

OSCAR LEESER
MAYOR

TOMMY GONZALEZ
CITY MANAGER



CITY COUNCIL
PETER SVARZBEIN, DISTRICT 1
LARRY ROMERO, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5
CLAUDIA ORDAZ, DISTRICT 6
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

SPECIAL WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM
August 17, 2015

The City Council met at the above place and date. Meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. Mayor Oscar Leeser present and presiding and the following Council Members answered roll call: Peter Svarzbein, Larry Romero, Emma Acosta, Carl Robinson, Michiel Noe, Claudia Ordaz, Lilia Limon, and Cortney Niland.

AGENDA

1. Update and briefing on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) TPB Agenda and Pending Issues.

Mr. Tommy Gonzalez, City Manager, introduced the topic and discussed an outside evaluation of the Engineering Department.

Mayor Leeser commented, "It is important to state that we are not getting rid of the Engineering Department."

Ms. Monica Lombrana, Director of Aviation, gave a PowerPoint presentation on file with City Clerk's Office.

Representative Acosta questioned four TIP Projects, Bike Projects that she said were very controversial and about the "let" dates.

Representative Niland commented on verification form TXDOT.

Representative Limón spoke of reimbursement issue with TXDOT and the City's status with that.

Ms. Lombrana stated, "We are caught up with TXDOT. Every project will go through for layers of review."

Mr. Gonzalez asked Ms. Lombrana to explain steps being taken to ensure ground breakings are being conducted only when the project is complete.

Representative Ordaz asked Ms. Lombrana to let Council members know there are delays in the project as soon as possible to relay that to their consultants.

Mr. Gonzalez spoke of staffs desire to please Council members that may result in communication issues on the project time lines.

Representative Limón asked for open communication on project readiness dates.

Representative Acosta stated, "MPO website is not user friendly. Information is not easily found." She believes MPO meetings are not well attended because people do not know about them.

Ms. Lombrana would like to send the comments to MPO Director Mike Medina this week.

Representative Limón asked Sam Rodriguez to talk more about the extension of the Border Highway.

Representative Acosta questioned extending the RTS and if the City will be involved in the study. Spoken of environmental concerns with the Rio Bosque.

Representative Swarzbein questioned east/west connections between I-10 and the new Border Highway East.

Representative Noe questioned Rio Bosque environmental study.

Representative asked, "How set in stone are the BHE linkage connections?"

Representative Ordaz asked to keep good communication with the Tigua tribe.

Ms. Lombrana spoke of TXDOT's stakeholder outreach efforts.

Mr. Gonzalez asked the team to convey to the company conducting the study that Council would like to see a synopsis of their stakeholder outreach.

Representative Acosta again expressed concern about information on the MPO website and how difficult it is to find documents or make comments.

Representative Niland spoke of opportunity to get a second bite at the apple.

Representative Acosta would like a copy of the report give to MPO on projects.

Mr. Mathew McElroy explained the list of projects and their viability.

Mr. McElroy spoke of proper budget structuring as an element of readiness for the projects, and steps the team is taking to improve budgeting.

Representative Robinson asked for a clarification of Calls for Projects, new or those in the TIP? Widening and expenses of US 54. Crossing of green belt on Sean

Haggerty.

Mr. Mathew McElroy: 1. Spoke of steps HNTB is taking to triage projects. 2. Analyze local projects in small scale that could be handled outside the MPO funding. 3. Readiness of projects requires project development to a degree the City has not customarily done. There are budget implications.

Mr. Gonzalez stated, "There has been a lack of processes and systems, and procedures. We need to right the ship."

Representative Robinson questioned some of the projects currently on the TIP list, they have less impact on transportation than the US 54 project which is not on the list.

Representative Acosta would like to see analysis of traffic congestion areas.

Mr. McElroy stated, "The triage will help identify those places and projects without subjectivity."

Ms. Lombrana stated, "Our goal is to become more strategic in the way we present and fund projects and the way we sue our match."

Representative Niland commented, "Item #6, extending TIP from 6 years to 10 years, there is an opportunity to get MTP projects into the plan and wants to put an emphasis on that."

Mayor Leeser stated, "It's a great meeting to help us correct our processes that need improvement. Incredibly great dialog. We will continue to have this dialog every month."

Mr. Gonzalez thanked the staff members for the presentations.

Representative Acosta commented on House Bill 20, would like to have a discussion on this next time.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Representative Niland, seconded by Representative Acosta, and unanimously carried to **ADJOURN** this meeting at 10:59 a.m.

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk