

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, and following is the record of attendance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Hernandez, 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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Andy Vega, CBP
Larry Gutierrez, CBP
Jesse Cano, UTRGV
Hector Ramirez, UTRGV
David Ortiz, UTRGV
Javier Montero, CAXCAN

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.

Member Beas moved to excuse absent members. Chairman Delgadillo 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 JUNE 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of June 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of June were 101,657, which was an increase of 82 vehicles or 0.08% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further reported total car crossings for the month of June were 42,693, which was an increase of 1,664 cars or 4.06% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of June 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of June 2023. He stated crossings were 58,964, which was a decrease of -1,582 trucks or -2.61% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of June 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of June were 59,087, which was an increase of 3,120 trucks or 5.57% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of June 2023 had 17,875 trucks, which represents a 30% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of June 2023 were 118,051, which was an increase of 1,538 or 1.32%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of June 2023. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,388,129, which showed a decrease of -\$8,447 or -0.60% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of June 2023. He stated cars and trucks were 42,693, 2X trucks were 2,993, 3X trucks were 4,363, 4X trucks were 1,102, 5X trucks were 44,205, 6X trucks were 6,041, mobile homes were 5, and wide loads were 222. He stated special crossings were 33 and the total combination for the month of June was 101,657.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR MAY 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for May 2023.

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 they had a final walkthrough internally with their construction manager and engineering department last Friday and this Monday they had a final walkthrough with CBP and GSA. He stated there were some punch-list items that needed to be fixed but it was pretty much completed. He stated one of the items was to remove all construction debris from the project staging area which was currently in process. He further stated they needed to complete the installation of one light fixture, metal panels, and aluminum louvers which were about 90% complete. He further stated they were required to complete the installation of the floodlights at the 2nd BSIF Exit and should be completed this week to finalize the project as well as the metal panels and aluminum louvers at the 2nd BSIF Exit.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported they were scheduled to clean up and re-touch all structural members from the metal building and the generator was already on site but were waiting on the automatic transfer switch so they could connect it. He stated the last item was to strap and secure a temporary flexible conduit which should be completed this week as well. He stated those items were pending and should be ready by the end of the week. He further reported time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 148% and placed to date was 98% of the funds for this project. He stated time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 112% and placed to date was 92% and the project completion date for both projects was August 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated they received approval from the federal government yesterday for the last of the revisions to the funding so they would be moving on to execute the AFA Amendments with TxDOT and the Donations Acceptance Agreement with the Federal government. He stated the expected letting date was still the fall of 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated they received approval for further processing from the federal government and they were scheduled to receive the final FONSI by the end of January 2024. He further stated they would be posting the Notice of Availability/ Opportunity for Public Hearing in the newspaper and the City's webpage which would provide any stakeholders to comment on the project.

D) DIRECTORS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Bridge Project status. He stated approval from the federal government was needed to move forward with these projects and when they started with the DAP Projects back in late 2014 or early 2015, they had to go in front of a delegation known as the BBBXG or Binational Bridge & Border Crossing Group. He stated for the first time since pre-pandemic times, BBBXG took place in Washington, D.C. last week and he attended along with their consultants and engineers from SEA and their project managers. He stated they were able to go in there in front of the delegation and give them a status update.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported he would be traveling to San Antonio to attend the Texas Trucking Association Annual Conference today. He stated this would be their second time attending and reason they attend this conference was to meet with the leaders as they were trying to create their own Motor Carrier Association. Lastly, he stated representatives from TMAC were in the audience and would give the board an update on the strategic plan in closed session.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 28, 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.

At this time, Chairman Delgadillo 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 12:26 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 1:11 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INDEX REYNOSA/ FUNDACIÓN RAMMAC CHARITY GOLF FUND RAISER SPONSORSHIP FOR \$10,000

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INDEX 48TH NATIONAL CONVENTION SPONSORSHIP FOR \$13,000

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 PROPOSED TOLL FEE INCREASE FOR COMMERCIAL TRUCKS AT THE PHARR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item.

Chairman Delgadillo moved to approve as discussed in closed session. Vice-Chairman Martinez 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. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 26th DAY OF JULY 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: _____