

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Hernandez, Member
Lazaro Beas, 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: Anali Alanis, Interim City Manager
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Lauro Garza, CBP
Elmer Martinez, 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 12:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to excuse absent members. Secretary Campero 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 FEBRUARY 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of February 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of February were 106,463, which was an increase of 10,305 vehicles or 10.72% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further reported total car crossings for the month of February were 50,155, which was an increase of 14,960 cars or 42.51% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of February 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of February 2023. He stated crossings were 56,308, which was a decrease of -4,655 trucks or -7.64% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of February 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of February were 56,904, which was an increase of 4,132 trucks or 7.83% increase. Mr. Brouwen further stated the agriculture for the month of February had 19,736 trucks, which represents a 37% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He also reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of February 2023 were 113,212, which was a decrease of -523 or -0.46%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of February 2023. He reported the total revenue collected for the month was \$1,350,030, which shows a decrease of -\$23,761 or -1.73% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of February 2023. He stated cars and trucks were 50,155, 2X trucks were 2,752, 3X trucks were 4,200, 4X trucks were 1,100, 5X trucks were 45,193, 6X trucks were 2,936, mobile homes were 6, wide loads were 77 and special crossings were 44 and total combination for the month of February was 106,463.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for the Bridge.

Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant with Blue Stone Capital Solutions, 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 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 Northbound Lanes Expansion project hydroseeding application for construction areas and drainage ditches were completed and installation of clearance signs and lane numbers were also completed. He reported on the BSIF restroom accessories were completed along with the metal stud framing for metal panels and louvers were also completed. He added the enclosure for the generator was completed and the block sodding was installed in the area. He further reported on February 22, 2023, they had a punch list walk through with GSA, CBP, Brownstone and the City and there were some punch list items that the contractor was still working on which was the grinding of the rough concrete pavement surface on the northbound lanes, removal and re-application of the pavement markings and RPM's were damaged, installation of epoxy for concrete pavement cracks, touch up and cleaning of inspection booths, cleaning of roofing membrane at the primary inspection canopy and installation of roof metal flashing at the primary inspection canopy. He added future activity that still needs to happen was installation of metal panels at Northbound Lanes and 2nd BSIF Exit and installation of fiber optic cable to service 2nd BSIF Exit Booths. He further stated time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 129% and placed to date was 98% of the funds for this project. Time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 98% and placed to date was 92%.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated the city submitted all necessary documents for the required TIP Amendments/Revisions and once that is complete, the city and TXDOT would be working on the AFA amendments and expect a letting date of Fall 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated the consultants submitted 100% Plans, Specifications and Estimates to TXDOT on February 6, 2023, and were still waiting for some comments from TXDOT. He added the conceptual drawings received approval signatures by IBWC and CILA, and the

consultant was working on the Environmental Clearance for the project and should be submitting to FHWA and TXDOT soon.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on DAP projects. He stated representatives from CBP reached out about a potential ribbon cutting ceremony for that project sometime in April 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported on the Binational Forum & Groundbreaking Ceremony. He stated a groundbreaking for Mexico's portion of the Second Span was held on March 7, 2023, and showed them a recap video. He stated this was a historic event as they were able to have the collaboration with their working group in Mexico and leaders were at the head table with the mayor and the rest of the people that were there is just unheard of.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Pilot Program. He stated they needed to establish some pilot programs here at the port and they do not have any set yet but there were some ideas and want to see how they can incorporate some of those pilot programs in Pharr to ensure local businesses stay and capture new markets.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the TMAC. He stated they were working with the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center for their Strategic Plan and their Internal and External Stakeholders should have received a survey that went out this week. He added they went back and forth to tweak the questions to ensure that they were easy to understand and get proper feedback. He stated once they get the questions out of the way it will be on to the next step and completion should be in May 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on BridgeConnect Trade Session. He stated they were always trying to get topics of interest for all the industries that they service at the Pharr Port of Entry and this BridgeConnect will focus on Introduction to Produce Accounting. He stated Mr. Eloy Trevino and Mr. Rene Cantu would provide a quick update on this and who should be attending the Bridge Connect session on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Rene Cantu, from eProduce, briefly explained what the BridgeConnect Trade Session would focus on.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING IN THE PORT OF BROWNSVILLE’S 2023 DIRECTORY FOR \$2,900.

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

ITEM 4. 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 12:30 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 MARCH 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: _____