

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON APRIL 21, 2021, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 21st day of April 2021, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Luis Flores, Member
Larry Hernandez, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager
Anali Alaniz, Assistant City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Daniel Gonzalez, Asst. City Attorney
Omar Anzaldua, Engineering Department
Fabiola Sanchez, Asst. Finance Director
Jose Luengo, Bridge PD
Eric Garcia, Bridge PD
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
David John Gonzalez, CBP
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Sgt. Orlando Barrera, DPS

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

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Member Hernandez moved to excuse absent members. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 2 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATIONS

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and said the prayer.

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 JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the months of January, February, and March 2021. He reported total crossings for the month of January were 111,060, which was an increase of 11,130 vehicles or 11.14% compared to last year. He also reported total crossings for the month of February were 96,458, which was an increase of 1,684 vehicles or 1.78% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total car crossing for the month of January were 48,242, which was an increase of 3,522 cars or 7.88% and that total car crossing for the month of February were 41,226, which was a decrease of -517 cars or -1.24%. He then showed a car crossing comparison from other bridges across the board for the months of January and February. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings for the month of January were 62,818, which was an increase of 7,608 trucks or 13.78% increase. He also reported the total truck crossings for the month of February were 55,232, which was an increase of 2,201 trucks or 4.15% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing comparison from other bridges across the board for the month of January and February. He reported total crossings for the month of March were 111,567, which was an increase of 20,349 vehicles or 22.31% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 48,110, which was an increase of 14,440 cars or 42.89% and showed a car crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 63,457, which was an increase of 5,909 trucks or 10.27% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings for the month of March were 64,795, which was an increase of 6,627 trucks or 11.39% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the Agriculture for the month of March they had 20,697 trucks, which represents a 32% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also added on the Agriculture side, the import lot showed an increase of 3,319 or 19.10% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen then

reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossing for the month of March were 128,252, which was an increase of 12,476 or 10.78%. Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of January was \$1,452,900, which shows an increase of \$ 140,880 or 10.74% in revenues. He added that total revenue collected for the month of February was \$1,272,469, which shows an increase of \$ 101,435 or 8.66% in revenues. He also stated total revenue collected for the month of March was \$1,412,253, which shows an increase of \$140,763 or 11.07% in revenues. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected from October to March were \$8,243,763, which shows an increase of \$807,785 or 10.86%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, stated that he would like to bring Mr. Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant for the Bridge to give a brief report on the crossing & revenues.

Eddie Gutierrez, Blue Stone Capital Solutions Financial Consultant for the Bridge, then gave a brief report on the crossings & revenues for the first six months of the fiscal year.

Discussion ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that on the non-essential crossings it is being extended every 30 days due to COVID-19 and will remain like that until the Department of Homeland Security/CBP sends out an official notice that it will be opened. He stated that today is Administrative Professionals day, and he would like to thank all the administrative professionals for the City of Pharr in particularly he would like to reach out and say thank you to Vanessa and Cleo for all their hard work. He added that he knows it has been a hard year, but throughout everything, all the obstacles they persisted and stayed on track and they have continued to honor and serve within our mission, vision, and value, because it is important to them, it's important to the city so we appreciate everybody for their hard work and dedication to the City of Pharr.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Fabiola Sanchez, Asst. Finance Director, was in the audience and questions could be entertained at this time.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that finances are tracking well, crossings are up so that means that their finances are good. He added that they are at 71% of their budget on the revenues side and 51% of their budget on the expenditures side and that they have a healthy balanced budget.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM 5 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that he would like to bring Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison in Mexico to brief the board on his quarterly report but before that he would like to wish Ezequiel a Happy Birthday as well. Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison in Mexico, then began his presentation in Spanish. Several discussions took place regarding the presentation.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on BridgeConnect LIVE. He reported that Freddy Flores has been working on BridgeConnect LIVE since the onset of the pandemic and all those sessions are on the city's YouTube page and people can always go back and view them. He added that Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison will give them more information on part 35 and that they have a special guest. Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison stated that they are happy to inform the board that tomorrow will be their first in person session and they have around 50-60 people registered to attend, and it will be held at Unimex in Pharr. He added that this is due to customer demand, they need more trainings on auto compliance and violations on hazmat, so today they have Sgt. Orlando Barrera with DPS to give the board a brief presentation as to what they will be discussing tomorrow.

Sgt. Orlando Barrera, DPS, then began his presentation on what will be taught at the BridgeConnect LIVE Part 35 Trade Session. Discussion ensued on BridgeConnect LIVE.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on STAC. He reported that they have been working on STAC for a few years now and the Government Affairs team was at the state capital testifying for STAC. He added it passed the House unanimously and that will allow them to get back to the 50/50 percent match for Ag overtime pay.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on DAP15. He reported that they are going to be the first Port of Entry or the first DAP Project across the board to go through the cash procurement process. He stated that what that means is that it further cements the fact that they were the pioneering port of entry for DAP Projects, first one to submit project proposals and first to sign MOUs with the federal government and they are going to be the first ones to actually put something like this together.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM 6 PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, was present and questions on projects could be entertained at this time.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Bridge Office Renovations Phase II. He stated that they are about 30% complete and that is continuing with the additions to the building.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the FY15. He stated that it is under construction, it is on going and still on schedule and is scheduled for February 2022.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on projects that are under design right now. He stated that FY16 is 100% complete but they cannot bid it out until they finish FY15.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Truck Staging Area. He reported that they should be clearing the environmental clearance by the summer and wrapping up the plans in the fall to go out for bids.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Bridge Expansion project. He stated that there are some studies that still need to happen, the hydraulic studies that are currently ongoing. He added that they will be having an informal kick off meeting on the environmental clearance with Tx-DOT this coming Monday. Some discussion then took place regarding the expansion.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Gate-to-Gate Project. He reported that they hit some snags, the fiber optic line that they tried helping them out with, they had some shifting there, so they are going to try and help them figure that out.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that next week they will be hosting Texas Secretary of State Ruth Hughs at the bridge, so they are working with Governmental Affairs to bring her in and her staff. He added that they will be updating her on what is going on at the bridge, showing her the projects and where they are at as far as rankings and future developments.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JANUARY 20, 2021.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Member Flores **moved** to approve the minutes as presented. Member Hernandez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 8 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2021 INDEX REYNOSA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR \$1,814.40.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Member Flores **moved** to approve. Member Hernandez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

ITEM 9 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING IN THE PORT OF BROWNSVILLE'S 2021 DIRECTORY FOR \$2,900.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Member Hernandez **moved** to approve the minutes as presented. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 10 ADJOURNMENT

Member Flores **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 12:57pm. Member Hernandez seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 21st DAY OF APRIL 2021, 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/BoardMtgMinutes4-21-21