

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular called meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, and following is the record of attendance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: 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: Hilda Pedraza, Assistant City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez III, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Cynthia Garza, Director of Governmental Affairs
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Andy Vega, CBP
Carlos Rodriguez, CBP
Elmer Martinez, CBP
David Chacon, Brownstone

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 12:17 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 JULY 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of July 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of July were 98,309, which was a decrease of -2,528 vehicles or -2.51% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further reported total car crossings for the month of July were 43,707, which was an increase of 2,619 cars or 6.37% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of July 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of July 2023. He stated crossings were 54,602, which was a decrease of -5,147 trucks or -8.61% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of July 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of July were 56,078, which was an increase of 481 trucks or 0.87% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of July 2023 had 16,634 trucks, which represents a 29.7% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of July 2023 were 110,680, which was a decrease of -4,666 or -4.05%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of July 2023. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,314,776, which showed a decrease of -\$105,974 or -7.46% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of July 2023. He stated cars and trucks were 43,707, 2X trucks were 2,713, 3X trucks were 4,7393, 4X trucks were 1,078, 5X trucks were 44,346, 6X trucks were 1,516, mobile homes were 0, and wide loads were 159. He stated special crossings were 33 and the total combination for the month of July was 98,309.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for June 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 at the end of July 2023 they had a final walkthrough with the General Services Administration (GSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the punch list report has been updated. He stated the first item was the removal of all construction debris from the project staging area which was expected to be finished this week. He further stated there were some items at the primary inspection canopy and the metal panels were improperly installed so the contractor would reinstall them. He added item 2 was the surface of the primary booth touch-up paint was not smooth as expected and stated paint was provided by the manufacturer and they were in communication with them to see what the issue was. He further stated item 3 was to fix the issue with the A/C condensate water leak and stated the issue was the water pump capacity so they would upgrade to a higher capacity to fix the issue. He added the fourth item was to fix and replace the rain drip guard above the inspection booth which would be worked on by the contractor.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported the installation of the floodlights had already been completed as part of this punch-list and the metal panels were being worked on at the 2nd BSIF as well. He stated the same issue with the touch-up paint at the 2nd BSIF Exit was being addressed with the manufacture for the booths and another issue with the concertina wire above the chain link gate was being fixed. He also stated the flooring tile needed to be fixed and the closet door for the electrical section was not

closing properly so that was being worked on as well. He further reported on item 7 the exhaust fan inside the booth restroom was not working properly and cleaning and re-touching of all structural members from metal building was needed. He added the generator was already on site and the ATS was expected to arrive on September 11, 2023 and would be installed once both were in place. He also stated item 11 was to properly seal all thru-roof and thru-wall penetrations at the top of the booths and the final one was at the secondary inspection building and needed to complete the replacement of the light fixtures that were not working properly. He briefly stated based on the report these were minor items and the project seems to be slowing down but that was because there were minor detail items that needed to be ironed out. He further reported time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 151% and place to date was 98% of the funds for this project. He stated time to date on the 2nd BSIF Exit was 114% 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 two of the three AFA amendments have been executed and received approval from FHWA for additional funding. He stated they were currently working on the AFA amendment with TxDOT and the Donations Acceptance Agreement amendment with the Federal government. He stated the expected letting date was the fall of 2023.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated they posted a Notice of Availability/ Opportunity for Public Hearing in the newspaper and the City's webpage, and they were currently in negotiations for the maintenance easements for the new bridge and required right-of-way for the overhead sign bridges were ongoing. He further stated they expect to have it ready to let in September 2023 and expect environmental clearance by Spring of 2024.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported starting next month Brownstone Consulting, project managers for all their projects, would attend every meeting to answer any specifics or technical questions that may be needed.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported on the Industrial Warehouse Summit. He stated the first Industrial Warehouse Summit in conjunction with the Economic Development Corporation was launched in April 2023 and the purpose was to fulfill the needs for warehousing space. He added one of the issues that has come up regardless of trade was that there was not enough dry warehousing space for industrial capacity to fulfill the needs of trade, so it is up to them to bring this to the region and invite their regional partners to ensure that they were filling that gap. He stated this was not something that would happen overnight but was part of their educational process to bring everyone to the table from bankers, investors, and industrial warehouse developers. He stated for the one next week they have invited the Pharr Economic

Development Corporation and the neighboring cities Economic Development Corporations to participate and discuss what are they doing as a region for a more competitive border region and attract nearshoring opportunities.

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 12:45 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 1:29 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 26, 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 THE GREATER PHARR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR \$1,200

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE 2023 SOUTHERN BORDER CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITORS BOOTH FOR \$1,750

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item.

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

D) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON THE TEXAS REAL ESTATE GOLDEN SPONSORSHIP FOR \$2,000

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to approve. Secretary Campero 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 16th DAY OF AUGUST 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: _____