

**MINUTES
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024
118 S. CAGE BLVD. 2ND FLOOR**

The Toll Bridge Board met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, and following is the record of attendance.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Adalberto Campero, Secretary
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, Office Manager
Freddy Flores, Trade Liason

OTHERS PRESENT: Cynthia Garza, Asst. City Manager
Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr., City Attorney
Jamison Merrick, Interim Finance Director
Victoria Brewster, Public Affairs Liaison
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge México Liaison
Eddie Gutierrez, Financial Consultant
Hollis Rutledge, Governmental Affair
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 12:30 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 AUGUST 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the total crossings and revenues report for the month of August 2024. He reported total crossings for the month of August were 111,425, which was an increase of 7,246 vehicles or 6.96% compared to last year. Mr. Bazan further reported total car crossings for the month of August were 53,826, which was an increase of 7,785 cars or 16.91% and went over car crossing comparisons from other bridges for the month of August 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the total truck crossings for the month of August 2024. He stated crossings were 57,599, which was a decrease of -539 trucks or -0.93% increase and went over truck crossings comparisons from other bridges for the month of August 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported northbound crossings for the month of August 2024 were 61,969, which was an increase of 2,584 trucks or 4.35% increase and stated the agriculture for the month of August 2024 had 16,364 trucks, which represents 26% 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 2024 were 119,568, which was an increase of 2,045 or 1.74%.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, went over the crossing comparisons by axle for the month of August 2024. He stated cars were 53,826, 2X trucks were 2,950, 3X trucks were 6,958, 4X trucks were 999, 5X trucks were 40,226, 6X trucks were 208, mobile homes were 2, and wide loads were 143. He stated special crossings were 6,112 and the total combination for the month of August was 111,425.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on total revenues collected for the month of August 2024. He reported total revenues collected for the month were \$1,403,132, which showed an increase of \$463,753 or 31.13% in revenues.

B) FINANCE REPORT FOR AUGUST 2024

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

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

Eddie Gutierrez, Bridge Financial Consultant with Blue Stone Capital Solutions, briefly reported on the expenditures and revenues year to date for the bridge.

C) ENGINEER'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated Maria Rangel, Interim City Engineer, was out at this time, so he would be doing a quick status report on current projects.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated DAP FY15 was complete and ribbon cutting event was held back on July 29, 2024, and pending matters with TxDOT and hopefully by the end of the month they would be fully operational and 2nd BSIF would be opened.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on DAP FY16 project. He stated they received concurrence from TxDOT on August 22, 2024 and awarded the project at the city commission meeting held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. He added the next step would be the pre-construction meeting which was scheduled for October 15, 2024 and construction would start sometime in October or November 2024.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, also reported on the 2nd Span Project. He stated construction had already started and groundbreaking ceremony was held on August 14, 2024. He stated project status was at 51 calendar days which was about 11% of the total timeline of the project with an end contract time of November 24, 2025 and contract amount of \$47,601,706.75.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the Commercial Vehicle Parking area. He stated the city commission awarded the project on September 3, 2024 and the next step would be a 2nd TxDOT concurrence which was expected next month as well as a pre-construction meeting and construction would start October or November 2024.

Discussion ensued on the engineer's report.

D) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairman Edgar Delgadillo introduced the item.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, stated they have the 1st Annual Pharr International Bridge Truck Expo which is something that they have been wanting to do for a while. He

added the Greater Pharr Chamber previously did this event before COVID and now the Bridge Department would be taking the lead on this event and so far it was looking to be a full house. He further added they had 52 exhibitors that would be participating in the expo and have collected over \$40 thousand dollars in sponsorships which included the booths. He further stated they were working to ensure that this was a high level exposition and stated it would be an all day endeavour. He reported they would kick-off event in the morning on Friday, September 27, 2024 with a BridgeConnect Trade Session on Level 1 and Hazmat Inspection to be held at the Pharr EMS Headquarters from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on 1st Annual Drive for Trade Golf Tournament to start Fresh on the Border event. He stated they would also have their Start of the Produce Season, A Taste of Trade, and Trade Talks events taking place. Additionally, he stated this year they would be kicking it off with the Industrial Warehouse Summit led by Pharr Economic Development Corporation. He further stated the 1st Annual Drive for Trade Golf Tournament would be held Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at the Tierra Del Sol Golf Course.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on the 11th Annual Start of the Produce Season that would be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at the Pharr International Bridge at 10:00 a.m. and stated they were estimating a total of over 200 people to be in attendance. He stated this would be the third year that they have A Taste of Trade with local restaurants showcasing samples of their food with the produce that crosses through our bridge.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Trade Talks sessions to be held on Friday, October 11, 2024 after the Start of the Produce Season. He stated these sessions would highlight all the associations and would be offered to the trade community.

Lastly, Luis Bazan, Bridge Director, reported on Avocado Festival taking place on Saturday, October 12, 2024 in Downtown Pharr from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

ITEM 3. ADMINISTRATIVE

A) APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 21, 2024 – REGULAR MEETING

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

B) DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ASOCIACIÓN DE EMPRESARIOS MEXICANOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chair 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 BORDER TRADE ALLIANCE (BTA) 2024 PARTON MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chair 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 RIO GRANDE GUARDIAN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FOR 12 MONTHS.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chair 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 ADVERTISING WITH THE ADVANCE NEWS JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$930 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chair 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 ADVERTISING WITH TEXAS BORDER BUSINESS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,950 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chair 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 ADVERTISING WITH INBOUND LOGISTICS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,708.33 PER MONTH FOR 12 MONTHS.

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

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

H) **DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON COMCE 30⁰ CONGRESO DEL COMERCIO EXTERIOR MEXICANO SPONSORSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,000.**

Luis Bazan, Bridge Director introduced the item.

Vice-Chair Martinez **moved** to approve. Member Beas 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 12:57 p.m.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

EDGAR DELGADILLO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

ADALBERTO CAMPERO, SECRETARY

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

ON THE 25TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 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: _____