

*HIDALGO COUNTY MPO
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 20, 2009*

1 *Roll Call*

Chairman Angie Garza called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M. The Policy Committee Meeting was held at the HCMPO office, 510 South Pleasantview Drive, Weslaco, Texas. Present were representatives from The Cities of: Alamo, Edcouch, Donna, Hidalgo, Hidalgo County, La Joya, McAllen, Mission, Penitas, Pharr, San Juan, TxDOT, Hidalgo County RMA and LRGVDC Transit.

2 *Citizen Input*

Chairman Angie Garza asked if there was any citizen input. Their being none, the chairman proceeded to the next item.

3 *Presentation from Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District*

Mr. Jim Edge, Vice Chairman of the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District, gave a brief presentation. He stated that the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail District Board will currently be located at the Hidalgo County Offices. He stated that board will meet at least once a month. He gave a brief summary of what the boards mission will be about and what they are planning to accomplish for the hidalgo county area. He noted that plans to create a rail and transit facility was already in process. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

4 *Adoption of Minutes from July 16, 2009*

(ACTION ITEM)

The City of Alamo made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The City of San Juan seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.

5 *Approval of Jacobs Contract Extension*

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Andrew Canon stated that JACOBS was only asking for an extension on time only. He noted that no additional funds were needed for the time extension. *The City of Alamo made a motion to approve the Time Extension request from JACOBS. The City of Penitas seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

6 *Adoption of MTP Amendment*

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that the public involvement for the MTP Amendment began on July 20, 2009 and will end on August 20th, 2009. He stated that the limits to the BSIF project was amended in the TIP, and those limits need to be reflected in the MTP as well as the estimated costs needs to be amended. He noted that the BSIF limits changed from located in the vicinity of GSA Facility to Pharr and the new limits are from US Customs Port of Entry Exit to US 281. He stated that the cost estimate in the MTP used to be \$25,084,423 and is now being amended to \$34,637,976. *The City of Donna made a motion to approve the MTP Amendment. The City of Edcouch seconded the motion, and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.*

7 *Approval of Letters of Support for TIGER Grant Applications*

(ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Canon stated that several cities have submitted a TIGER Grant Application and are requesting a Letter of Support from the Policy Board. He stated that the City of Edinburg, Pharr, Donna, McAllen, Mission and the Hidalgo County RMA have submitted a request. He advised the members that further detail information was provided for everyone to review. *The City of Donna made a motion to approve all of the TIGER Grant Applications and Letters of Support for the City of: Edinburg, Pharr, Donna, McAllen, Mission and the Hidalgo County RMA. The City of Alamo seconded the motion, and upon a vote, the motion carried unanimously.*

8 *Update on MTP 2010-2035*

Mr. Canon gave a brief update on the MTP 2010-2035. He stated that the forecasted modal is coming along as planned. He advised the members that several public meetings have been scheduled for the month of September and early October at the following locations: The City of Edinburg, Mission, McAllen and the MPO Office. He welcomed everyone to attend. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

9 *Update on Thoroughfare Plan*

Mr. Brent Cochran gave a brief update on the Thoroughfare Plan. He stated that MPO Staff have met with representatives for every Hidalgo County Precinct. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

10 **Update on UTP Meeting in Austin**

Mrs. Robin Boone, TxDOT, gave a brief update on the UTP Meeting that was held in Austin. She provided a power point presentation to all of the board members. She stated that TxDOT will also bring forth a Plan B that they are currently working on for alternative funding. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

11 **Staff Update**

A. Calendar: July & August 2009

Mr. Canon gave a brief update on the calendars. He reminded everyone that the Public Outreach meetings were scheduled to begin in September. He also noted that Maria and him were going to attend the AMPO Annual Conference in Georgia.

B. HCMPO Budget Report

Mr. Canon briefly went the HCMPO budget report. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

12 **Off System Report**

None at this time

13 **Letting Report**

Reports only, no action taken at this time.

14 **HCRMA Update**

Mr. Behrooz Badiozamani gave a brief update on the Hidalgo County Loop Project. *Reports only, no action taken at this time.*

15 **Executive Session-Director Evaluation**

Chairman Angie Garza requested to go into Executive Session. *The City of Alamo made a motion to go into Executive Session. The City of Hidalgo seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Chairman Angie Garza requested to come back from Executive Session. *The City of Alamo made a motion to come back from Executive Session. The City of Penitas seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.* Chairman Angie Garza stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

16 **Old Or New Business**

None at this time.

17 **Adjournment**

The City of Alamo made a motion to adjourn. The City of Edcouch seconded the motion and upon a vote the motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

Diana Martinez, Secretary