

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023
PHARR CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD.
2ND FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Larry Hernandez, Member
Lazaro Beas, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adalberto Campero, Secretary

**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: Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Andy Vega, CBP

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 member. Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 DECEMBER 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of December 2022. He reported total crossings for the month of December were 110,978, which was an increase of 3,902 vehicles or 3.64% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further stated total car crossings for the month of December were 51,652, which was an increase of 9,028 cars or 21.18% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of December 2022.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of December 2022. He stated crossings were 59,326, which was a decrease of -5,126 trucks or -7.95% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of December 2022.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of December were 55,104, which was an increase of 43 trucks or 0.08% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of December had 19,862 trucks, which represents a 36% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of December 2022 were 114,430, which was a decrease of -5,083 or -4.25%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of December 2022. He reported the total revenue collected for the month was \$1,556,275, which shows a decrease of -\$48,829 or -3.04% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of December 2022. He stated cars and trucks were 51,652, 2X trucks were 2,721, 3X trucks were 4,455, 4X trucks were 1,059, 5X trucks were 44,484, 6X trucks were 6,410, mobile homes were 6, wide loads were 132 and special crossings were 59 and total combination for the month of December was 110,978.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated staff would like to present them a more comprehensive report on the energy sector at the next meeting. He stated they found out the first quarter was the toughest for carriers but this time it hit them earlier. He further stated the first quarter was the hardest hit because that is when a lot of the store

shelves are clear from the holidays and a lot of things are not moving which normally happens in the first part of the year.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported they would bring an expert to update the board on the energy sector issues. He stated the expert was a business owner who runs about 50 or 60 oil and gas companies and one of the things they were looking at was the overweight permit. He stated the overweight permit was more convenient to them because when they cross and get off the Port of Brownsville, they do not have to pay additional overweight fees. He briefly stated another issue was the pipelines and called upon Eddie Gutierrez for a presentation on this issue.

Eddie Gutierrez, Blue Capital Solution, LLC., Bridge Financial Consultant provided a presentation to the board.

B) ENGINEER'S 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 recent activity for DAP FY15 Projects. She stated they were wrapping up the last few details at both locations and were working on the electrical and HVAC. She added in the canopy area the wiring termination for canopy fixtures was in progress and installation of A/C equipment for booths was also in progress. She further reported the Radiation Portal Monitor system was complete at the northbound lanes and the installation of concrete reinforcement for transformer foundation was underway. She added the galvanized fence posts had been installed and the generation would be coming in later this year.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the Northbound Lane project. She stated the primary canopy installation of stucco, and first finish coat was complete. She stated a final inspection with CBP and GSA was scheduled for January 25, 2023 and expected date for the project close out was February 16, 2023. She stated time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 117% and placed to date was 93% of the funds for this project. The time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 92% and placed to date was 89% of the funds.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. She stated the plans were 100% complete and all necessary revisions requested by TXDOT had been made. She stated they were waiting on approval to let the project. She further stated the City requested to re-allocate additional \$4M in Rider 11B funds to this project and would be submitting all necessary documents for the required TIP Revision and AFA amendments. Once that was completed, the project would be able to let around the Fall of 2023.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. She stated the consultants submitted 95% plans to TxDOT on December 5, 2022 as scheduled and received comments from their Bridge Division. She stated currently the consultant was addressing all the comments and would submit 100% plans to TXDOT at the end of January 2023. She reported the archology reports, terrestrial and underwater archology, were being reviewed by the Texas Historic Commission and FHWA/TXDOT. Once they were approved, the consultant would be able to release an updated schedule. Ms. Rangel further reported the consultant was also working on the ROW Acquisition for the overhead sign bridges. She stated they would submit 100% PS&E on January 30, 2023 and they would be ready to let on June of this year but were waiting on the environmental to be completed.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Financial Report. He stated things were on track and every month staff would go over the accounts. He stated currently they were about 75% remaining balance, and everything was incumbent for this fiscal year. He further stated they would be reporting on the revenues on a quarterly basis aside from the regular monthly report and stated they would have a financial report from the Finance Director next month.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 21, 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 12:42 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 1:23 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON BORDER TRADE ALLIANCE (BTA) 2023 MEMBERSHIP PATRON LEVEL FOR \$2,500

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ASOCIACIÓN MEXICANA HORTICULTURA PROTEGIDA A.C. (AMHPAC) SILVER LEVEL MEMBERSHIP FOR \$4,200

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

D) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON VIVA FRESH SUMMIT PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORSHIP AND BOOTH FOR \$22,500

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to allow staff to negotiate the Gold Level Sponsorship. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously.

E) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM TEXAS MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE CENTER (TMAC) FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING SERVICE FOR \$19,125

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to approve. Member Beas 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, Member Hernandez **moved** to adjourn. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 18th DAY OF JANUARY 2023, 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 MARKETING COORDINATOR**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.

VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE
MARKETING COORDINATOR

DATE APPROVED: _____