

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON APRIL 15, 2020, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 15th day of April 2020, 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
Luis Flores, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Larry Hernandez, Member

**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

OTHERS PRESENT: Anali Alanis, Assistant City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Maria Rangel, Engineering Department
Ignacio Amezcua, Purchasing Director
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
Andres Vega, CBP
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs

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 except Member Hernandez. Vice-Chairman Martinez made a motion to excuse Member Hernandez for being absent. Member Flores seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. 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. 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 “3”: CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that for the month of February total crossings were 94,774, which shows a decrease of (-16,502) vehicles or -14.83% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 41,743 cars, which shows a decrease of (-18,359) cars or -30.55%. Mr. Brouwen then showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of February were 53,031, which shows an increase of 1,857 trucks or 3.63% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that northbound crossings for the month of February were 54,534, which shows an increase of 639 trucks or 1.19% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen stated that for the Agriculture for the month of February they had 15,969 trucks, which represents a 29% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Mr. Brouwen stated that total revenue collected for the month of February were \$1,171,034, which shows a decrease of -\$42,683 or -3.52% in revenues.

Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that for the month of March total crossings were 91,218, which shows a decrease of (-31,686) vehicles or -25.78% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 33,670 cars, which shows a decrease of (-33,484) cars or -49.86%. Mr. Brouwen then showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of March were 57,548, which shows an increase of 1,798 trucks or 3.23% increase in trucks. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen reported that northbound crossings for the month of March were 58,168, which shows a decrease of -60 trucks or -0.10% decrease in trucks. Mr. Brouwen stated that for the Agriculture for the month of March they had 17,378 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 March were \$1,271,490, which shows a decrease of -\$66,431 or -4.97% in revenues. Several

discussions then took place regarding the crossings. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “4”: EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020.

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 “5”: PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they do have Maria Rangel in place of Omar Anzaldúa, City Engineer there if they have any questions regarding their projects. He stated that they are about three weeks out from the completion of the renovations of the bridge offices but that does not mean that they are going to be able to occupy the building right away. He added that there is another change order that is taking place right now and they are waiting on the new generator, so they will not be able to occupy until change order #3 is complete. He also added that they just placed the order for the furniture as well, so that is about another 4-6 weeks and with shipping the way it is right now the freight movement might be pushed out another extra couple of weeks.

Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that on DAP15, which is the inbound commercial entry lanes and the inbound commercial exit lanes, that project was awarded so they will be going through the vetting process soon and hopefully breaking ground on those projects.

Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that when it comes to DAP16 they will not be going out for bids till next year because there is a bidding process that takes place along with TX-DOT, so they do not want to interfere with that. He also added that they have to stagger their projects so that there isn't so many things going on at one time. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “6”: DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that one of the biggest things for them now as they face this together is the fact that now more than ever he is so excited and happy that they started BridgeConnect 5-6 years ago. He added that BridgeConnect has been the way that they engage with the public, their customers, their end users and that is the way they keep them informed of what is going on. Mr. Bazan, Bridge Director stated that last week they decided to have a BridgeConnect LIVE session, which will now be a weekly session and they will bring in the panelists. He added that Edgar participated last week and they had CBP, DPS and the Pharr Police Department there because they had a lot of questions about what is going on at the border, what types of questions are they asking, if they will be able to cross if they are not an essential worker, so they wanted to clear the smoke a bit. He added that even though the trade crosses through there they might live in different cities, so their rules are a little bit different than ours. He stated that people are

getting pulled over and the officers are determining what is essential and what is non-essential regardless of the fact that the customer has a letter indicating they are essential. He added that again they just wanted to clear the smoke and they think it went very well and they had about 109 attendees, which is an average for them at a regular BridgeConnect session. Mr. Bazan stated that they are hoping that that number will increase for this next one that they are hosting tomorrow Thursday, April 16 and that will be Part 2, so they are titling it BridgeConnect LIVE Part 2: The Effect of COVID-19 on Trade from An Industry Perspective. He added that for this next one they are inviting their different trade associations to talk about the changes that are going on and how it is affecting them. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that there will probably be more questions than answers, but they are trying their best to keep the trade informed and they think that BridgeConnect LIVE is the next big thing for them as they continue to move forward, not just for promotion but for outreach as well. Some discussions then took place regarding suggestions for the next BridgeConnect LIVE session. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM “7”: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- FEBRUARY 19, 2020.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Vice-Chairman Martinez made a motion to approve the minutes for February 19, 2020. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “8”: CONSIDERATION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON BORDER TRADE ALLIANCE (BTA) 2020 MEMBERSHIP SILVER PATRON LEVEL RENEWAL FOR \$10,000. (TABLED)

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item and stated that this item was tabled so they need a motion to untable the item. Vice-Chairman Martinez made a motion to untable the item. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they have been members of this alliance for many years and what this membership does is give them a place on the board, but most importantly now this will allow him to be part of the governing body, so not just the board but part of the executive board as well. He added that there is a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, and he has been asked to be the secretary for the next two-years. He added that it is a great platform, particularly now and a lot of the updates that the board gets from him come from the Border Trade Alliance with regards to the USMCA and the state of trade as a whole. He added that he thinks it is important for them and it has been discussed with leadership and they have all come to terms that this is a good position for them, it's a great opportunity especially during these trying times. Several discussions then took place regarding the Border Trade Alliance. Member Flores made a motion to approve the item. Chairman Edgar

Delgadillo seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM “9”: DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL PROPOSAL FROM XOANA FOR ROAD SIGNS IN REYNOSA. (TABLED)

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item and stated that this item was tabled so they need a motion to untable the item. Member Flores made a motion to untable the item. Chairman Delgadillo seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Mr. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that also due to the same circumstances and the fact that they are trying to use their dollars wisely when it comes to promotion of the Bridge and this is something that at one time became more of a promotional strategy, not just for our customers but also on the tourism side. He added that right now they do not have tourism and they haven't had a lot of tourism since last year due to the immigration crisis that hit them. He stated that what they did was talk to the company and went back and forth on this with the leadership at the city level to ensure that they are doing the right thing and to find out if there was something that they actually wanted to keep. He also added that right now what the offer is, is if they look at their agenda packet, they basically put two contracts in to one. He added that one contract already ended in February, where they were paying \$3,750 a month for signage leading to and from the bridge and other signs for tourism. He added that the second contract ends in August of this year, and that one is the smaller one for almost \$600 a month, so what they did was put both contracts in to one and it is giving them a savings of about \$1,600 a month, so they will only be paying \$2,750 a month. Mr. Bazan, Bridge Director stated that these are signs that they had put together a while back to ensure that our customers had the correct directions to get to the Pharr Bridge, and this will be the second time around with this vendor, and all these signs are all in Mexico. Several discussions then took place regarding the signs. Secretary Campero made a motion to approve the new proposal from XOANA. Member Flores seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

D. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM “10”: ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the next item. Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 15th DAY OF APRIL 2020, 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/BoardMtgMinutes4-15-20