

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

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

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

MEMBER ABSENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Daniel Chavez

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: Anali Alanis, Assistant City Manager
Chris Hinojosa, Asst. City Attorney
Daniel Gonzalez, Asst. City Attorney
Omar Anzaldua, Engineering Department
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Andy Harvey, Police Chief
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Andy Vega, CBP
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
Eric Salinas, Aduana/SAT
Elizabeth Gonzalez, Aduana/SAT
Hector Villareal, COMCE Noreste
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs

There being a quorum established Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez called the meeting to order.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Member Hernandez moved to excuse absent member. Secretary Campero 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 JUNE 2021

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossing and revenues report for the month of June 2021. He reported total crossings were 92,883, which was an increase of 6,094 vehicles or 7.03% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 32,009, which was an increase of 1,718 cars or 5.67% and showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 60,824, which was an increase of 4,376 trucks or 7.75% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 58,176, which was an increase of 1,641 trucks or 2.90% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the agriculture for the month of June they had 17,638 trucks, which represents a 30% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of June was \$1,389,202, which shows an increase of \$ 175,487 or 14.46% in revenues.

Discussions ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 FINANCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2021

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, was in the audience and would give the board a quick report on the finances for the bridge.

Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, then began to give a quick report on the expenditures and revenues year to date for the bridge.

After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez moved to the next item.

ITEM 5 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Overweight Corridor. He reported that last month the board had questions on the overweight corridor so he invited Pillar Rodriguez, Executive Director for the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority to give the board a brief summary on the Overweight Corridor and the permits as well as the IBTC, which is a project that will allow commercial traffic to go on to I-2 and I-69.

Pillar Rodriguez, Executive Director for the Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority then began his presentation regarding the Overweight permits, Overweight Corridor and the IBTC Project.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported they have this program BridgeConnect on a monthly basis and when the pandemic hit, they started doing it on a weekly basis as a live streaming and in this program, they do cover a lot of these issues that were discussed by Pillar about twice a year.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Mexico. He reported they have this project they have been pushing for about seven years, which is the Access Corridor to the Aduana. He added that it is now under construction and is being constructed by COCONAL and for that he will have Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison in Mexico give the board a brief update on that project.

Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison in Mexico then began to give his update in Spanish to the board.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on BridgeConnect. He reported that they have an upcoming session on July 29th on the Food Safety Moderation Act and the way they go about doing these sessions are petitions from the trade community. He stated that Freddy Flores would give them a quick update on what is going on with this one for the 29th. Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison stated there were requests to have a Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) with FDA, so they will have Sylvia Gaytan out of Dallas presenting online and in person. He added that if they have importers or customers from Mexico, please have them register for this free event.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez moved to the next item.

ITEM 6 PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

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

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Bridge Facility Expansion Phase II and the FY15 DAP. He stated they are substantial complete on Phase II of the Bridge Facility Expansion project. He added they built a parking lot in the back and a detention pond, and they are adding other amenities. He stated they should be wrapping up that project soon and they are looking at doing a Phase III in the future.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on FY15 DAP Project. He stated they are about 53% complete on the time and on the place to date they are 35%, so they are a little behind because the month of July has been bad with rain, so they have been limited to one pour per week on the concrete and usually they get about three pours a week. He then showed a video of the construction of the project to show where they are currently at. He added that the estimated completion date on this project is the first quarter of next year looking at March, or anywhere between March and May of next year and that leads him in to FY16, which is the next project that will be coming right after this project is complete and that is estimated at about \$30 million-dollars and they are 100% complete on the plans, so as soon as FY15 is complete they will start on FY16.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Truck Staging Area. He reported that they are looking at about 250 spaces and they are in the environmental clearance process on that and should be cleared in the next month or so and then they can start finalizing those plans.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Second Span. He reported they are looking to start Phase IV, the final design which will take about six-months, and then go out for bids early next year.

After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JUNE 16, 2021.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the items.

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

ITEM 8 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INDEX REYNOSA / FUNDACION RAMMAC CHARITY GOLF FUND RAISER SPONSORSHIP FOR \$6,000.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the items.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that a few months back they brought in INDEX or the people that represent RAMMAC Foundation and they discussed having their annual golf tournament in Pharr. He added that they are finally there, and they have Darrel Renfrow who was there a few months ago and they also have Mike Myers representing INDEX on the board. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that they had agreed on sponsoring the event as long as the event was brought to Pharr. He added that INDEX is in it for the long run, for the next 5 years, and Mike Myers is there to give the board a brief presentation about the golf tournament.

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

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

Member Hernandez **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:12pm. Member Flores 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 JULY 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/BoardMtgMinutes7-21-21