

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2006, there was conducted a SPECIAL Meeting of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, Texas, at Club Padre, thereof, in the Town of South Padre Island, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

THE BOARD MET AT:

12:00 NOON

PRESENT:

DAVID ALLEX  
CHAIRPERSON

LAURA BETANCOURT  
DIRECTOR

SCOT CAMPBELL  
DIRECTOR

RAY RAMON  
DIRECTOR

VICTOR ALVAREZ  
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL SCAIEF  
DIRECTOR

DAVID N. GARZA  
DIRECTOR

Mary Robles

ABSENT:  
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The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Allex at 12:15 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 May 15, 2006, at 8:54 A.M.:

(I) **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None was presented.

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(II) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2006, SPECIAL MEETING AND APRIL 13, 2006, SPECIAL MEETING**

Upon motion by Director Alvarez, seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously, the Minutes of March 9, 2006, were approved.

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(III) **REPORT FROM INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON STATUS OF ONGOING CCRMA PROJECTS**

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, reported that the CCRMA got \$21.6 million allocated for the **West Loop and Second Causeway Projects** during the Highway Commission Meeting held in Brownsville on April 27<sup>th</sup>. He stated that a preliminary financial assistance agreement has been drafted and must be approved by the Highway Commission through a two step process that takes about 90 days for completion. Mr. Sepulveda added that the agreement has been submitted to TXDOT for review and then the Final Minute Order will be considered by the Commission during their June meeting and later executed by the Executive Director of TXDOT in July, adding that thereafter work could begin and fees could be charged in August. He explained that a meeting would be scheduled with TXDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to develop a scope of work for the preliminary technical studies and the environmental analysis to be conducted for the Second Causeway and the West Loop Projects, noting the need for TXDOT to approve the scope since they will provide the funding. Mr. Sepulveda explained that he would present recommendation on both the West Loop and Second Causeway Projects on how to undertake the tasks for both projects. He added that the expansion of **Interstate 37** from Nueces County to Cameron County must be discussed with TXDOT, that this project must be made a priority, that now was good timing to work on this project, and that the GEC was presently working on a study of the same for TXDOT.

Mr. David Garcia, Cameron County Department of Transportation Assistant Director, reported that an item was on the agenda for Highway Commission Meeting to present resolutions supporting the expansion of Interstate 37 that were adopted by entities, municipalities, chamber of commerce, etc., located between Brownsville and Corpus Christi. He added that they were trying to get letters of intent from these jurisdictions as financial commitments.

Mr. Sepulveda indicated that preliminary traffic studies of the Second Causeway Project should be available from the consultants by June.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that the North Railroad Relocation Project has not been funded from the propositions already approved because the legislature was not in session, noting that the HNTB was presently setting the guidelines for said state funding. He explained that there were two railroad projects in Cameron County that would most likely meet the guidelines for this program, them being the West Railroad Relocation Project and the North Railroad Relocation Project. Mr. Sepulveda stated that funding may not be obtained for the West Railroad Relocation Project due to its scheduled time for construction; however, the North Railroad Relocation Project could be ideal to be funded from this program.

Director Garza asked if a form of reimbursement could be obtained.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that such possibility was being explored with TXDOT. He added that an application was submitted for \$5 million in federal funding the West Railroad Relocation Project. Mr. Sepulveda informed that the CCRMA would host the next TEAM TX meeting at South Padre Island on July 31, 2006.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that approximately 30 days were needed to prepare an application to request funding for the nine Pass Through Toll projects from the Highway Commission during their meeting in August. He added that approximately \$170,000.00 was needed to package the application; therefore, he would schedule a meeting with Judge Hinojosa and Chairman Alex to possibly obtain additional funding from the county by amending the existing agreement. Mr. Sepulveda explained that he might request a special meeting to get approval of a work authorization for the GEC to commence work for the funding application for the nine projects, adding that the work authorization has been prepared and negotiated with the GEC.

Mr. Sepulveda reported that Chairman Alex was scheduled to make a presentation regarding the CCRMA in Austin on June 8 and 9, 2006, during a Transportation Summit being sponsored by TXDOT, noting that this would conflict with the Regular Meeting of the CCRMA. Thus he proposed that the meeting be held on June 22, 2006, at the Harlingen City Hall.

Mr. Garcia requested to be informed if any Directors were interested in attending the forum in Austin in order to do necessary preparations.

Chairman Alex noted the need to work with the entities with regards to financial commitments.

Mr. Sepulveda informed that \$25,000.00 was received from South Padre Island.

**The Report is as follows:**

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(IV) STATUS REPORT BY HNTB

Mr. Dave Clarke, Senior Project Manager, presented and highlighted status reports for March and April 2006, and informed that they were presently looking for office space in the Brownsville area because it was accessible and proven most beneficial in their business plan.

