

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

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 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: Ilse Vidaurri, Member

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez
Mayor Pro-Tem Daniel Chavez

STAFF PRESENT: Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
Vanessa Guzman, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: Jonathan Flores, Interim City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, Asst. City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez III, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Karla Saavedra, Finance Director
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief
Michael Rodriguez, Deputy Chief
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Carlos Rodriguez, Port Director
Andy Vega, 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 12:02 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

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

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of October 2023. He reported total crossings for the month of October were 101,828, which was a decrease of -5,529 vehicles or -5.15% compared to last year. Mr. Bazan further reported total car crossings for the month of October were 44,769, which was an increase of 1,315 cars or 3.03% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of October 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of October 2023. He stated crossings were 57,059, which was a decrease of -6,844 trucks or -10.71% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of October 2023.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported northbound crossings for the month of October were 58,427, which was a decrease of -1,435 trucks or -2.40% increase. Mr. Bazan stated the agriculture for the month of October 2023 had 16,450 trucks, which represents 28% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of October 2023 were 115,486, which was a decrease of -8,279 or -6.69%.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the crossing comparisons by axle for the month of October 2023. He stated cars were 44,769, 2X trucks were 3,034, 3X trucks were 4,872, 4X trucks were 1,218, 5X trucks were 46,771, 6X trucks were 900, mobile homes were 7, and wide loads were 219. He stated special crossings were 38 and the total combination for the month of October was 101,828.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on total revenues collected for the month of October 2023. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,396,136, which showed a decrease of -\$151,025 or -9.76% in revenues.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for September 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 the final walkthrough was completed last month and minor items were identified, and contractor was in the process of fixing and completing. He stated the DO-N4 Request for the Automatic Transfer Switch had been submitted but had not received a response from the vendor. He added they requested a manual transfer switch proposal from the contractor and should be receiving it soon.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated plans were 100% and the final Donations Acceptance Agreement Amendment # 1 was executed by the city, and they were waiting for GSA and CBP for the final execution of the document. He reported a Resolution was passed and approved at the last city commission meeting for the AFA Amendment and was submitted to TxDOT for approval. He added and it takes about 15 to 30 days to get a response. He further stated once the two amendments get executed, they would be good with the project and ready to let. He stated the expected letting date was March 2024.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONS) was signed and distributed for the project, and they had a 30-day period to post on the city website and the state website which was the environmental clearance for the project. He further stated there were 3 additional permits needed to be acquired by the International Boundary Water Commission, the Corps of Engineers, and the US Coast Guard. He also stated the right of way acquisition for the overhead signs was initiated and they received right of entry from the

property owners and completed the survey. He added they were waiting on the documents for the survey and would follow up with the appraisal and the purchase of the property. Lastly, he reported the letting date for the project was April 2024.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported the Trucksgiving event was an initiative that started last year to give thanks to the transportation industry. But this year they opened for all customers and stated it would be held at the Development and Research Center. He further reported the end-of-the-year celebration would be held on Friday, December 8, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and extended an invitation to the board to attend.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the South Texas College (SCT) Certified Customs Specialist Program. He stated last year they entered a partnership with STC and were able to sponsor six students who went through the Certified Customs Specialist program. He further stated some of the students had already graduated and introduced two students who were present. At this time, he called upon Juan Rabanales.

Juan Rabanales, Project Training Specialist for SCT, went over the Certified Customs Specialist Program and presented the students with a certificate of completion.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 25, 2023

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, introduced the item.

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

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2024 INTERNATIONAL FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$2,445

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.

C) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RENEWING THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP-CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP FOR \$2,500

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 2024 NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS & FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (NCBFAA) MEMBERSHIP FOR \$871

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.

E) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2024 NATIONAL CUSTOMS BROKERS & FORWARDERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (NCBFAA) MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR \$2,679

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.

ITEM 4. CLOSED SESSION: IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 551 OF THE TEXAS GOV'T. CODE, THE BOARD 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

None.

ITEM 5. RECONVENE

None.

ITEM 6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before the board, Secretary Campero **moved** to adjourn. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:33 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 NOVEMBER 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: _____