

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 14th day of June 2007, there was conducted a SPECIAL Meeting of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, Texas, at the Levi's Building, thereof, in the City of San Benito, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

THE BOARD MET AT:

PRESENT:

1:30 P.M.

DAVID E. ALLEX
CHAIRPERSON

RUBEN GALLEGOS, JR.
DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

VICTOR ALVAREZ
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL SCAIEF
DIRECTOR

DAVID N. GARZA
DIRECTOR

Mary Robles

FRANK PARKER, JR.

VICTOR ALVAREZ

RAY RAMON

ABSENT

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman David E. Allex at 1:37 P.M.

At this time, the Board considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on June 11, 2007, at 8:55 A.M.:

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman David E. Alex acknowledged the presence of County Commissioners Edna Tamayo and David Garza. He welcomed them to the CCRMA Meeting.

Commissioner Tamayo commended the Board for their excellent job and asked that they move as fast as possible on projects throughout the county.

Commissioner Garza welcomed the CCRMA to the newly renovated Levi's Building and thanked them for their hard work.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
May 10, 2007 SPECIAL MEETING**

Chairman Alex requested that a brief summary of the item be included under each agenda item.

Upon motion by Director Garza, seconded by Director Gallegos and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the May 10, 2007 Special Meeting were approved.

**III. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF GEC
REPORT FOR MAY 2007**

Mr. Bobby Balli, HNTB, presented and highlighted the May 2007 GEC Report, inclusive of the following:

- **North Rail Relocation** (Work Authorization No. 4) – was 100% complete.

Mr. Pete Sepulveda informed that they would travel to meet with Union Pacific to discuss the relocation of the Harlingen switchyard to Olmito, the issue with Rio Valley Switching Company, and to establish a timeline for the project. He added that a memorandum of understanding acceptable to the City, County, Union Pacific, CCRMA, and Rio Valley Switching Company would be prepared.

Chairman Alex asked if a corridor map had been prepared.

Mr. Balli responded that preliminary maps of possible locations were prepared. He clarified that selection of a corridor could not occur until the environmental process begins.

Mr. Balli reported that:

- **FM 509** (Work Authorization No. 5) - that HNTB was working with sub contractors and TXDOT;
- That Public meetings were being held to determine the alignment; and

- That the next public meetings would take place in about three months.

Mr. Sepulveda noted that the county presented a request for funding from the U.S. Congress and that a response could be available in the latter part of the year. He asked if the project's scheduled environmental clearance for December 2008 remained the same.

Mr. Balli responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Sepulveda asked when the next public meeting would take place, and noted that although the public was expressing no opposition towards the project, they were concerned as to the alignment.

Mr. Balli responded that public meetings may take place in September 2007. He briefly described possible alignment for the 509 Project.

The discussion related to a possible overpass at Highway 77 at Orphanage Road, alternate routes, and possible connection between FM 509 and FM 1925 from Hidalgo County.

Mr. Balli highlighted the status of the:

- **West Loop Project** (Work Authorization No. 7) – that HNTB was working and coordinating well with the TXDOT office in Pharr;
- That comments were received from TXDOT.

Chairman Alex questioned the prospects of having the right-of-way donated from Union Pacific.

Mr. Sepulveda clarified that the right-of-way would be purchased by TXDOT, CCRMA or the County from Union Pacific, and that the purchase money would be reinvested into the project by Union Pacific, as per the agreement in place.

Mr. Jody Ellington, TXDOT, clarified that the \$13 million allocated for the West Rail Project would be used to acquire right-of-way, which would remain property of the State.

Mr. Balli went on to report that the:

- **West Rail Road Relocation Project** (Work Authorization No. 8) - that Arturo de las Fuentes was presently meeting with Mexican officials, specifically Mayor of Matamoros Baltazar Hinojosa, noting that the requested detail activity of Mr. de las Fuentes was included in the sub sections of the report.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that the Brownsville Utility Board had to overcome a challenge in getting the IBWC and CILA to agree on specific language for the contract for the **Weir Project**, noting that a meeting would take place next week in Ciudad Juarez. He added that agreeing that CILA (IBWC-US) be the coordinating agency for all Mexican agencies would be very beneficial to the project.

Chairman Alex requested that the outcome of meetings held be included in the report. He questioned if the support listed as the purpose of the meeting was obtained.

