

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022
PHARR CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD.
2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Larry Hernandez, Member
Lazaro Beas, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary

**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: Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Juan Gonzalez, Interim Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
Andy Vega, CBP
Elmer Martinez, CBP
Rodrigo Ramos, TIF
Dagoberto Mares, TIF
Jesus Cano, UTRGV
Hector Ramirez, UTRGV
David Ortiz, UTRGV
Steve Taylor, Rio Grande Guardian

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Member Hernandez moved to excuse absent members. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

B) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, led in the pledge of allegiance and said the invocation.

ITEM 2. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A) CROSSING AND REVENUES REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the months of September and October 2022. He reported total crossings for the month of September were 102,896, which was an increase of 10,382 vehicles or 11.22% compared to last year. He also reported total crossings for the month of October were 107,357, which was an increase of 9,792 vehicles or 10.04% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen stated that total car crossings for the month of September were 40,919, which was an increase of 11,662 cars or 39.86% and that total car crossings for the month of October were 43,454, which was an increase of 9,827 cars or 29.22%. He went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the months of September and October 2022

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, further reported the total truck crossings for the month of September were 61,977, which was a decrease of -1,280 trucks or -2.02% decrease and the total truck crossings for the month of October were 63,903, which was a decrease of -35 trucks or -0.05% decrease. Mr. Brouwen went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the months of September and October.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of September were 57,767, which was an increase of 3,042 trucks or 5.56% increase, and northbound crossings for the month of October were 59,862, which was an increase of 4,773 trucks or 8.66% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of September they had 15,900 trucks, which represents a 27% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S., and the agriculture for the month of October was 17,937 trucks, which represents a 30% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported

a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of September were 119,744, which was an increase of 1,762 or 1.49%, and a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of October were 123,765, which was an increase of 4,738 or 3.98%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the months of September and October 2022. He reported the total revenue collected for the month of September was \$1,457,298, which shows a decrease of -\$8,928 or -0.61% in revenues and the total revenue collected for the month of October was \$1,547,162, which shows an increase of \$129,011 or 9.10% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of September. He stated cars and trucks were 40,919, 2X trucks were 3,150, 3X trucks were 4,565, 4X trucks were 1,326, 5X trucks were 48,423, 6X trucks were 4,391, mobile homes were 1, wide loads were 81 and special crossings were 40 and total combination for the month of September was 102,896. He reported on crossings comparisons by axle for the month of October and stated that cars and trucks were 43,452, 2X trucks were 3,279, 3X trucks were 4,908, 4X trucks were 1,387, 5X trucks were 49,933, 6X trucks were 4,218, mobile homes were 1, wide loads were 131 and special crossings were 48 and total combination for the month of October was 107,357.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 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 report on the finances for the bridge.

Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, briefly reported on the expenditures and revenues year to date for the bridge.

C) ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the recent activity for DAP FY15 Projects. He stated on the 2nd BSIF Exit relocation of the sanitary sewer pipes and electrical conduit for the inspection booths had been completed, as well as the installation of the inspection booths, handrails, and internal light fixtures. He further reported the super wide load gate installation for the Northbound Lane Expansion project was completed along with the installation of the chain link fence, sliding gates and the installation of Densglass exterior and soffit sheathing at the primary canopy. He

added the installation of stucco for the soffit at the primary canopy and sodding along the full project were on going. He further stated time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 82% and placed to date was 88% of the funds. The time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 108% and placed to date was 92% of the funds for this project. He also added they had the final inspection scheduled for tomorrow with CBP and GSA and they expect the project close out on December 8, 2022.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated the consultant has reviewed the comments they received from TXDOT and performed corrections to the 100% plan set received on October 17, 2022, and submitted 100% plans to TxDOT on November 3, 2022. He added they were scheduled to advertise for letting in March 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated they received approval of amendment number 6 by City Commission on October 17, 2022 to perform additional boring for the drill shaft. He further stated the consultant continues working on the 95% plans for TxDOT submittal and the environmental studies were ongoing. Mr. Alfaro further reported they had completed the Terrestrial and Underwater study and were expecting to submit 95% Plans, Specifications and Estimate in December 2022, hopefully get the 100% done in January 2023 and would only be pending the environmental approvals.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported they would have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) called Global Entities Economic Partnership with an association called ANIERM, Asociación Nacional de Importadores y Exportadores de la República Mexicana who represent a big membership base of importers and exporters from Mexico. He stated this would take place tomorrow at the Pharr bridge and many people have been invited from this association in Mexico and this is to continue their partnership with Mexico.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated they had their 1st Annual Trucksgiving event last week at the bridge and over 70-75 people were in attendance. He further stated the event was fully sponsored and thanked all the sponsors for allowing them to put this together and everyone had a great time.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated they would be hosting the Annual Customer Appreciation Holiday event on December 9, 2022, to celebrate Christmas and the start of a new year. He added there would be live music, food for their customers in appreciation for their continued support to the Pharr International Bridge.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

At this time, Edgar Delgadillo, Bridge Board Chairman, stated they would deviate from the agenda and go into closed session. There was no objection.

ITEM 4. CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOV'T. CODE, THE PHARR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HEREBY GIVES NOTICE THAT IT MAY MEET IN A CLOSED (NON-PUBLIC) EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING BELOW

The time being 12:34 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be entering into closed session in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Govt. Code to discuss agenda items listed in the public portion of the agenda and Pursuant to Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.076, 551.084 and 551.087.

ITEM 5. RECONVENE

The time being 1:28 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWAL OF TRANSPORTATION INTERMEDIARIES ASSOCIATION (TIA) MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR \$700

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP-CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$2,500

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

D) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2023 INTERNATIONAL FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$2,305

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

E) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2023 NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS & FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (NCBFAA) MEMBERSHIP FOR \$850

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

F) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2023 NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS & FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR \$2,679

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

G) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM TALLER DE INFOGRAFIA Y FOTOGRAFIA DIGITAL (TIF) ON PHASE 1 VIDEO “SHORT FILMS” FOR BRIDGE PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES FOR \$36,000

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

ITEM 6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Board Member Hernandez moved to adjourn. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §
CITY OF PHARR §

ON THE 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 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: _____