

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF CAMERON §

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 9th day of June 2005, there was conducted a REGULAR 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:

1:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

DAVID ALLEX
CHAIRMAN

LAURA BETANCOURT
DIRECTOR

SCOT CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR

RAY RAMON
DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

MICHAEL SCAIEF
DIRECTOR

DAVID N. GARZA
COUNTY CLERK

Mary Robles Deputy Clerk

ABSENT:

VICTOR ALVAREZ

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman David Allex at 1:35 P.M.

The Board then considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on June 6, 2005, at 10:27 A.M.:

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

Accepted for Filing in:
Cameron County

On: Jun 06, 2005 at 10:27A

By,
Liliana Pizana

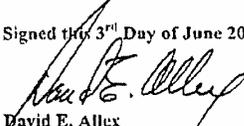
Old Levis Building
1390 Scott Brown Blvd.
San Benito, Texas 78526

Thursday June 9, 2005
1:30 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Opening Remarks
- II. Chairman's Report and other items
- III. Approval of Minutes for April 4th Special Meeting, April 14th Regular Meeting and May 12th Regular Meeting.
- IV. Discussion and possible action to authorize Interim Executive Director to issue a Request For Qualifications for Financial Advisory Services
- V. Discussion and possible action concerning the adoption of a new name for the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority
- VI. Discussion and possible action on preparing specifications for Cameron County RMA bank depository services
- VII. Discussion and possible action on incurring expenses for specialized training to be subsidized by TXDOT
- VIII. Public Comments

Signed this 3rd Day of June 2005


David E. Allex
Chairman

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

(I) WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
(II) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND OTHER ITEMS

At this time, Chairman David Alex welcomed Mr. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation District Engineer.

Mr. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation District Engineer, reported that two corridors running parallel to Highway 83 were being viewed because it (Highway 83) has been expanded to capacity and any further expansion was cost prohibited, them being the Military Highway and Monte Cristo Road (FM 1925) as a connection from Highway 77 to Highway 281. Mr. Jorge reported that an Engineering Firm was hired to begin preparation of the schematic process, and that acquisition of right-of-way would begin in about 18 months. He stated that representatives from both counties attended the Stake Holders Meeting, as did some irrigation districts, and that the cities were invited but not all attended. Mr. Jorge stated that a public hearing might be scheduled for July 26, 2005, at a location yet to be determined. Mr. Jorge explained that a meeting was needed with Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, the consultant for the West Railroad Relocation Project for Cameron County and he to make sure that the two project match at Highway 77. He added that the same process and actions would take place for Highway 281 in the near future.

Chairman Alex reported that the meeting regarding the North Railroad Relocation Project held in Harlingen on Monday had good attendance even though no city representatives attended.

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Interim Executive Director, suggested that a detailed status report concerning the North Railroad Relocation Project be presented during the next meeting. He reported that the consultant has done a corridor analysis and identified alternatives, and would now incorporate public input into the engineering and environmental matrix and would develop recommendations concerning the preferred route for the next public hearing to be held in July 2005, noting that until then, much work would be needed from the railroad companies, the city and the consultants. Mr. Sepulveda reiterated that an agenda item would be posted to present a status report concerning the North Railroad Relocation Project and that notice concerning the public hearing would be given.

Mr. Jorge asked if a presentation concerning the Monte Cristo Project was wanted, and Mr. Sepulveda responded in the affirmative.

Chairman Alex informed that the Brownsville MPO meets every second Wednesday of the month at the Brownsville Museum and that the San Benito/Harlingen MPO meets every second Thursday of the month at the Harlingen City Hall. He encouraged the Directors to volunteer to do presentations regarding the RMA throughout the community.

(III) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 4TH SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 14TH REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 12TH REGULAR MEETING**

Upon motion by Director Garza, seconded by Director Betancourt and carried unanimously, Minutes of the Special Meeting held April 4, 2005, were approved.

NOTE: DIRECTOR CAMPBELL ARRIVED AT THIS TIME.

Director Garza moved that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 14, 2005, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Director Betancourt and carried unanimously.

At this time, Mr. Alex and Director Garza questioned some language and requested that revisions be made to the Minutes.

Upon motion by Director Garza, seconded by Director Betancourt and carried unanimously, the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 12, 2005, were approved, inclusive of corrections.

