

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 15th day of September 2005, there was conducted a SPECIAL Meeting of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, at the Levi 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 ALLEX
CHAIRPERSON

LAURA BETANCOURT
DIRECTOR

SCOT CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR

RAY RAMON
DIRECTOR

VICTOR ALVAREZ
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL SCAIEF
DIRECTOR

DAVID N. GARZA
DIRECTOR

Mary Robles Deputy Clerk

ABSENT:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Allex at 1:30 P.M. He did the invocation.

The Board considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on September 12, 2005, at 10:46 A.M.:

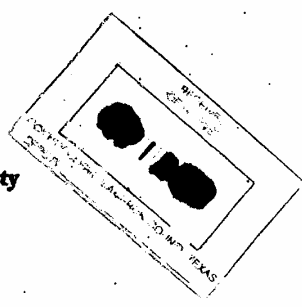
SEP 12 2005
11:11

AGENDA

**Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the
Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority**

**Old Levis Building
1390 Scott Brown Blvd.
San Benito, Texas 78586**

**Thursday September 15, 2005
1:30 P.M.**



- I. Approval of Minutes (August 11, 2005)
- II. Status Report of CCRMA Ongoing Projects
- III. Consideration and authorization to allow Interim Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with Estrada & Hinojosa, Financial Advisors
- IV. Report by Director Garza on Transportation Forum held in San Antonio.
- V. Report by Interim Executive Director on TXDOT and TTA Toll Operations and training session.
- VI. Public Comments

Signed this 12th Day of September 2005.

David E. Alex
David E. Alex
Chairman

The meeting is accessible to disabled persons. Reserved parking spaces are located in the large parking lot where immediate access is provided to the front door of the building.

Accepted for Filing in:
Cameron County
On: Sep 12, 2005 at 10:46A
By: Erika De La Torre

(I) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (AUGUST 11, 2005)**

Director Campbell moved that the minutes of August 11, 2005, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Scaief and carried unanimously.

(II) **STATUS REPORT OF CCRMA ONGOING PROJECTS**

West Loop Project

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, reported that a meeting was held two weeks ago with Cal y Mayor Engineering Firms who is conducting the Level II Toll Feasibility Studies for the West Loop Project being funded by the Texas Department of Transportation's evergreen contract on behalf of the RMA. He explained that the project starts near FM 3248 and ends near Palm Boulevard and 6th Street, and noted the need to change said firm's scope of work to include studies on things that might impact the level of traffic, which in turn can make a difference on the funding capacity to be obtained. Mr. Sepulveda reported that he addressed some issues on behalf of Mr. Mario Jorge, TXDoT District Engineer and that the firm would address the same and would present monthly status reports. He indicated that an item would be placed on the agenda to update the RMA Board.

2nd Causeway Project

Mr. Sepulveda reported that he received a resolution from South Padre Island concerning the 2nd Causeway Project with changes from the one adopted by Cameron County and what he submitted. He explained that the changes have not been discussed with TXDoT and that he did not know if they were significant enough to address them to the county; however, he must address them to Port Isabel since they agreed to the original language, adding that this may cause delays. Mr. Sepulveda explained that the importance to be that the process to do detail technical studies could start once the resolutions were in place, noting that he would advise Chairman Alex if problems were encountered at South Padre Island or Port Isabel.

Director Ramon requested a letter citing changes to the resolution.

Mr. Sepulveda agreed, and commented that the 2nd Causeway Project would be a key project to the RMA based on comments heard at the Transportation Forum held in San Antonio.

I-69 ALLIANCE

Mr. Sepulveda stated that he represents Cameron County in the Board of Directors for the I-69 Alliance; therefore, he would attend the regular meeting to be held in Victoria, Texas, where Highway Commissioner Ted Haughton was scheduled to address the alliance. He informed that he would take a letter on behalf of Chairman

Alex, and suggested that perhaps it would be good for the Commissioner to tour the county as was done in the past since the RMA was now in place.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that Highway Commissioner Hope Andrade was scheduled to be in Brownsville September 23, 2005, to speak at a forum and that detailed information would be disseminated.

Chairman Alex noted the need for RMA Directors to attend official functions relating to major highway infrastructure in Cameron County and encouraged them to attend a hearing in Santa Maria regarding the Military Highway Project scheduled for tonight.

NOTE: DIRECTOR ALVAREZ ARRIVED AT THIS TIME.

Highway 77 Project

Mr. Sepulveda stated that the Brownsville and Harlingen Chambers were heading the 77 Coalition, which included the counties of Nueces, Kleberg, Kennedy and Cameron, up to about a year ago; however, the project was dropped due to change in staff. He suggested that the RMA lead the organization in order to proceed with the project since the RMA has needed components on the U.S. and Mexican sides.

Chairman Alex requested that one or two Directors volunteer to participate with said organization.

Director Garza agreed to volunteer.

Chairman Alex expressed appreciation for the Board's active involvement and participation in activities.

Director Campbell requested a briefing of the Highway 77 Project.

Chairman Alex explained that the project was intended to get an interstate highway down Highway 77, either as I-69 or as an extension of Highway 37, and reiterated the need to participate.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that the idea was to get Nueces, Kleberg, Kennedy and Cameron Counties to work together to connect the highway portions that were missing, and explained they went beyond by getting the Mexican counterparts with the recent road improvements done to connect Ciudad Victoria to San Luis Potosi, an ideal route that would allow an enormous growth potential if included.

