of Mission both would commit to support the RMA. No one objected. The plan is to go before Commissioners Court with their request at their meeting of Sept. 5th or Sept. 12th.

IV. Election of Officers - Chairman Burleson said that officers need to be elected for the new RMA Board. He said that a Vice Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer position need to be filled and opened the floor for nominations or volunteers for the positions. Board member Roberto Villarreal nominated Rick Perez for the Vice Chairman position. Ramiro Salazar made a motion, seconded by Ruben Serna, to accept Villarreal’s recommendation that Perez be Vice Chairman of the RMA Board. Motion carried. Board member Perez nominated Salazar for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Serna made a motion, seconded by Villarreal, to accept Perez’s nomination recommendation that Salazar be Secretary/Treasurer of the RMA Board. Motion carried. The RMA 05-06 Officers are as follows: Dennis Burleson Chairman; Rick Perez, Vice Chairman, Ramiro Salazar, Secretary/Treasurer.

V. Other Business – No other business was discussed.

VI. Public Comment and setting of rules governing comments until By-Laws are in place – Chairman Burleson put a three (3) minute limit on public comments. Hector P. Gonzalez Jr., Area Engineer with TxDOT made a comment regarding major projects. He said that larger projects on state roadways such as the Nolana going East Project, the Expressway to FM 88 Project, and the Trenton Road Project, to name a few, are all classified as major corridor projects. He said these projects may work their way up to County level for consideration. He asked about RMA meeting times and the needed quorum for meetings to take place. Chairman Burleson said that 50 percent of the Board plus one would make quorum for a meeting to take place. He proposed that RMA regular meetings be held at 5:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month with the meeting place to be announced.

VII. Adjournment –Serna made a motion, seconded by Perez to adjourn the RMA meeting at 11:20 a.m. Motion carried.

MINUTES FOR THE HIDALGO COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2006 WERE APPROVED ON THIS THE 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2006.

Submitted by:

Ramiro E. Salazar
Secretary