

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, and following is the record of attendance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lazaro Beas, Member
Roberto Garza, Member

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
PRESENT:** None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Luis Bazan, Bridge Director
George Selvera, Assistant 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
Cynthia Garza, Asst. City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez III, City Attorney
Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer
Jamison Merrick, Interim Finance Director
Victoria Brewster, Public Affairs Liaison
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 EXCUSING OF ANY ABSENT MEMBER

Chairman Delgadillo called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Roll call established a quorum.

Secretary Campero moved to excuse absent member. Vice-Chairman Martinez 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 APRIL 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of April 2024. He reported total crossings for the month of April were 111,523, which was an increase of 2,190 vehicles or 2.00% compared to last year. Mr. Bazan further reported total car crossings for the month of April were 48,934, which was an increase of 4,421 cars or 9.93% and went over car crossing compassions from other bridges for the month of April 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of April 2024. He stated crossings were 62,589, which was a decrease of -2,231 trucks or -3.44% decrease and went over truck crossings compassions from other bridges for the month of April 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported northbound crossings for the month of April 2024 were 63,383, which was an increase of 4,711 trucks or 8.03% decrease and stated the agriculture for the month of April 2024 had 20,598 trucks, which represents 32% of all imports from Mexico to the U.S. He further reported a combination of northbound and southbound truck crossings for the month of April 2024 were 125,972, which was an increase of 2,480 or 2.01%.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the crossing comparisons by axle for the month of April 2024. He stated cars were 48,934, 2X trucks were 3,011, 3X trucks were 4,873, 4X trucks were 1,078, 5X trucks were 51,818, 6X trucks were 1,575, mobile homes were 3, and wide loads were 219. He stated special crossings were 12 and the total combination for the month of March was 111,523.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on total revenues collected for the month of April 2024. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,935,889, which showed an increase of \$398,164 or 25.89% in revenues.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, called upon Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant, for the finance report for April 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 DAP FY15 Projects were complete and stated they were working with GSA, CBP, Brownstone and ICE to get all the necessary closeout documents for city commission meeting at the first meeting in June.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, further reported on DAP FY16 projects and stated they had received only one bid and it was 10% over the engineers estimate. He stated TXDOT had recommended to reject and re-advertise the project and the advertisement period would start on May 22, 2024 with a bid opening date on June 20, 2024. He further stated construction would start in October 2024.

Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated the bid opening date was April 30, 2024 and they had received a total of 5 bids. He stated a bid analysis was completed and a letter of recommendation was submitted to TxDOT for their concurrence in order to award the project. He further stated they were advancing with the final permits from IBWC which were signed by the Mayor on Friday May 10, 2024 and the US Coast Guard would follow IBWC permit and the Hidalgo County Irrigation District No.2. He further stated they were looking into finalizing all documents and start construction in July 2024.

Lastly, Ruben Alfaro, City Engineer, reported on Truck Staging area and stated the advertisement period was opened. He further stated the truck staging area would bring much needed parking on the South.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Industrial Warehouse Summit Part 3. He stated they have been doing this since early 2023 but have been planning it since 2022 and going on to part 4 will be more of a collaboration effort with the Pharr Economic Development Corporation and the Pharr Border Business Advancement Initiative. At this time recap video of the event was shown and stated over 100 participants were in attendance and the purpose was to introduce industrial developers, real estate developers, investors, bankers and any other financial institutions to prepare for the future.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, showed the recap video of the IWS3. He stated they were very proud of this event and it was going to continue to grow and they already had ideas for the next one which would probably be in September or October 2024. He explained this event concentrated on workforce development as it would be important for the future as well as AI, which was something they had been hearing about for the last few years.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, further reported on BridgeConnect Trade Session. He stated this session would be on Strengthening Organic Enforcement (SOE) and was taking place on Thursday, May 23, 2024 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated this year in November 2024 was the 30 Year Anniversary of the Pharr International Bridge and he was excited to work with the team. He stated everything they do moving forward would have the seal.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 17, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Vice-Chair 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 CONFEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES AGENTES ADUANALES DE LA REPUBLICA MEXICANA (CAAAREM) SPONSORSHIP FOR \$11,000

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated this was a sponsorship they had been doing for several years and the reason was to allow them a speaking engagement which puts them front and center of over 500 customs brokers in Mexico and that allows them to talk to the decision makers.

Vice-Chair Martinez **moved** to approve. Secretary Campero 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

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

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 12:26 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 MAY 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: _____