

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
Lazaro Beas, Member
Ilse Vidaurri, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adalberto Campero, Secretary

**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: David Friedlein, Asst. City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez III, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Jamison Merrick, Interim Finance Director
Cynthia Garza, Director of External Relations
Victoria Brewster, Public Affairs Liaison
Jose Luengo, Pharr Bridge PD
Eric Garcia, Pharr Bridge PD
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Andy Vega, 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 12:04 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 FEBRUARY 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of February 2024. He reported total crossings for the month of February were 92,085, which was a decrease of -14,378 vehicles or -13.51% compared to last year. Mr. Bazan further reported total car crossings for the month of February were 34,782, which was a decrease of -15,373 cars or -30.65% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of February 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of February 2024. He stated crossings were 57,303, which was an increase of 995 trucks or 1.77% increase and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of February 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported northbound crossings for the month of February 2024 were 57,446, which was an increase of 542 trucks or 0.95% increase. Mr. Bazan stated the agriculture for the month of February 2024 had 20,069 trucks, which represents 35% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of February 2024 were 114,749, which was an increase of 1,537 or 1.36%.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the crossing comparisons by axle for the month of February 2024. He stated cars were 34,782, 2X trucks were 2,522, 3X trucks were 4,494, 4X trucks were 905, 5X trucks were 46,293, 6X trucks were 2,911, mobile homes were 3, and wide loads were 174. He stated special crossings were **one (1)** and the total combination for the month of February was 92,085.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on total revenues collected for the month of February 2024. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,662,818, which showed an increase of \$312,788 or 23.17% in revenues.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for February 2024.

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 reported the automatic transfer switch had arrived and had been installed and the next step was to get the generator started up and get the testing dates from the manufacturer to make sure it was working as expected. He added after that go through the motions to close out the project next month.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects. He stated the advertising period for the project started on February 28, 2024 and bids were originally due on March 21, 2024 but the due date had been extended to March 28, 2024 as contractors needed more time to prepare the bid. He added the next step was to open bids, perform bid analysis, and recommend the contractor award to TxDOT and receive their approval. He further reported they expect to begin construction in June.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated they received the environmental clearance, and the right-of-way acquisition was still in progress. He stated that the next step was to obtain the final permits from IBWC, US Coast Guard, and Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2. He stated they were expecting to receive the FPAA & SLOA from TxDOT early this week but that did not happen. Therefore, this would delay the advertisement process by a week moving the letting date to April 25, 2024, and construction would begin in July 2024.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on BridgeConnect Trade Session. He stated this would be on Level 1 and Hazmat Inspection saw a huge influx of 6-axle trucks back in January and had not seen this increase of tanker trucks crossing the Pharr Bridge in over a year and a half to two years. He stated they want to make sure tanker drivers and the oil and gas company owners moving this product into Mexico were aware of this and were properly trained. He further stated they have had Level 1 and Hazmat Inspection several times throughout the last few years but because of the issues they continued to see and the fact that the customers were complaining about fines, they wanted to make sure that they comply. He briefly reported a training would be hosted on Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Development and Research Center extended an invitation to the oil and gas industry to attend the training.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported an Industrial Warehouse Summit Part 3 series would be hosted on May 9, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Development and Research Center. He stated some of the topics that would be presented were Nearshoring Trends, AI's Impact on the Supply Chain, Workforce, Educational Trainings and Opportunities, and current Economic conditions for the Region and how that was affecting trade.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexico Liaison was lining up some meetings in Mexico in partnership with the Pharr Economic Development Corporation as part of their collaboration efforts in Mexico. He added the association Mr. Ordonez met with was COMCE Noreste whom they have signed agreements and had a database with major corporations.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported they went out for Request for Qualifications for the toll system. He further stated they were invited to a Technology Conference/Expo coming up on May 4-7, 2024, in Atlanta, Georgia and stated this was a hands-on approach with toll system.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Ezequiel Ordonez, Mexican Liaison, for an update report on his trip and meetings in Monterrey, N.L. Mr. Ordonez gave a brief update to the board in Spanish.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 17, 2024

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.

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2024-2025 TEXAS TRUCKING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY FOR \$1,999

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, Vice-Chairman Martinez **moved** to adjourn. Member Beas seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 20th DAY OF MARCH 2024, 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: _____