Director Alvarez asked when meetings were held.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that meetings were not being held due to lack of leadership.

Director Campbell asked if funding was available for construction of I-69.

Mr. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation, responded negatively.

Mr. Sepulveda clarified that funding for construction was not available because annual appropriation for needed technical studies were received.

Mr. Jorge explained that studies were being done, that I-69 was part of the Trans Texas Corridor and that Highway 77 would be part of the ultimate Plan. He briefed as to the mechanism to be used to address the entire corridor, and noted that the RMA may be able to tap into funding thru said process.

Director Garza asked if there was a possibility that federal funding would be available.

Mr. Jorge responded that \$50 million was available for eight states to fund technical studies and that a border program had more money for border states to use within 100 miles from the border that would be allocated on a competitive basis.

Director Alvarez asked if funding was available for I-37.

Mr. Jorge responded negatively, with the exception of funding for studies.

**(III) CONSIDERATION AND AUTHORIZATION TO
ALLOW INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO
NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH ESTRADA &
HINOJOSA, FINANCIAL ADVISORS**

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, reported that the process had been followed and that the requirements were submitted to two vendors found under the county's listing. He stated that an extension was given for the September 6, 2005 deadline because only one proposal was received. Mr. Sepulveda highlighted the expertise of Estrada-Hinojosa Investment Bankers and recommended that contractual negotiations be authorized with said firm.

Director Ramon asked if any other listings were available aside from that of the county.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that the list was used by Cameron County in complying with the procurement process and that requirements were met by advertising the RFQ.

Director Garza moved that contractual negotiation be authorized with Estrada-Hinojosa Investment Bankers.

The motion was seconded by Director Ramon and carried unanimously.

The RFP and letter are as follow:

(IV) **REPORT BY DIRECTOR GARZA ON
TRANSPORTATION FORUM HELD IN SAN ANTONIO**

Director Garza reported that he attended forums concerning funding and NAFTA. He stated that he was surprised by the information given by Commissioner Hope Andrade concerning cost of transportation and how population was outgrowing the speed of maintenance and construction of infrastructure. Director Garza added that the Commissioner indicated the need for new ideas to fund construction because maintenance costs surpass funds obtained thru gas taxes. He offered to discuss the loads of information given during the meeting with those interested, and stated that the information was available on the San Antonio Mobility Coalition Forum Website. Director Garza stated that discussions were held about how Harris County can use county collateral to borrow against building toll roads and how said process could be used when funding was unavailable. He reported that a new federal law was in place to limit filings of law suits on environmental type projects within 180 days after being terminated, and noted the need to view major projects, such as the second causeway, as long term projects.

Director Betancourt commented that the trip had a lot of good networking and that she looked forward to it next year.

Director Scaief explained that he learned that vehicle miles traveled have quadrupled over the past 25 years, stretching capacity, and that the solution was to enact several different ways to meet the infrastructure demand thru legislation, such as the Comprehensive Development Agreement and the RMA. He reported that the possibility of indexing back on gas tax sale in order to generate revenues to keep up with inflation rate was discussed, and that noted State was very serious about road issues and about the need to plan for future infrastructure.

Director Alvarez stated that the manner how state blew \$10 billion set for transportation issues caught his attention.

Director Scaief stated that state used the \$10 billion towards the deficit.

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, reported that much focus was given to railroad relocation projects because the CEO of Union Pacific Railroad President Jim Young was the main speaker and because the forum was held in San Antonio where many railroad problems have occurred. He stated that he would send a note to the event coordinators because Cameron County should have been showcase since it was much more advanced in its railroad relocation projects with regards to funding and design versus all other major cities in Texas. Mr. Sepulveda explained that the forum showcased a project from Colorado for which a preliminary study was presently being done, and that Cameron County met all criteria that the Union Pacific Representative said that they look at

when investing in railroad relocation projects. He noted the need to start a public relations campaign to inform the State and nation about the status of the county's railroad relocation project.

Mr. David Garcia, Cameron County Department of Transportation Assistant Director, informed that a public hearing would take place in Austin regarding legislation recently passed concerning assistance for communities working on railroad projects.

Mr. Jorge informed that the matter would be on the next election for funding for railroad relocation projects as Proposition I.

Chairman Alex reported that the meeting was very good and that in his opinion the Chairman of TXDoT did an excellent job and presented an excellent speech, adding that the networking done during the conference was also very good.

**(V) REPORT BY INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON
TXDOT AND TTA TOLL OPERATIONS AND
TRAINING SESSION**

Mr. Sepulveda informed that toll operations training sessions would be held by TXDoT and the Texas Turnpike Authority at 1:00 p.m. at the TXDoT District Office in Pharr.

Chairman Alex and Director Ramon appointed Director Scaief to the Executive Director Committee.

(III) STATUS REPORT OF CCRMA ONGOING PROJECTS

Mr. Sepulveda informed that the RFQ approved by the Board was out and due October 10, 2005.

(VI) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Dave Gordon, Estrada-Hinojosa Investment Bankers, thanked the Board for considering their proposal.

There being no further business to come before the **BOARD**, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** by
Chairman Allex at 2:20 P.M.

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APPROVED this 17th day of **November 2005**.

CHAIRMAN DAVID E. ALLEX

ATTESTED:

SECRETARY LAURA BETANCOURT