(IV) **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICE**

Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Department of Transportation Director, stated that the draft notice for RFQ for financial advisor services to be published was included in the back-up information. He explained that the publication would initiate the selection process for financial advisors and that RFQs would be presented to the Board upon receipt for selection of a firm or to begin the interview process. Mr. Sepulveda reported that the plan was to have the RFQs due by July 18, 2005, in order to complete the selection process by the end of August. He reported that staff and TxDOT were working on some PTT projects, and that the County Auditor's Office was assisting with draft bond numbers for individual projects based on traffic counts, which might facilitate for a financial advisor to meet timelines for the projects. Mr. Sepulveda reiterated that the RFQ was merely a draft and that the notice to be published would be much more condensed. He clarified that the agenda item was to authorize staff to proceed with the said process.

Director Ray Ramon asked where the notice would be published.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that the notice would be published in the Brownsville Herald and the Valley Morning Star, posted on the website and that letters would be mailed to a listing of firms who have responded to RFQs from Cameron County in the past.

Upon motion by Director Ramon, seconded by Director Garza and carried unanimously, the Interim Executive Director was authorized to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Financial Advisor Services.

The RFQ is as follows:

CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR
FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES

The Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority (CCRMA) is soliciting statements of interest and qualifications from professional financial advisory firms to provide financial advisory services. Firms responding must demonstrate a history of providing expert advice to governmental agencies including but not limited to investment of available assets in legally permissible interest yielding accounts and paper, issuance and servicing of tax exempt debt, analysis of the financial feasibility of potential toll projects.

Proposed fees or budgets shall not be submitted with any initial response or other communication of a firm. A financial advisor qualification package will be available June 20, 2005 and will be issued to each firm filing a written and/or electronic notice with the CCRMA that it desires to respond by submitting its qualifications. Final firm responses must be received at 3310 S. Expressway 77, Brownsville, Texas 78521 by 5:00 PM CST on July 18, 2005, to be eligible for consideration.

When a firm responds by filing its qualifications, it shall include a summary of the affirmative action program of the firm. It is the policy of the CCRMA to encourage the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and minorities and women in all facets of the CCRMA's activities. To this end, the extent to which DBEs and minorities, and women participate in the ownership, management and professional work force of a firm and/or subcontractors will be considered by the CCRMA in the selection of a firm to serve as financial advisor.

Each firm will be evaluated on its experience in providing financial advisory services of the type routinely required by the CCRMA, the expertise of personnel who will be assigned to the CCRMA and the approach proposed in the delivery of the services required by the CCRMA.

Qualifications filed will be reviewed by CCRMA Board/Staff selection committee(s) to identify those most qualified and experienced respondents who may best serve the CCRMA on specific assignments. The final financial advisor selection, if any, will be made following the completion of the review of responses and negotiation of a satisfactory fee, and agreement upon provision of a contract.

Questions concerning this financial advisory services opportunity shall be directed to Pete Sepulveda, Jr., Interim Executive Director, Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, 3310 S. Expressway 77, Brownsville, Texas 78521, 956-574-8771.

(V) **IN THE MATTER REGARDING DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF A NEW NAME FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (TABLED)**

Director Garza stated that he gave the name change great thought since the Board last met. He explained that at that time he thought the name "Rio Grande Valley" should be used, but since realized that the Board must work on a good relationship with Hidalgo County RMA, adding that taking a name that they assume the Cameron County RMA is not might create tension. Director Garza suggested that a different name be used; one that helps in marketing of the RMA and that does not alienate the Hidalgo County RMA.

Director Garza moved that this Item be **TABLED** and that everyone recommend five names from where a name could be selected during the next meeting.

The motion was seconded by Director Betancourt and carried unanimously.

Chairman Alex informed that the Hidalgo County RMA has been established and that the directors and chairperson were yet to be appointed.

(VI) **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PREPARING SPECIFICATIONS FOR CAMERON COUNTY RMA BANK DEPOSITORY SERVICES**

Mr. Sepulveda reported that Cameron County was going through the tedious process of selecting a bank, adding that the county's depository contract entails a \$95 million budget versus a \$25,000.00 budget for the RMA. He stated that the County Auditor would assist in making needed changes to the specifications and that an agenda item would be placed to request authorization to initiate the bank selection process. Mr. Sepulveda added that he would visit with Legal Counsel to determine if the RMA can have direct use of the county depository contract and that he would place an item for action on the matter should said use not be possible.

Chairman Alex stated that he was thinking of going to the local economic development councils to request assistance to fund operations of the RMA.

Director Ramon moved that the preparation of specifications for the Cameron County RMA Bank Depository Services be authorized.

The motion was seconded by Director Scaief.

Mr. Sepulveda indicated that the county has either a two or four year contract and requested direction from the Board as to the term to be considered.

