

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON JUNE 27, 2018, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 27th day of June 2018, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Larry Hernandez, Vice-Chairman
Artemio Palacios, Member
Tony Martinez, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Prajerres Gutierrez, Secretary

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Bobby Carrillo

STAFF PRESENT: Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations
Vanessa Guzman, Administrative Assistant
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHER PRESENT: Ed Wylie, Deputy City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Fabiola Sanchez, Finance Department
Omar Anzalduas, City Engineering
Javier Cantu, CBP
Andy Vega, CBP
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison
Sgt. Juan Sanchez, Bridge PD

There being a quorum established Chairman Edgar Delgadillo called the meeting to order.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM "1": ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS.

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order. All members were present during roll call except Secretary Gutierrez. Vice-Chairman Hernandez made a motion to

excuse Secretary Gutierrez for being absent. Member Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “2”: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATIONS.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director led them in the Pledge of Allegiance and in prayer. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS: *(The City of Pharr has called this meeting as allowed pursuant to Texas law, city charter, and Ordinance O-2015-28. The governing body may recess from day to day when it does not complete consideration of a particularly long subject as authorized by law. All persons desiring to address the governing body must register with the presiding clerk prior to the scheduled meeting)*

ITEM “3”: PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item and stated there was no one registered for public comments. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. DIRECTOR’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: *(Director’s Administrative Reports and discussion, if any, with Bridge Board. The Director may also assign a designated spokesperson for any particular listed topic)*

ITEM “4”: CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR MAY 2018.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that for the month of May total crossings were 114,699, which shows a decrease of -3,132 vehicles or -2.66% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 62,272 cars, which shows a decrease of -6,184 cars or -9.03%. Mr. Brouwen then showed a car crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of May were 52,427, which shows an increase of 3,052 trucks or 6.18% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that northbound crossings for the month of May were 57,754, which shows an increase of 4,614 trucks or 8.68% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen stated that for the Agriculture for the month of May they had a total of 17,319 trucks, which represents a 30% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Mr. Brouwen stated that total revenue collected for the month of May were \$1,190,182, which shows an increase of \$57,879 or 5.11% in revenues. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “5”: EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR MAY 2018.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they do have Fabiola Sanchez from Finance there in representation of Karla Moya, Finance Director if they have any questions. He added that he can tell them right

now as far as the budget is concerned, things are tracking well and they are at about 67% usage of their overall budget and they are within budget. He added that they went through some budget amendments recently, the entire city did and as they are aware they are now on track specifically with the marketing and advertising, and travel, so they are doing well across the board. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “6”: PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that for the engineers report this is basically tracking their projects, their schedule, as they know they have 6 different projects that they are working on if they count the TX-DOT project. He added that they will have a better update once they have a conference call and they are hoping to get better news as far as that processing. He added that on the DAP15, they are at 100% design and are hoping that they can meet their deadline for letting which is October of this year and hopefully start construction on that project as soon as possible after that. He stated that when it comes to the DAP16 Projects, which include the dock expansion, Ag training center, cold units, they should be at 100% design by July of this year. He added that after that it will go through the review process then a donation acceptance agreement between the city, GSA & CBP, and they can get started 60 days prior to getting to 100%, so basically at 90%. Mr. Bazan stated that the bridge offices are going to go out for rebids, so he will give them an update on that at next month's meeting. He added that the toll collection system is currently being worked on and that all the civil works are complete and these folks have been hard at work even when they had the storm. He added that Lane 4 is being phased out, starting for lane 4 all the way to lane 1 and they are pretty much finished with the construction of that. He added that all the utility boxes are in place already at every single booth and the arm has been installed in lane 4. He stated that there is new lighting in place; they are installing some additional equipment, so everything is tracking well. He added that last week they had to cancel the BridgeConnect Trade Session where they were going to be giving an introduction to the new toll collection system to their customers. He added that they have rescheduled that for next week on July 5th, which is going to be at the DRC in South Pharr and that is from 2-4pm. He added that this goes out to all the trade, all our customers and it is a mandatory meeting because they are changing the toll collection system and the AVI stickers will become obsolete and once that happens they are going to be switching everybody out and everybody needs to understand how this is going to work, so they are really looking forward to that. He added that he would let Omar handle some more of the engineering side of things for the projects. Mr. Omar Anzaldúa, City Engineer stated that like Luis had mentioned on FY15, they are at about 100% and the only thing is that they are going to be removing the command center that was a part of that FY15. He added that that was going to be at that VACAS building, so they are looking at completely doing a new project, a future DAP Project so that is not going to be a part of this project. He added that on the FY16, which is the dock, Ag and cold inspection, they are about 75% complete with a target of July for 100%. He stated that on the bridge building renovation one of the things that they want to do is add some sustainability to that project, some green components more of an energy efficiency. He stated that that would be part of the