Mr. Lamberto "Bobby" Balli, HNTB Corporation, explained that they were looking for office space in the northern part of Brownsville because it was more accessible.

There was a brief discussion concerning the possibility of having side by side offices for the CCRMA and of the GEC operating out of a public building.

Chairman Alex asked if any press releases have been done.

Mr. Clarke responded negatively and added that the Board would be notified when any are to be done.

Chairman Alex commented that he would like to see much of the work remain in the Valley, and asked how many surveys had been done.

Ms. Nancy Parker, Director of Public Involvement Plan, indicated that the matter could be discussed during consideration of another item on the agenda.

Chairman Alex stated that he has circulated the video of the new causeway in Mexico. He asked that they elaborate on the section regarding improvements.

Mr. Clarke responded that they were holding quarterly review sessions with staff to obtain feedback from staff.

Director Scaief requested that a flow chart be provided of all projects, including their status and costs.

**The Reports are as follow:**

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(V) **REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT EFFORTS**

Ms. Nancy Parker, Director of Public Involvement Plan, presented and highlighted a report regarding public involvement efforts. She noted that responses were obtained from numerous individuals, including some individuals from across who requested to remain anonymous.

Mr. Balli informed that receipt of comments from across the border had been delayed, but should be received by Tuesday.

Director Scaief suggested that more business persons be contacted.

Director Alvarez suggested that comments be obtained from the general public.

Ms. Parker replied that a phone bank would be set up to obtain public input.

**The Report is as follows:**

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(VI) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CCRMA AND THE  
CITY OF HARLINGEN REGARDING THE NORTH  
RAIL RELOCATION PROJECT**

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, stated that the contract was approved by the City of Harlingen, in the amount of \$522,045.00 in federal funding, and recommended approval of the same. He explained that the City of Harlingen was contracting with the RMA to have HNTB do the project to relocate the railroad through the contract it has with the RMA.

Upon by Director Garza, seconded by Director Alvarez and carried unanimously, the Agreement between the CCRMA and the City of Harlingen regarding the North Rail Relocation Project was approved.

**The Agreement is as follows:**

**(VII) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN CCRMA AND CAMERON  
COUNTY REGARDING FM 509 PROJECT**

Mr. Sepulveda explained that the \$656,000.00 needed for the 509 Project would be funded from the county's Project Road Map Funds.

Director Alvarez moved that Agreement between CCRMA and Cameron County regarding FM 509 Project be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Ramon and carried as follows:

AYE: Directors Betancourt, Ramon, Alvarez, Scaief, Garza and Chairman Alex

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Director Campbell

**The Agreement is as follows:**

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**(VIII) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF WORK  
AUTHORIZATION NO. 4 WITH HNTB FOR THE  
NORTH RAIL RELOCATION PROJECT**

Mr. Sepulveda noted that the effective date should read May 18, 2006, and termination date should read October 31, 2006, totaling a cost of \$522,045.00.

Director Alvarez moved that Work Authorization No. 4 with HNTB for the North Rail Relocation Project be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Ramon and carried unanimously.

**The Work Order is as follows:**



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**(IX) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF WORK  
AUTHORIZATION NO. 5 WITH HNTB FOR THE FM  
509 PROJECT**

Mr. Sepulveda noted that the starting date should read May 18, 2006, and termination date should read December 31, 2007.

Director Betancourt moved that Agreement between CCRMA and Cameron County regarding FM 509 Project be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Garza and carried as follows:

AYE: Directors Betancourt, Ramon, Alvarez, Scaief, Garza and Chairman Allex

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Director Campbell

**The Agreement is as follows:**

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(X) **REPORT ON THE TEAM TX MEETING HELD IN SAN ANTONIO**

Director Campbell reported that the TEAM TX meeting held in San Antonio was great and that great contacts were made. He stated that it appeared to him that there was a need to make ties with neighboring counties.

Chairman Alex noted the need to get sponsors for the upcoming TEAM TX meeting.

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(XI) **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF TRAVEL FOR DIRECTORS AND STAFF TO ATTEND THE TRANSPORTATION FORUM IN AUSTIN, TEXAS ON JUNE 8-9, 2006**

There was a brief discussion regarding who would attend the forum in Austin and it was said that Director Campbell, Director Scaief and Chairman Alex would attend.

Mr. Clarke informed that the IBTTA Annual Meeting would take place September 16-20, 2006 in Dallas, Texas.

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There being no further business to come before the **BOARD** and upon motion by Director Alvarez, seconded by Director Campbell the meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 1:51 P.M.

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

  
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CHAIRMAN DAVID E. ALEX

**ATTESTED:**

  
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SECRETARY LAURA BETANCOURT