Mr. Doug Wright, Commissioners Court Legal Counsel, clarified that statute permits a two or four year contract, and that the county requires 125% pledge under securities, which are kept in the Federal Reserve in Denver.

Upon motion duly made by Director Ramon, that the preparation of specifications for the Cameron County RMA Bank Depository Services be authorized.

The motion was seconded by Director Scaief and carried unanimously.

**(VII) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON
INCURRING EXPENSES FOR SPECIALIZED
TRAINING TO BE SUBSIDIZED BY TXDOT**

Mr. Sepulveda reported that correspondence was received last week from the Association Strategy regarding specialized training that would have minimal expense to the RMA. He stated that he did not know if they would come down or if travel to Austin would be necessary, regardless this was training that must be taken advantage of.

Mr. Sepulveda informed that the Alamo RMA was putting together specialized training in San Antonio for their board of directors and that information would be provided to him for possible attendance of the Cameron County RMA Board of Directors, adding that said information would be e-mailed upon receipt.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that the next Team Texas meeting would be held July 21-22, 2005, and requested that directors wanting to attend notify him in order to make necessary travel arrangements.

Director Campbell questioned the status on a request for funding for operations of the RMA.

Mr. Sepulveda responded that he knew that the County Judge submitted correspondence to Representative Kruse indicting the county's monetary and in-kind commitments and the status of the RMA and that they met in Austin; however, he did not know the outcome.

Director Scaief asked what goals were set to begin work on the first project.

Chairman Alex responded that he wants to bid out some projects around August 1, 2005, although evidently this would not work, adding that there was about \$23 million in PTT projects that could be done.

Mr. Mario Jorge, Texas Department of Transportation District Engineer, stated that realistically a PTT agreement may take about nine (9) months from the time that an application was received by TxDOT; however, he explained that the projects were presently being worked on.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that he would place an agenda item for presentation of an update regarding the West Loop Project.

Mr. Jorge reiterated that the process for PTT projects was time consuming.

Mr. Sepulveda stated that they might be able to submit an application based on the numbers provided by the auditor and that the final numbers would be done once a financial counsel was hired. He stated that he would prepare a calendar for the West Loop and the PTT projects and that he would provide it to Mr. Jorge and to the Board.

Mr. Jorge stated that understanding a realistic schedule was very important. He clarified that hiring an engineer was not needed at this time because TxDOT was doing the engineering, but that at one point in time it would be needed.

There was a question regarding meeting every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, and the clarification was made that the by-laws allow for special meetings to be held.

The report is as follows:

ASSOCIATION STRATEGIES



About Association Strategies...

Association Strategies provides effective advocacy, professional development and leadership training for businesses, associations and professional groups that strengthen organizations by cultivating the public policy, business, and social skills of your leadership.

The legislative consultants, advocates and trainers on the Association Strategies team are ready to advise and assist you and your organization to maximize your leverage and influence with public policy-makers and business associates.

Association Strategies has a fully developed training curriculum designed to hone your group's political, business and leadership skills structured to enhance your effectiveness and professionalism. Courses include: Motivated Board Membership, Strategic Planning to Succeed, Social Styles, Persuasive Counseling, Business Writing for Results, Effective Business Presentations, Negotiating to Consensus, Successful Media Relations, Lobbying Skills, and Under the Dome.

In addition, Association Strategies develops, organizes, deploys and manages grassroots campaigns to optimize your organization's efforts to influence public policy.

Utilizing your organization's staff, officers, directors or general membership, Association Strategies can organize and direct targeted, issue-specific, campaigns or train your membership to manage more general plans for future actions. Association Strategies can guide your organization through any complimentary media and public relations campaigns common to grassroots efforts.

Whether your message is best delivered verbally in face-to-face meetings or communicated through a variety of sophisticated mediums, Association Strategies will help you craft your message and insure you deliver it most effectively. An internationally award-winning design group, on the Association Strategies team and can package your communications to perfection providing both a professional appearance and maximum comprehension.

Let us help you deliver your message.

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(VIII) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Ramon reported that he continues to work on recruitment of an Executive Director.

Director Garza reported that Mr. David Garcia, Department of Transportation Assistant Director, has developed a website with basic information, and noted the need to determine a name, a logo and a catchy phrase for the RMA.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was **ADJOURNED** by Chairman
Alex at 2:30 P.M.

APPROVED this 11th day of **August 2005**.

CHAIRMAN DAVID E. ALLEX

ATTESTED:

SECRETARY LAURA BETANCOURT