Mr. Sepulveda explained that this was a difficult question because the final outcome takes time. He stated that present milestones pertain to getting a sponsor for the project and an agreement on the exact location of the project. Mr. Sepulveda added that said agreement may be obtained in the next 90 days.

Chairman Alex asked when a response as to the funding agreement for the **Second Causeway Project** would be available.

Mr. Ellington responded that a response would be provided in the next 30 to 45 days.

Director Gallegos requested that the report include information to refresh on the project status.

Mr. Sepulveda suggested touring the projects' sites.

Director Gallegos suggested that a tour be scheduled.

Director Gallegos moved that the May 2007 GEC Report be acknowledged.

The motion was seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously.

The Report is as follows:

**IV. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF REVENUE
AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR MAY 2007**

Mr. Sepulveda reported that the Brownsville City Commission approved and funded \$75,000.00 to the CCRMA, and that the funding from the City of San Benito was committed but has not been received. He stated that the County Auditor presented recommendation with regards to compensation for contract employees that would clearly direct taxing reporting responsibilities towards staff and not the CCRMA. Mr. Sepulveda added that a conference call took place with the State Auditor to review all work authorizations and projects, and that a written response had not been received.

Upon motion by Director Scaief, seconded by Director Gallegos and carried unanimously, the Revenue and Expenditure Report for May 2007 was approved.

The Report is as follows:

**V. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE
CCRMA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Mr. Sepulveda informed that Governor Perry signed the Transportation Bill to take effect immediately. He stated that Representative Lucio would be invited to the next CCRMA meeting to provide a summary of the same. Mr. Sepulveda noted that the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) would compose details regarding the vehicle registration fee in the bill recently passed and that thereafter, the CCRMA would present recommendation to Commissioners Court for approval and implementation of the fee.

Mr. David Garcia, CCRMA Assistant Coordinator, informed that Mr. Mike Behrens, TXDOT Executive Director was about to retire.

Mr. Ellington stated that Mr. Behrens retirement to be effective August 21, 2007 was accepted. He added that Hidalgo and Cameron Counties were exempt from SB 792 due to their population.

Chairman Alex thanked Mr. Sepulveda and Mr. Garcia for attending the legislative session.

Director Garza moved that the Report regarding the CCRMA Legislative Agenda be acknowledged.

The motion was seconded by Director Gallegos and carried unanimously.

**VI. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF
AGREEMENT BETWEEN CCRMA AND THE CITY OF
BROWNSVILLE**

Mr. Sepulveda reported that the agreement was unanimously approved by the City of Brownsville, and that projects discussed with them included I-37, West Loop, Second Causeway and the East Loop Projects. He recommended that the agreement be approved.

Upon motion by Director Scaief, seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously, the Agreement between CCRMA and the City of Brownsville was approved.

The Agreement is as follows:

VII. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL TO EL PASO, TEXAS ON JUNE 21-22, 2007 TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE EL CAMINO REAL RMA

Mr. Sepulveda explained that the Chairman of the El Camino Real RMA requested that the CCRMA attend their board meeting to make a presentation and provide advice. He added that they would also attend a meeting in Mexico concerning the Weir Project.

Director Scaief moved that the travel to El Paso, Texas on June 21-22, 2007 to make a Presentation to the El Camino Real RMA be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously.

VIII. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS TO ATTEND THE TEAM TX MEETING JULY 12-13, 2007

Upon motion by Director Scaief, seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously, the travel to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the TEAM TX Meeting on July 12-13, 2007 was approved.

IX. APPROVAL OF TRAVEL TO AUSTIN, TEXAS TO ATTEND THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION FORUM JULY 18-20, 2007

Mr. Sepulveda informed that Chairman Alex was a guest speaker at the Texas Transportation Forum.

Chairman Alex noted that the Texas Transportation Forum was one of the most important to attend in networking.

Director Gallegos moved that the travel to Austin, Texas on July 18-20, 2007 to attend the Texas Transportation Forum be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Scaief and carried unanimously.

Chairman Alex noted the importance of exercising caution in any matters regarding conflict of interests.

There being no further business to come before the Board and upon motion by Director Gallegos, seconded by Director Garza the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 2:23 P.M.

APPROVED this 12th, day of **July 2007**.

CHAIRMAN DAVID E. ALLEX

ATTESTED:

SECRETARY MICHAEL SCAIEF