rebidding and maybe do a little bit of value engineering, so that is part of the reason it is being rebid and that is the technical summary of some of these projects they are doing. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that the Aduana in Mexico as they all know is under a modernization project and that is at 87% complete as of today, so things are tracking very well there and they are on schedule to meet their deadline for completion by October of this year. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM "7": DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that as he mentioned they are going to have a BridgeConnect Trade Session next week, it was rescheduled from last week and it is completely mandatory, they need to ensure that all customers currently end users using this bridge are aware of this change. He added that most of them are aware because they have been coming and when they come in our administrative assistants have been very helpful and informing them that there is a change coming. He added that it is a positive change and it is going to be something that only the Pharr Bridge will have. He stated that it is the first of its kind in the Rio Grande Valley and is a part of our interlocal agreement that they have with Camren County as part of the toll system that connects to their Port of Brownville. Several discussions then took place regarding the toll system. Mr. Bazan stated that the next BridgeConnect that they have would be a Step by Step Procedure on what they call a Level 1 Inspection, which is basically when DPS pulls you over and you don't meet those specifications on that inspection, that's when you get cited and they are trying to prevent that from happening. He stated that tomorrow Thursday the 28th in the morning, there will be two sessions, one will be a mechanical session at one of their logistics companies and he'll let Freddy elaborate a little more and then at 10:30 they kick off at the DRC where they will allow more people to come in and be a part of that conversation. Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison stated that it will be at Cano & Son's Trucking in San Juan, which is something that CANACAR and some of the transportation companies agreed too and that is a hands on training where DPS is going to go under the trucks to do the hands on, what consents of a Level 1 Inspection. He added that as of right now they already have 50 people registered, which is what DPS wanted and it is a good thing because they are already requesting another session for next month. Several discussions then took place regarding the BridgeConnect Trade Session. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that another thing he wants to discuss is NAFTA, right now NAFTA is on hold until after the elections in Mexico which will take place next week. He then began to discuss some issue about NAFTA. He stated another thing is STAC AG, they are on schedule and are up to date and they have spent about a hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars in STAC Ag money, these are inspection for agricultural inspections inside the port for CBP Ag. He added that they just signed an authorization for July for another thirty-three thousand dollars, so they are on schedule and are doing good there and they are getting 50% of that reimbursed every time, so things are tracking well there. Several discussions then took place regarding STAC Ag. Mr. Bazan stated that one last thing he has on his director's report is organization called Transportation Intermediaries Association and Board Member Tony Martinez was graceful enough to have a conversation with them last week. He

added that he brought some information for the board and as they know they are members of different boards and associations and the more they get acquainted with these boards and associations the more reach they have to be heard, to be understood, to understand that this bridge is number 1 in produce for a reason. He stated that so much trucking is going through this bridge and those truck numbers are only going to increase not just because they say it, not just because the trade numbers say it, but because even TX-DOT has put out studies that indicate that there is a complete growth in the next 20 years of commercial traffic in trucks. He stated that they have to be ready for that and he got some information there for the board to consider, they brought it up just for discussion proposes but will bring it to the board for next meeting for discussion and action if any and to hopefully authorize that membership. Several discussions then took place regarding this membership. Chairman Delgadillo moved on to the next item.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION: In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Gov't. Code, the International Toll Bridge Board hereby gives notice that it may meet in Executive session to discuss and deliberate any items listed on the public portion of the meeting agenda including items C-E.

Chairman Delgadillo stated the time being 12:34 p.m., the Bridge Board would be going in to executive session in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Govt.

E. RECONVENE: into regular session, and consider action, if any, on item(s) discussed in executive session.

Chairman Delgadillo reconvened the meeting to regular session at 12:46pm. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM "8": CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- MAY 23, 2018.

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vice-Chairman Hernandez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Delgadillo moved to the next item.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM "9": ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Delgadillo introduced the next item. Vice-Chairman Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

PRAJERES GUTIERREZ, SECRETARY

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §
CITY OF PHARR §

ON THE 23rd DAY OF MAY 2018, the Toll Bridge Board convened in a Regular Meeting at the Pharr International Bridge, the meeting being open to the public and notice of said meeting, giving the date, place and subject thereof, having been posted to the public and notice of said meeting, given in accordance to Chapter 551, of the Texas Government Code, (Open Meetings Act) and their being present a quorum, **I, VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

DATE APPROVED: _____
Word/C:BoardMeetings/BoardMtgMinutes6-27-18