

HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 22, 2007

1 Roll Call

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. The Policy Committee Meeting was held at the TxDOT Offices, 600 West Expressway 83, Pharr, TX. Present were representatives from The Cities of: Edinburg, La Joya, McAllen, Mercedes, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, Weslaco and TxDOT. ExOffio Members Present: LRGVDC Transit McAllen Transit and Hidalgo County RMA .

2 Citizen Input

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios asked if there was any citizen input. There being none, the chairman proceeded on to the next item.

3 Adoption of Minutes from Feb 22, 2007

(ACTION ITEM)

Chairman Leopoldo Palacios asked if there were any additions or corrections that needed to be made. There being none the chairman asked for a motion of approval. **The City of Pharr made a motion for approval of the minutes, The City of Mercedes seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

4 Request for Wilbur Smith Time Extension

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon stated that a copy of an email is attached. Wilbur-Smith is currently asking for a time extension for the Multi-Modal Study. There are no additional dollars for this extension. They have been working with volunteers and bicycle world to gather more information. Due to their information being delayed they are asking for a time extension so they could submit the volunteers and bicycle world information to the study. **The City of San Juan made a motion to approve the Time Extension from Wilbur Smith, TX DOT seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

5 Adoption of Annual Project Listing

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon stated that this item we go thru every year. Several attachments were given out. We have to adopt the annual project listing and submit this listing to TPMP in Austin. We have verified that all projects that are listed here have been let. The Technical Advisory committee members have reviewed this list and have unanimously approved the list. The board requested to bring maps to next month's meeting labeling where exactly the projects are located. **The City of Edinburg made a motion to Adopt the Annual Project Listing, The City of Pharr seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

6 Multi-Modal – Safe Routes to School Program CALL

Mrs. Maria Champine stated that we had a workshop that went very well. The deadline is the end of May 2007. The Cities do not need a letter of support from the MPO. They do need to be added on to the TIP. The cities will need to start working on this project. **Reports only.**

7 Update on Consensus Meeting

Mr. Mario Jorge, TxDOT, stated that the Consensus meeting went very well and we managed to reevaluate the budget and we were able to keep all of the projects in the list. There was one project that was reduced from \$66 million to \$27 million in order to be able to keep all of the projects in the list. **Reports only.**

8 Innovative Funding for Proposed Hotel Tax Increase

Policy Committee Minutes,
Approved on: Thursday,
April 26, 2007

Mr. Canon stated that after further intensive research; our proposal for the hotel tax increase will not be able to go thru. The only way to do a hotel tax increase is to have all of the funds go directly to a convention center or to attract tourists. We recommended looking at other ideas to raise funds for mobility projects. **Reports only.**

9 Discussion on MPO Policy Training

Mr. Canon stated that the last MPO Policy Training was taken place back on June 2005. We highly recommended all new elected officials to attend. This training will have extensive information regarding the MPO's. Everyone is welcome to attend. We would like to have the training on May 3, 2007. **The City of San Juan made a motion for the MPO to go ahead and submit a memo to FHWA and ask for approval for providing food for the training, The City of Pharr seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

10 Discussion on SB1888

Mr. Canon stated SB1888 was filed on the 9th at Senator's Hinojosa's office and was taken to the legislature. At this time everything looks very good. At a regional MPO meeting; where all of the MPO's met; they were advised of this Bill and what every MPO would benefit from it. The City of La Joya requested if every City could pass a resolution with their commission supporting this bill. Mr. Canon stated that he also met with Judge Salinas office and they also support this bill. **Report only.**

11 Staff Update

A. Update on Border-to-Border Conference

Mr. Canon stated that the Conference is coming along very well. There is still time for anyone that would like to register. The conference is scheduled from April 17-19, 2007. A dinner reception is scheduled on the 17th and will take place at the Quinta Mazatlan between 6pm - 9pm.

B. Update on FY2008-2011 TIP

Mr. Canon stated that this item will be brought back at next month's meeting.

C. Calendar: March & April 2007

Reports only.

12 Off System Report

Mr. Sam Maldonado, JE Saenz gave a brief update on Sugar Road and Owassa. **Reports only.**

13 Letting Report

Reports only.

14 Old Or New Business

None at this time.

15 Adjournment

The City of Mercedes made a motion to adjourn, The City of McAllen seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.