

**MINUTES  
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023  
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman  
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman  
Adalberto Campero, Secretary  
Ilse Vidaurri, 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:** Jonathan Flores, Interim 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

**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. 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 AUGUST 2023**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of August 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of August were 104,179, which was a decrease of -3,220 vehicles or -3.00% compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen further reported total car crossings for the month of August were 46,041, which was an increase of 3,467 cars or 8.14% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of August 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of August 2023. He stated crossings were 58,138, which was a decrease of -6,687 trucks or -10.32% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of August 2023.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, also reported northbound crossings for the month of August were 59,385, which was a decrease of -344 trucks or -0.58% increase. Mr. Brouwen stated the agriculture for the month of August 2023 had 15,750 trucks, which represents a 27% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of August 2023 were 117,523, which was a decrease of -7,031 or -5.64%.

Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, went over the total revenues collected for the month of August 2023. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,403,132, which showed a decrease of -\$64,265 or -4.38% in revenues.

Lastly, Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations, reported on crossing comparisons by axle for the month of August 2023. He stated cars were 46,041, 2X trucks were 3,281, 3X trucks were 4,918, 4X trucks were 1,206, 5X trucks were 47,465, 6X trucks were 974, mobile homes were 4, and wide loads were 256. He stated special crossings were 34 and the total combination for the month of August was 104,179.

### **B) FINANCE REPORT FOR JULY 2023**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for July 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 time to date on the Northbound Lane Expansion was 157% and place to date was 98% of the funds for this project. He stated time to date on the 2<sup>nd</sup> BSIF Exit was 119% and placed to date was 92%. He further stated the project completion date for the projects was originally scheduled for August 2023 but due to some pending items, staff would be sending a letter to the contractor requesting the project be finalized by October 2, 2023. He added upcoming activity was to continue with the project punch-list items and stated an important item was that the Automatic Transfer Switch delivery date was for September and got delayed till March 2024. He added they submitted a priority DO-N4 Request which was a homeland security issue so this would put them at the top of the line when requesting this Automatic Transfer Switch. However, they have not received a response from the manufacturer or vendor and they were waiting for a better delivery time.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated plans were 100% and staff had received the final Donations Acceptance Agreement Amendment from GSA on September 15, 2023. He reported they were currently waiting on the AFA Amendment from TxDOT and once received, they would move to the process of letting the project and have an expected letting date of March 2024.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Span Project. He stated TxDOT and FHWA approved the final Environmental Assessment and Notice of Availability on September 20, 2023 and would be posted later this month in the newspaper and the City's website. He added preliminary steps to Right of Way acquisition have been initiated and the purchase of the Right of Way would need to wait until they receive environmental approval. He stated the consultants continue to coordinate with IBWC, USACE, and USCG on all the permits needed for this project and the environmental clearance of winter 2023 and a construction Notice to Proceed of Summer 2024.

### **D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexican Liaison, for an update report on the construction progress in Mexico for the Second Span. Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexican Liaison, gave a brief update to the board in Spanish. Discussion ensued on Second Span.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported on the Start of the Produce Season Celebration. He stated this would be the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Produce Season Celebration and a Fresh on the Border press conference took place at Traveler Produce to announce the Start of the Produce Season. He further stated this year was going to be a 3 day event kicking it off with the Start of the Produce Season event with A Taste of Trade on October 19, 2023 at the Pharr Bridge. He further stated a BridgeConnect session would take place on October 20, 2023 and they would be incorporating Trade Talks and a new program called CrossCheck. He briefly explained CrossCheck was to develop a state of trade and talk about some of the variables that affect trade and highlight the importance of having the right infrastructure. Lastly, he reported the last event of the start of the produce season celebration was the Avocado Festival. He stated this was a first-time event hosted by the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce and would take place on Saturday, October 21, 2023 in downtown Pharr.

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 12:34 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 1:25 p.m., Chairman Delgadillo stated the Bridge Board would be resuming the open meeting.

**ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE**

**A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 16, 2023**

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.

**B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH THE ADVANCE NEWS JOURNAL FOR \$930 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS**

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 ADVERTISING WITH RIO GRANDE GUARDIAN FOR \$10,000 FOR 12 MONTHS**

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 ADVERTISING WITH TEXAS BORDER BUSINESS FOR \$1,850 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS**

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.

**E) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ADVERTISING WITH INBOUND LOGISTICS FOR \$3,708.33 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS**

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.

**F) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM XOANA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY FOR ROAD/TRAFFIC AND PROMOTIONAL COMMERCIAL ROUTE SIGNS IN REYNOSA FOR \$2,750 PER MONTH FOR 3 YEARS**

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.

**G) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSAL FROM TEXAS MANUFACTURING ASSISTANCE CENTER (TMAC) FOR STRATEGIC PLAN DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT FOR \$6,875**

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.

**H) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON PROPOSED TOLL FEE INCREASE FOR BOTH COMMERCIAL TRUCKS AND PASSENGER VEHICLES AT THE PHARR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE**

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item.

Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to approve as discussed in executive session. Chairman Delgadillo 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 1:27 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

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EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

**ON THE 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 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.

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VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE  
MARKETING COORDINATOR

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_