

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON JUNE 16, 2021, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 16th day of June 2021, 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 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 Chairman Edgar Delgadillo called the meeting to order.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

ITEM 1 ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Vice-Chairman Martinez moved to excuse absent member. 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 MAY 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossing and revenues report for the month of May 2021. He reported total crossings were 97,077, which was an increase of 20,120 vehicles or 26.14% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 38,493, which was an increase of 10,715 cars or 38.57% and showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 58,584, which was an increase of 9,405 trucks or 19.12% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 59,248, which was an increase of 9,797 trucks or 19.81% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the agriculture for the month of May they had 18,094 trucks, which represents a 31% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of May was \$1,299,017, which shows an increase of \$ 258,593 or 24.85% in revenues.

Discussions ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 FINANCE REPORT FOR MAY 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo 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. Several discussions took place regarding the finance report.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that they are still in budget session, and they just finished submitting the final budget step this past Monday and will be meeting with upper management in July.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

ITEM 5 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Policies. He reported there are still a couple of things that have not reached the governors office yet and yesterday the STAC was finally signed by the Texas Governor, so they still have another bridge policy that needs to be signed. He stated that once all that gets into place Cynthia will come and give the board a brief on what is going on with those three policies.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on travel restrictions. He reported the bridge hours are very limited when it comes to regular vehicular traffic because of the immigration crisis back in 2019, so it has not really affected them, and they are prioritizing trade. He stated that as of yesterday Mexico and the US came to an agreement that not until the border increases their vaccine rates, that is when they will be looking at maybe a way to open the borders.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the 24hour Survey. He stated they ran a 24hour survey and they do have some results. He reported as expected most of the end-users wants 24hours but how do you justify opening up for 24hours because there is a lot at stake. He stated as soon as they get the graphs, and everything squared away as far as putting the information in a format like the finance report that is easy to understand and make sense of it, they will send it out and then bring to it to their attention at the next board meeting or at a potential workshop. Several discussions took place regarding this item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Access Corridor. He reported as of Monday, Mexico started working on the access corridor to the aduana, so they blocked a couple of lanes on the Mexico side so we are starting to see more backups and bottlenecking then what they have before. He stated this is also in line with what is going on in the aduana, which is that they are trying to implement the gafete único which is also causing a backup along Cage Blvd and all the way to Anaya Road and Military Highway. He stated at this time he would like to introduce Elizabeth Gonzalez and Eric Salinas from SAT to give a brief presentation regarding what is going on with the gafete único.

Elizabeth Gonzalez, SAT Aduana then began to give her presentation in Spanish. Several discussions took place regarding the gafete único. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director added that they will be doing a BridgeConnect Trade Session on the June 24th

and it will be on the gafete único to shed more light on these new process improvements.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on COMCE Noreste. He reported that he has Hector Villareal with COMCE Noreste of Monterrey there and they visited with him a week after the board approved the sponsorship with them. He stated they have been members of COMCE for several years and now they are taking it to an extra level, and he wants to talk about some other ideas that they discussed. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director then introduced Hector Villareal of COMCE Noreste.

Hector Villareal, COMCE Noreste of Monterrey then began to give his presentation in Spanish.

After a brief discussion, 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 Facility Expansion Phase II, Northbound Lane Expansion and the Second BSIF Exit. He reported the bridge administration office was almost complete and are about two-weeks away from having substantial completion of the building itself. He stated that they have added a couple of components to the exterior which will take another four-weeks. Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on FY15 DAP Project that they are adding two new lanes and a second BSIF exit to the state facility. He stated that they are pouring the concrete right now and they have to do it in several panels, once they get all the concrete poured, they are going to add two new booths to the project as well.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Truck Staging Area. He reported that it is under design and that they had a meeting last week with one landowner that had some opposition to that project. He stated that they are looking to get that project off the ground in October of this year.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on FY16 Project. He reported that the project cannot get started till they finish the FY15 Project, so they are looking at probably first quarter of next year to get that one going.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on the Second Span. He reported they are doing the environmental clearances and will be moving forward with the final design which will take about six-months, so they are hoping to get started with the second span early next year to bid it out and get into construction.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

**ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES-
MAY 19, 2021.**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **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 BORDER TRADE ALLIANCE
(BTA) 2021 MEMBERSHIP SILVER PATRON LEVEL RENEWAL FOR
\$10,000.**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the items.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to approve. Member Flores seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

Member Flores **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:00pm. Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 16th DAY OF JUNE 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/BoardMtgMinutes6-16-21