

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2006, there was conducted a REGULAR Meeting of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, Texas, 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:

1:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

DAVID ALLEX  
CHAIRPERSON

LAURA BETANCOURT  
DIRECTOR

SCOT CAMPBELL  
DIRECTOR

RAY RAMON  
DIRECTOR

VICTOR ALVAREZ  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL SCAIEF  
DIRECTOR

DAVID N. GARZA  
COUNTY CLERK

Mary Robles Deputy Clerk

ABSENT:

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

The Board considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on January 6, 2006, at 4:35 P.M.:

**(I) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Alex reported that the Census Bureau released its projections for 2010 and that the Rio Grande Valley would be in the top ten, perhaps the top five. He added that our area was enduring about 40 to 50% growth while the same biographical area in Mexico was experiencing 80 to 85% growth. Chairman Alex stated that in the last five years Brownsville has built over 25,000 residential lots and has increased its retail capacity by almost three million square feet. He stated that the Port of Brownsville has increased its tonnage by 30 to 40%. Chairman Alex stated that 25 new industrial plants have relocated to Reynosa, increasing employment and growth by about 20,000, growth that will impact the Rio Grande Valley, especially the McAllen area. He stated that he was working with the Governor of Tamaulipas and that two new industrial plants would open in Matamoros, and that all other little towns in the northern Mexico area have industrial parks that they are occupying and creating jobs. He stated that he would like to think that South Texas was northern Mexico's place to be in 2006 and that the RMA would be in the mist of this creating jobs for our citizen. Chairman Alex stated that the Governor of Tamaulipas was looking to the RMA in many respects and that he was glad that the RMA has the needed expertise to develop international trades that can create jobs for our citizens.

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**(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2005  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Upon motion by Director Alvarez, seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously, the Minutes of November 17, 2005, Special Meeting were approved, inclusive of correction submitted by Chairman Alex and Mr. Sepulveda.

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**(III) UPDATE OF ONGOING CCRMA PROJECTS BY  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
WEST LOOP PROJECT**

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, reported that TX DOT hired Cal y Mayor to do a Level II Toll Feasibility Study for the West Loop Project, which was about 95% complete. He added that TX DOT was reviewing final numbers to incorporate into the study. Mr. Sepulveda stated that he would provide a copy of the study and arrange for the firm to provide a report during the next meeting. He stated that up to about four months ago TX DOT was conducting the Environmental Study but stopped due to staff turnover. Mr. Sepulveda stated that one option was that TX DOT get a private consultant through its evergreen contract to complete the two aspects of

the Environmental Study that remain pending: the noise assessment and the public involvement or that he consider hiring through the county's evergreen contracts to complete the above mention tasked.

**SECOND CAUSEWAY PROJECT**

Mr. Sepulveda reported that a letter was sent to TX DOT requesting assistance on this project and that TX DOT hired Cal y Mayor through their evergreen contract to conduct a Level II Toll Feasibility Study. He stated that completion of the study could take between 90 and 120 days and that a draft study would be provided to the Board.

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**(IV) SELECTION OF CCRMA TRAINING DATE**

Mr. Sepulveda reported that TX DOT would hold a Workshop on Comprehensive Development Agreements in Austin, and requested to be informed of those wanting to attend in order to make necessary arrangements.

Mr. Sepulveda provided an agenda for a TEAM Texas Meeting to be held in Houston, on February 1 and 2, 2006, and requested input from those interested in attending. He added that there was a confirmed meeting with a private firm for Thursday at noon, and that a Golf Tournament would be held on Wednesday.

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Mr. Sepulveda stated that the Board previously talked about scheduling training provided for RMAs by a firm contracted by TX DOT at no cost and requested direction on setting a date to make necessary arrangements.

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Chairman Alex suggested that the training be scheduled late in February and that Mr. Sepulveda consult with Board Members on a convenient date.

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**(V) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY AND ESTRADA HINOJOSA & COMPANY INC.**

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Director, informed that the contract was previously tabled to negotiate a fee that has now been negotiated at \$24,000.00 per year and that any bond issues would be credited to said amount. He presented a listing of services to be provided to the RMA, and that explained this work would not take place without previous approval from the Board. Mr. Sepulveda informed that the County Auditor reviewed and approved the negotiated fees and the language to Appendix A.

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Chairman Alex requested approval of the contract.

Director Scaief asked when the contract takes effect and when the \$24,000.00 annual fee starts to accrue.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that the contract takes effect upon being approved and executed and that the services would commence upon work being requested in writing. He explained that payment for any work done by the financial advisor would be due at the end of the year.

Director Scaief expressed concern with incurring the \$24,000.00 fee when their services might not be needed for the next four months. He suggested that execution of the contract be delayed until services are needed to prevent incurring cost.

Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, suggested that the contract could be more detailed and explained that the advisor was guaranteeing that they would provide services equal to \$24,000.00. He stated that the agreement indicates that the advisor must provide services at an hourly rates totaling up to \$24,000.00.

Mr. Dave Gordon, Estrada-Hinojosa Investment Bankers, stated that they intend to work with the RMA on projects making sure that all project plans are viable plans that will be funded.

Mr. Yates stated that the advisor has possible reimbursables and that it was important to have an operation plan from the advisor of what they expect to do in the next twelve months.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that the RMA might be ready to need their services in the next forty-five days as the final packaging of Pass Through Toll Projects are complete with TX DOT, noting that the advisor has done this type of work in the past.

Mr. Yates noted that the goal was to get above the \$24,000.00 worth of service.

Director Alvarez clarified that payment would be due after services are provided.

Director Scaief moved that the contract for financial services between Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority and Estrada Hinojosa & Company Inc. be approved and that execution of the contract be deferred until the Board gives further direction.

The motion was seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously.

**The Draft Contract is as follows:**

(VI) IN THE MATTER REGARDING CONSIDERATION AND SELECTION OF THE GENERAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FOR CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (TABLED)

Chairman Alex recommended that an in depth workshop be held and that this item be tabled to do so.

Chairman Alex moved that this Item be **TABLED**.

The motion was seconded by Director Scaief.

Chairman Alex recommended that the workshop be scheduled for January 23, 2006 and that a meeting be scheduled for February 7, 2005, to select the GEC.

Mrs. Dylbia L. Jeffries, Contract Attorney, stated that the workshop could be held and followed by a special meeting.

Chairman Alex recommended that Director Ramon, Director Scaief, Mr. Sepulveda and he develop a scoring sheet based on criteria listed on the RFP.

Director Ramon requested that the firms provide a list of criteria that they would use if they were evaluating.

Mrs. Jeffries advised against requesting criteria that deviates from that stipulated in the RFP.

Director Ramon clarified that the criteria must relate to that listed in the RFP that the firms believe to be most important.

Chairman Alex suggested that the requested information be submitted by January 17, 2006.

Upon motion by Chairman Alex, seconded by Director Scaief and carried unanimously, this Item was **TABLED**.

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There being no further business to come before the **BOARD**, and upon motion by Director Alvarez, seconded by Director Scaief, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 2:10 P.M.

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**APPROVED** this 9<sup>th</sup> day of **February 2006**.

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**CHAIRMAN DAVID E. ALEX**

**ATTESTED:**

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**SECRETARY LAURA BETANCOURT**