

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2019, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 25th day of September 2019, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Larry Hernandez, Member
Luis Flores, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: None

**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
John Rigney, City Attorney
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Omar Anzaldua, City Engineering
Veronica Gutierrez, Purchasing Department
Sylvia Briones, CBP
David John Gonzalez, CBP
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant

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 Edgar Delgadillo called the meeting to order. All members were present during roll call. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “2”: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATIONS.

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

B. CONSENT AGENDA: *(All items listed under consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Governing body and will be enacted by one motion. Any Board Member may remove items from the consent agenda by making such request prior to a motion and vote on the Consent Agenda)*

ITEM “3”: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES-AUGUST 21, 2019.

ITEM “4”: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF NASCO ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$5,000.

ITEM “5”: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES (TIPA) FOR \$2,000.

ITEM “6”: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH TEXAS BORDER BUSINESS FOR \$1,310 FOR 12 MONTHS.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Member Hernandez made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice-Chairman Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Edgar 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 “7”: CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR AUGUST 2019.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that for the month of August total crossings were 98,491, which shows a decrease of (-18,093) vehicles or -15.52% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 44,829 cars, which shows a decrease of (-

21,553) cars or -32.47%. 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 August were 53,662, which shows an increase of 3,460 trucks or 6.89% 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 August were 55,226, which shows a decrease of (-325) trucks or -0.59% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen stated that for the Agriculture for the month of August they had 14,505 trucks, which represents a 26% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Mr. Brouwen stated that total revenue collected for the month of August were \$1,237,433, which shows an increase of \$97,385 or 8.54% in revenues. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “8”: EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR AUGUST 2019.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they do have Karla Saavedra, Finance Director if they have any questions. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “9”: PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they do have Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer there if they have any questions regarding their projects. He stated that before Omar gets in to the engineering details he wanted to let them know that they are finally starting construction of the BSIF projects and that they met with TX-DOT about two weeks ago and it looks like the Donations Acceptance Agreement was finally signed and they will start construction in November of this year and it is an eighteen month project. He stated that when it comes to the DAP Projects, they are about to start construction, but they do have to go through a rebid on the DAP15 projects because they only had 1 bidder. He added that when it comes to the DAP16 they are still working on finalizing 100% of the design for that and our project at the bridge is full speed ahead and is moving right along.

Mr. Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer stated that on the bridge office expansion, they should start pouring the final slab next week and it should start going vertical probably two weeks from there. He stated that as far the FY15 they did meet with TX-DOT and they are going to be looking at rebidding that in January. He stated that on the FY16 they are 100% on the plans and they are just coordinating the final execution of the Donation Acceptance Agreement and trying to get all the financials in place, all the funding sources that's what GSA wants to know and they are still ironing out some of those funds that they might be getting from TX-DOT. He added that they don't see that project going out for construction till late 2020, because they will have the FY15 under construction. Several discussions then took place regarding the projects. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “10”: DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they were at United Fresh last week and they were there to continue their talks on ratifying USMCA and also to continue their talks for the bridge expansion projects. He added that as of Thursday of last week, the city commission authorized them to hire CAXCAN, which is the original designer/engineer for the Mexican side of the bridge to start putting all the studies together. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director then stated that they got some very encouraging news while they were there, they visited with the National Economic Development Council which is now under the office of the President. He added that in the past the process for a Presidential Permit use to go through the Department of State, and as of April of this year there is an executive order that puts those responsibilities under the President responsibilities but its through the National Economic Development Council. He added that they did get good news in that it is suppose to streamline the process and they thought that it was the opposite, that it was going to take longer but they might be able to speed up the process on their end as well. He stated that if all goes as planned and Mexico gets the ball rolling with their studies and if they are able to provide justification that things are moving along with Mexico and show them that an agreement is in place and show work that is being done they hope they can amend the current Presidential Permit instead of having to go through a new Presidential Permit process. Several discussions then took place regarding United Fresh Conference.

Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that there is some news with the Tomato Agreement and it looks like things will get finalized the beginning of October sometime, but what is still looming out there is whether or not the Department of Commerce is going to ask that all shipment of fresh tomato be inspected. He added that they are concerned with whether they are going to be inspecting over 90% of those shipments because it is something that has been out in the news already, something that has been addressed so they are just going to keep an eye out on those things and try to prevent that from happening. Vice-Chairman Martinez then began to explain in detail about the Tomato Suspension Agreement.

Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they have been on a very aggressive travel schedule and this is all to continue promoting the bridge specifically as they get closer to start construction of these projects. Several discussions then took place regarding the travel and the promoting of the bridge. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that he would like to call Ezequiel Ordonez to give the board a quarterly report on the events and meetings that they have attended and some of the results of those events and meetings.

Mr. Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Mexico Liaison then began to give his quarterly report in Spanish on the events and meetings that they have attended and their importance. Several discussions then took place.

Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that one of the things that he wants to mention is that they are about to start the produce season in October and as they have accustomed every year for the last 5 years or more they have done the Start of the Produce Season event at the bridge underneath the canopy and they are working collectively with Governmental Affairs, CBP and everyone else involved to make sure they have another successful event. He added that they broke the record last year with about 250 attendees, so he would like to invite them to this Start of the Produce Season

event, and it is on October 10th at 10am at the bridge and they hope to see everyone there. He added that another big event that is happening is David Higerson that use to be the Port Director at the Port of Pharr is retiring after 49 years of service. He added that he heads the Laredo Field Office, which we fall under and he is retiring and they are happy to announce that they are throwing him a going away party here in Pharr on October 9th, so one day prior to the Start of the Produce Season event. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item

D. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM “10”: DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM TALLER DE INFOGRAFIA Y FOTOGRAFIA (TIF) ON VIRTUAL TOUR ANIMATION AND VIDEO PRESENTATION.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that this is a continuation of a project that they started going on two years now which is a video that has been circulating, it's the latest video that they show to showcase the projects and what the bridge brings to the different industries. He added that this next video would be a 3D animation video that will allows them to actually have a ground level view of all the facilities that they are building inside the port in the next couple of years. He added that this company is out of Monterrey and is the only company that does this sort of work and they have a huge portfolio of some major customers, both in Mexico and the USA. He stated everywhere they go people want a copy of their video and they want to know where they got it made, so they are just happy to be apart of this company's success but they are also bringing a lot to the picture for them, so this will be a continuation of that. Vice-Chairman Martinez made a motion to approve the item. Member Hernandez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item

E. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM “12”: ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Member Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019, 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/BoardMtgMinutes9-25-19