

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2021, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 20th day of October 2021, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Luis Flores, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Larry Hernandez, Member
Tony Martinez, Vice-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: Ed Wylie, Interim City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Omar Anzaldua, Engineering Department
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison
David John Gonzalez, CBP
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

Member Flores **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 SEPTEMBER 2021

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of September 2021. He reported total crossings were 92,514, which was a decrease of -12,685 vehicles or -12.06% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 29,257, which was a decrease of -15,021 cars or -33.92% and showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 63,257, which was an increase of 2,336 trucks or 3.83% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 54,725, which was a decrease of -5,177 trucks or -8.64% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the agriculture for the month of September they had 15,324 trucks, which represents a 28% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported Northbound and Southbound combination of both crossings for the month of September were 117,982, which was a decrease of -2,841 or -2.35%. Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of September was \$1,466,226, which shows an increase of \$27,988 or 1.95% in revenues. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen stated that this was a new report based on information that was requested by board member Campero which is a crossing comparison by axle. He reported for cars and trucks were 29,257, 2X trucks were 2,898, 3X trucks were 4,488, 4X trucks were 1,555, 5X trucks were 44,450, 6X trucks 9,748, mobile homes were 1, wide loads were 93, special crossings were 24 and total combination for the month of September was 92,514.

Discussions ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 FINANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 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, as well as the adopted budget for the bridge.

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

ITEM 5 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. He stated they are basically complete with this project and are in the punch list process right now and are about 90% complete on the list and should close this project out this month.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on FY15 DAP Project. He stated they are on track, and they are currently working on the north lane booths. He added that they do anticipate being complete before the contract expires, so they are looking to be complete by March on that project.

Omar Anzaldua, City Engineer, reported on projects that are currently under design. He stated the Bridge Facility Expansion Phase III is still up in the air because they have not pursued that one, so they need to coordinate with the bridge to see how they are going to moved forward with that one. He added that on the Commercial Vehicle Staging Area the design is about 50% complete and they are still waiting on TX-DOT Austin to approve the design of the pavement. He added that lastly on the second span they have been coordinating with Mexico and all the studies have been completed and right now they are just wrapping up coordination of the design elements from Mexico and the US to make sure when they meet in the middle that they meet at the right elevation.

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

ITEM 6 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Infrastructure. He stated that they had invited the project manager for COCONAL, which is the construction company that is over seeing the construction of the access corridor leading to the aduana. He added that unfortunately he was not able to make it but he will have Ezequiel do the report along with his own.

Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison in Mexico then began to give a report from COCONAL in Spanish to the board, along with his quarterly report.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Start of the Produce Season Celebration event. He stated that it was one of the highest in attendance at over 200 people, and were able to get companies, importers to donate about 25,000 pounds of fresh produce. He added that all the produce that was there people were able to take it home with them and whatever remained was given to the food bank. He also added that they would like to thank their importers, all their produce companies and their corporate sponsors, because they are now at that point where they have corporate sponsors coming on board that want to be part of this great event. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, added that they started this event in 2013, but they intend to grow it and there are already ideas popping up and have learned from the trade community on what they can do to expand on this opportunity. He added that he also wants to thank their Governmental Affairs Department, Cynthia and Michael because they were very instrumental in ensuing, they had a good program and worked side by side with Vanessa to ensue that they had great speakers and a good program for their guests. He added that they also had the recognition of the Ag internships and because of that STC now wants to have their students participate in the Ag Internship program. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director showed the board pictures from the event.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the 24-hour opening. He reported that Long Beach is having the 24-7, but that the supply chains are saying that that is not the answer that they are looking for because that does not mean that they are going to relieve the bottleneck that is taking place. He added that they have talked to Mexico and the U.S. to look for possibilities and they did run a 24-hour survey a few months back to see the possibilities, but they are not there yet. He stated that he wanted to highlight the fact that that is taking place and that there is a big push for it at the federal level, but they do not know if that is the correct answer for everyone. He added that they will be having a BridgeConnect on that topic soon to see what people think about that issue.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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 ADVERTISING IN THE 2021- 2022 TEXAS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR \$800.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

ITEM 9 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE CITY OF PHARR AND THE CONSEJO MEXICANO DE COMERCIO EXTERIOR DEL NORESTE, A.C. (COMCE NORESTE).

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

ITEM 10 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION OF THE PHARR-REYNOSA TOLL BRIDGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REQUESTING THE CITY OF PHARR, TEXAS TO APPROVE THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF INTERNATIONAL TOLL BRIDGE SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS AND APPROVING OTHER MATTERS RELATED.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, would give the board a quick update on this.

Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, then began to give a quick explanation on the resolution and the bonds.

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

ITEM 11 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH MEXICO INDUSTRY FOR \$4,000 IN THEIR INDUSTRIAL MAP.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that they would be like to go into executive session for this item and the next one.

ITEM 12 DISCUSSION ON MARKETING CAMPAIGN PROPOSALS.

Item taken into executive session.

D. EXECUTIVE SESSION: In accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Gov't. Code, the International Toll Bridge Board hereby gives notice that it may meet in Executive session to discuss and deliberate any items listed on the public portion of the meeting agenda including items B-C.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo stated the time being 12:52 p.m., the Bridge Board would be going into executive session in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Govt.

E. RECONVENE: into regular session, and consider action, if any, on item(s) discussed in executive session.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:01pm.

Member Flores **moved** to deny Item 3E(11) as discussed in executive session. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried on unanimously.

Chairman Delgadillo stated no action was necessary for Item 3F(12) and moved to the next item

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 13 ADJOURNMENT

Member Flores **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:02pm. Secretary Campero 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 20th DAY OF OCTOBER 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/BoardMtgMinutes10-20-21