

**REGULAR MEETING
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2022, AT 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 16th day of February 2022, 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
Larry Hernandez, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Luis Flores, 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, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: Ed Wylie, City Manager
Anali Alanis, Asst. City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, City Clerk
Daniel Gonzalez, Asst. City Attorney
Maria Rangel, Asst. Engineering Department
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
William Edmundson, Deputy Police Chief
Cynthia Garza, Director External Affair
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Mexico Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Robert Vale, Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association
Steve Taylor, Rio Grande Guardian

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 member. Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of January 2022. He reported total crossings were 102,505, which was a decrease of -8,555 vehicles or -7.70% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total crossing for cars were 35,684, which was a decrease of -12,558 cars or -26.03% and showed a car crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported the total truck crossings were 66,821, which was an increase of 4,003 trucks or 6.37% increase. Mr. Brouwen then showed a truck crossing compassion from other bridges across the board. Mr. Brouwen further reported northbound crossings were 57,439, which was a decrease of -3,105 trucks or -5.13% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated for the agriculture for the month of January they had 21,275 trucks, which represents a 36% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported Northbound and Southbound combination of both crossings for the month of January were 124,260, which was an increase of 898 or 0.73%. Mr. Brouwen stated total revenue collected for the month of January was \$1,496,333, which shows an increase of \$43,433 or 2.99% in revenues. Lastly, Mr. Brouwen reported on crossing comparison by axle and stated that cars and trucks were 36,032, 2X trucks were 2,710, 3X trucks were 4,222, 4X trucks were 1,337, 5X trucks were 48,502, 6X trucks 9,611, mobile homes were 4, wide loads were 58 and special crossings were 29 and total combination for the month of January was 102,505.

Discussions ensued on the crossings.

ITEM 4 FINANCE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022

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.

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 Maria Rangel, Assistant City Engineer, was present and questions on projects could be entertained at this time.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the projects that were under construction. She stated that on time to date they are about 88% and on place to date they are at about 74%. She reported that the installation of forms for the RPM bullnose walls and installation of forms and reinforcement for booths in Primary Inspection were in progress. She added that the concrete pavement and curb between Catwalk and Secondary Inspection Building was completed, and that concrete repair is still ongoing. She also added that the erection of the steel canopy at 2nd BSIF Exit was the last area in progress. She stated that the next step is to complete the work over at the Primary Inspection and continue work at the 2nd BSIF exit. Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, stated that they are still on schedule for completion date of Spring of this year.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on FY16. She stated that 95% of the PS&E has been received from the Engineer and is being submitted to TX-DOT.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. She stated they are currently on track with the schedule, and they had the environmental scoping meeting with TX-DOT last month. She added they will be submitting 50% of all the technical and environmental reports to TX-DOT, so they are just waiting for their comments. Several discussions then took place regarding the environmental reports and the project competition date.

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

ITEM 6 DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that they have been discussing infrastructure so he would like to bring Cynthia Garza, Governmental Affairs Director for the City of Pharr to give an update on the Infrastructure Bill. Cynthia Garza-Reyes, Director of External Relations, then began to give an update on the Infrastructure Bill that was

passed in November of 2021. Several discussions took place regarding the Infrastructure Bill.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that as everyone knows they are members of the Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association which is one of the many associations that they are members of in Transportation, Logistics, Custom Brokerages, even some of the different sectors that they service. He added that they brought Mr. Robert Vale the new President for the Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association so they could introduce him to the board. Robert Vale, President for Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association then began his presentation.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated that as they know every year, they put out a trade study and have been doing it since 2012. He added that it runs January through December, but their fiscal year is October through September so one of the things that they have been working on with Eddie Gutierrez their Financial Consultant is having the information available also for crossings and revenues based on the calendar year and not just fiscal year. He also added that the reason this is so important is because they received the new trade numbers even through, they do not have the actual publication done yet, they do get the information a month later. He stated that back in 2019 their trade value with Mexico and the rest of the world was about \$36 billion dollars, with the pandemic in 2020, that number across the board went down to \$33 billion, so there was a loss of about 9%-10% in value of imports and exports. He also stated that looking into the future for 2021 they estimated it at being around \$39 or \$40 billion in trade by the end of the calendar year and right now they are almost at \$42 billion. He stated that he just wanted to share that information with the board and would like to call Eddie Gutierrez up to give the board the crossings report on the entire calendar year so they can see how that growth does mesh and go together with the trade numbers. Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, then gave the board a brief update on the Pharr Bridges trade number values for 2021. He then called Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant for the Bridge to give a presentation on the Crossings and Revenues for the calendar year.

Eddie Gutierrez, Blue Stone Capital Solutions, Financial Consultant for the Pharr Bridge then began his presentation on the Crossings and Revenues for the calendar year.

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

C. ADMINISTRATIVE:

ITEM 7 CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES- JANUARY 19, 2022.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Vice-Chairman Tony Martinez **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 INDEX REYNOSA
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR \$1,814.40.**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

D. ADJOURNMENT:

ITEM 9 ADJOURNMENT

Member Hernandez **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 1:05pm. Vice-Chairman Tony 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 FEBRUARY 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/BoardMtgMinutes2-16-22