

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, and following is the record of attendance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edgar Delgadillo, Chairman
Adalberto Campero, Secretary
Ilse Vidaurri, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tony Martinez, Vice-Chairman
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
Vanessa Guzman, Marketing Coordinator
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant
Freddy Flores, Trade Liaison

OTHERS PRESENT: Jonathan Flores, City Manager
Hilda Pedraza, Asst. City Manager
Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer
Jamison Merrick, Interim Finance Director
Cynthia Garza, Director of External Relations
Victoria Brewster, Public Affairs Liaison
Michael Rodriguez, Deputy Police Chief
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affairs
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Andy Vega, CBP
Elmer Martinez, CBP

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

A) ROLL CALL AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE EXCUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Secretary Campero moved to excuse absent members. Member Vidaurri 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 MARCH 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of March 2024. He reported total crossings for the month of March were 103,381, which was a decrease of -18,311 vehicles or -15.05% compared to last year. Mr. Bazan further reported total car crossings for the month of March were 47,136, which was a decrease of -6,434 cars or -12.01% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of March 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of March 2024. He stated crossings were 56,245, which was a decrease of -11,877 trucks or -17.43% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of March 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported northbound crossings for the month of March 2024 were 58,119, which was a decrease of -7,230 trucks or -11.06% decrease and stated the agriculture for the month of March 2024 had 21,497 trucks, which represents 37% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of March 2024 were 114,749, which was a decrease of -19,107 or -14.32%.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the crossing comparisons by axle for the month of March 2024. He stated cars were 47,136, 2X trucks were 2,608, 3X trucks were 5,210, 4X trucks were 995, 5X trucks were 46,598, 6X trucks were 654, mobile homes were 2, and wide loads were 171. He stated special crossings were 7 and the total combination for the month of March was 103,381.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on total revenues collected for the month of March 2024. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,720,767, which showed an increase of \$71,649 or 4.34% in revenues.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR MARCH 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for March 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 Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, was present and questions on projects could be entertained at this time.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, reported on the upcoming activity for DAP FY15 Projects. She reported the generator and automatic transfer switch started up and testing would be conducted this week and would close out the project on April 24, 2024.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects and stated bids were opened on March 28, 2024 and they were working with Brownstone and Halff on the bid analysis and recommendations. She added she will be finalizing their review this week to present to administration before submitting to TxDOT for their review and city commission for approval. She further stated one bid was received but was over the engineers estimate. She further reported they expect to begin construction this summer or early fall.

Maria Rangel, Asst. City Engineer, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. She stated they started the advertisement process on April 6, 2024, and had a pre-bid meeting this morning. She further stated they received several questions on the project and hoped to get several bids at the bid opening on April 30, 2024. Lastly, she reported the notice to proceed was tentatively set for July 27, 2024 with a proposed completion date of November 13, 2025.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on new toll system. He reported they had been working on this project for several months and were currently making changes to it internally with ViaPlus to make sure they were able to apply the toll increases to the system. He further stated they would do a short term pilot program next week in coordination with the Operations Manager, Supervisors, and Toll Collectors. He added for the long term they were looking to implement a whole new toll system and would have the opportunity to see what was out there at a major conference that was coming up in May 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported an Industrial Warehouse Summit Part 3 would take place 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 Training and Opportunities, and current Economic conditions for the Region and how that was affecting trade.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported staff attended the Viva Fresh 2024 in collaboration with the Pharr Economic Development Cororation. He stated they were able to get in front of current and future customers and showed a recap video.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Secretary Campero **moved** to approve. Member Vidaurri 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. Chairman Delgadillo seconded the motion and when put to a vote, it carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 17th DAY OF APRIL 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: _____