

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, and following is the record of attendance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

**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, Deputy City Manager
Patricia Rigney, City Attorney
Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
Andy Vega, CBP
Elmer Martinez, CBP
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs

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 12:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

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 JANUARY 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of January 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of January were 115,425, which was an increase of 12,920 vehicles or 12.60% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further reported total car crossings for the month of January were 50,266, which was an increase of 14,234 cars or 39.50% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of January 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of January 2023. He stated crossings were 65,159, which was a decrease of -1,314 trucks or -1.98% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of January 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported on northbound crossings for the month of January were 60,392, which was an increase of 2,953 trucks or 5.14% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of January had 21,284 trucks, which represents a 35% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of January 2023 were 125,551, which was an increase of 1,639 or 1.32%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of January 2023. He reported the total revenue collected for the month was \$1,553,154, which shows a decrease of \$56,821 or 3.80% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of January 2023. He stated cars and trucks were 50,266, 2X trucks were 2,888, 3X trucks were 4,342, 4X trucks were 1,152, 5X trucks were 49,160, 6X trucks were 7,431, mobile homes were 3, wide loads were 140 and special crossings were 43 and total combination for the month of January was 115,425.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Karla Saavedra, Finance Director, was in the audience to answer any questions and called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for a finance report for the Bridge.

Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant with Blue Stone Capital Solutions, reported he would be working with Karla Saavedra on the financial reports. He then briefly reported on the expenditures and revenues year to date for the bridge.

Discussion ensued on the finance report.

C) 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 DAP FY15 projects were 98% complete and traffic signal devices and flood lights had been installed on the Northbound Lanes Expansion project. She further stated metal stud framing for the louver and metal panels on top of the inspection booths at the Northbound Lane primary canopy and the BSIF had been installed.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, also reported on the BSIF. She stated the communication cables were pulled and the installation of the water meters and the 2-inch water line were done as well as the installation of the electrical meter box, wire, and dry type transformer. She further reported staff had a preliminary punch list walk through with the contractor on January 25, 2023, and the contractor was currently working on those punch list items. She stated one of the items was the grinding of the rough concrete pavement surface on the northbound lanes as well as the removal of the original construction joint sealant and installation of the new sealant. She further stated time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 126% and placed to date was 98% of the funds for this project. She further reported on upcoming activities and stated on February 22, 2023, they would have the final punch list walkthrough with all the stakeholders and the estimated date for project completion, and completion of all the punch list items was March 15, 2023. She further stated the BSIF was the same and time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 95% and placed to date was 92%.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. She stated TXDOT had allowed them to proceed with the TIP revisions on February 13, 2023, and the city would be submitting all necessary documents for the required TIP Revision and AFA amendments. She added once that is completed the project will be able to let.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. She stated the consultants submitted 100% Plans, Specifications & Estimates to TXDOT on February 6, 2023, and the next step was for the consultant to submit a draft Environmental Assessment document to FHWA and TXDOT to include the Terrestrial and Underwater Studies and the ROW for overhead sign bridges. She further reported on recent activity that on February 6, 2023, they submitted 100% PS&E and this month the reports were completed and approved by the Texas Historic Commission and the IBWC. Lastly, she reported this month the IBWC and CILA signed the conceptual drawings and stated the next big item on the schedule was September 4, 2023, which was the expected Ready to Let date.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Strategic Plan. He stated last month the board approved the strategic plan with Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center of UTRGV and last week they kicked off the first meeting. He further stated they would start meeting on a weekly basis and the completion should be in May 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported on upcoming events. He stated an Industrial Warehouse Summit would take place in April 2023 along with external partnerships and the EDC to help investors find warehouse space and land. He added they were also working on the Pharr Motor Carriers Association and stated when they met with the Texas Trucking Association last year, they decided to invite the Chairman of the board and have been working on that for the past several months to develop their own Motor Carriers Association.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Vanguard Rembrandt Secondary School. He stated he had been working with Mr. Perez from Vanguard Academy to come up with projects for students to work with a real-world issue and a real-world solution. He stated he thought of the sustainability platform because that is building for today. He added by creating today we would be ready for tomorrow's generations and called upon Rey Perez to say a few things.

Rey Perez, Professor for Vanguard Academy and South Texas College and Advisor briefly explained the project they were working on. Mr. Gerardo Flores, Asst. Principal Vanguard Academy Rembrandt Secondary, was also present and briefly explained the idea behind these projects along with Mr. Ernesto Alvarez, Vanguard Academy Rembrandt Secondary Teacher.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on upcoming events. He stated the next BridgeConnect session was an Update on Foreign Supplier Verification Program Trends and would take place on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. He stated the next event was the 2023 Pharr Motor Carriers Association TTXA-Pharr

Chapter Meeting which would be the first of its kind and was scheduled for March 2, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

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 12:35 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

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18, 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2023 INDEX REYNOSA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR \$1,814.40.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Member Beas 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, Vice-Chairman Martinez moved to adjourn. Secretary Campero 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 15th DAY OF FEBRUARY 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: _____