

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2022, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 19th day of January 2022, 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:** Mayor Pro-Tem Daniel Chavez

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez

STAFF PRESENT: Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations
Vanessa Guzman, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Wylie, City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Maria Rangel, Asst. Engineering Department
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Mexico Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
David John Gonzalez, CBP

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 DECEMBER 2021

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of December 2021. He reported total crossings were 107,076, which was a decrease of -103 vehicles or -0.10% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 42,277, which was a decrease of -7,731 cars or -15.46% and showed a car crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 64,799, which was an increase of 7,628 trucks or 13.34% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing comparison from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 55,061, which was a decrease of -1,888 trucks or -3.32% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the agriculture for the month of December they had 18,455 trucks, which represents a 33% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported Northbound and Southbound combination of both crossings for the month of December were 119,860, which was an increase of 5,740 or 5.03%. Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of December was \$1,605,104, which shows an increase of \$167,550 or 11.66% in revenues. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen reported on crossing comparison by axle and stated that cars and trucks were 42,624, 2X trucks were 2,647, 3X trucks were 4,140, 4X trucks were 3,129, 5X trucks were 44,274, 6X trucks 10,109, mobile homes were 1, wide loads were 86 and special crossings were 66 and total combination for the month of December was 107,076.

Discussions ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 FINANCE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 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 several discussion, Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez moved to the next item.

ITEM 5 PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

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

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on FY15 DAP Project. She stated that it is going well, and the contractor has completed the super-wide load lane as well as the canopy footings at the 2nd BSIF exit. She added the concrete repair between the secondary inspection building and the scan building as well as the primary booth canopy installation and the concrete pavement between the catwalk and the secondary inspection building are currently in progress. She also added they are about 83% on what has been placed to date and are doing good with time, so the next step is to continue work at the 2nd BSIF exit.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the Bridge Facility Expansion Phase II. She stated they are just pending completion of Phase II and had a walk through with the architects and contractors and is pending confirmation to close out the project and start Phase III of the project, the design work.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the Commercial Vehicle Staging Area. She stated the report for the pavement was under review by TX-DOT and has already received a response from them so she will be coordinating with the city and Luis to see what the next step will be.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on FY16. She stated they have made a lot of progress and submitted the schematics at the end of December, and the consultants were working on the 95% submittal due at the end of this month. She added that it was environmentally cleared at the beginning of the month, so they are looking at a letting date of Spring 2022.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. She stated they had an environmental scoping meeting with TX-DOT last week and right now the schedule of completion looks like October 2023. She added the consultants have most of the reports ready for submittal and are just waiting for TX-DOT to advise when to submit them. She also added they are moving forward with all the studies and design work.

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

ITEM 6 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez 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. 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 the INDEX Charity Golf Tournament. He stated that as they know they held the INDEX Charity Golf Tournament for the first time in Pharr this past October. He added that they have Mr. Mike Myers from INDEX Reynosa there to give the board a briefing on the tournament as well as the distribution of proceeds which was done in December. Mike Myers, General Manager of Maquiladora in Reynosa and INDEX Reynosa, then began his presentation on the golf tournament and the distribution of proceeds from the tournament. Several discussions took place regarding the golf tournament and proceeds.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Annual Customer Appreciation Holiday Social event. He stated they have been hosting this event for the last 4-5 years, but last year they were unable to host it because of the COVID pandemic, so this year they were able to get it done and it was bigger and better. He added that he would like to thank their sponsors Evolving, Primo Trading, NANSIN and Guerrero Logistics for all their continued support. He also added the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the board were big sponsors with the cabrito and some of the food. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director stated that after the event other customers approached them about sponsoring for next year. He added hopefully COVID will take a downturn and they can have this event at the end of next year because people are really looking forward to it. He also added that they received great reviews about the event and would like to thank those who made it possible, to the team working overtime, working through out the month to make sure everything was being handled correctly, being organized and getting everything done, they couldn't ask for a better team.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that they would like to invite Dante Galeazzi from TIPA, Texas International Produce Association to talk about the Viva Fresh Expo.

Dante Galeazzi, President for TIPA, Texas International Produce Association then began his presentation regarding Viva Fresh Expo 2021 and Viva Fresh Expo 2022. Several discussions took place regarding Viva Fresh.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that they received the latest trade numbers that go through November 2021 and that during the pandemic in 2020 their numbers were down from \$36 billion in trade with the world to \$33 billion, which was across the board. He added that as of right now November 2021, they are at \$38 billion in trade with the world.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez moved to the next item.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

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

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

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 2022 INTERNATIONAL
FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FOR
\$2,175.**

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

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

**ITEM 9 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON VIVA FRESH SUMMIT
PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORSHIP AND BOOTH FOR \$20,000.**

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

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

**ITEM 10 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWING COMCE
NORESTE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$1,690.**

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

Member Hernandez **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 COMCE NORESTE
INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORSHIP FOR \$1,950.**

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item.

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

**ITEM 12 DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON AMENDMENT/RENEWAL OF
EXISTING CONTRACT FOR BLUE STONE CAPITAL SOLUTIONS LLC.**

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez introduced the item and stated that they would go into executive session at this time.

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.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez stated the time being 12:50 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.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez reconvened the meeting to regular session at 1:21pm.

Member Flores **moved** to approve Item 3F(12) as discussed in executive session as a renewal of the existing contract. Secretary Campero seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried on unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez moved to the next item

F. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 13 ADJOURNMENT

Member Hernandez **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:23pm. 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 19th DAY OF JANUARY 2022, 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/BoardMtgMinutes1-19-22