

**REGULAR MEETING  
TOLL BRIDGE BOARD  
HELD ON MAY 20, 2015, AT 12:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, 118 S. CAGE BLVD., 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, PHARR, TEXAS**

On the 20th day of May 2015, the Toll Bridge Board met in a regular Bridge Board Meeting. Following is the record of attendance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Adalberto Campero, Chairman  
Rick Martinez, Vice-Chairman  
Romeo Cuellar, Member  
Artemio Palacios, Member  
Edgar Delgadillo, Secretary

**MEMBER ABSENT:** None

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT:** Mayor Ambrosio Hernandez

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations  
Luis Bazan, Industrial Development Manager  
Vanessa Guzman, Administrative Assistant  
Cleo Salinas, Administrative Assistant

**OTHER PRESENT:** Bill Ueckert, City Engineer  
Ruben Villescas, Police Chief  
Joel Robles, Asst. Police Chief  
Ezequiel Ordonez, Bridge Liaison  
Michael Pruneda, City Attorney  
Sgt. Juan Sanchez, Bridge PD  
Hector Garza, TIPA  
Pete Sepulveda, CCRMA  
Adrian Rincones, CCRMA

There being a quorum established Chairman Adalberto Campero called the meeting to order. Following is the agenda:

1. Roll Call-Excuse absent members
2. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation
3. Consideration and action on approval of minutes-April 16, 2015
4. Crossings and revenues comparison for April 2015

5. Expenditures report for April 2015
6. Project engineer report
7. Director's Administrative Report
8. Discussion and action, if any, on 2015 Golf Tournament Sponsorship for \$1,000
9. Discussion and action, if any, on Interlocal Agreement with Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority
10. Discussion and action, if any, on Foro Internacional INDEX Reynosa 2015 for \$15,000 pesos (\$1,072 dlls)
11. Discussion and action, if any, on 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pharr Police Athletic League Fishing Tournament Sponsorship for \$1,000
12. Discussion and action, if any, on 2015 Havana Nights Sponsorship for \$1,000
13. Discussion and action, if any, on recommendation for projects within the Pharr Land Port of Entry (LPOE) facility funded through the TX-DOT Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) Program
14. Adjournment

#### **A. CALL TO ORDER:**

##### **ITEM "1": ROLL CALL-EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS**

Chairman Campero called the meeting to order. All members were present during roll call. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

##### **ITEM "2": PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATIONS**

Chairman Campero introduced the item and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ruben Villegas, Police Chief led the group in a prayer. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**B. CONSENT AGENDA:** *(All items listed under consent Agenda are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the Governing body and will be enacted by one motion. Any Board Member may remove items from the consent agenda by making such request prior to a motion and vote on the Consent Agenda)*

##### **ITEM "3": CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES-**

**APRIL 16, 2015**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the minutes from April 16, 2015. Member Martinez seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**C. DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: (Director's Administrative Reports and discussion, if any, with Bridge Board. The Director may also assign a designated spokesperson for any particular listed topic)**

**ITEM "4": CROSSING AND REVENUES COMPARISON FOR APRIL 2015**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that for the month of April car crossings were 63,233, which represents a (-8,549) cars or (-11.91%) compared to last year. Mr. Brouwen then showed a graph of all the car crossings from all the bridges across the board. He stated that Brownsville had an increase of 1,786, which represents a 1%; Eagle Pass had a total crossing of 195,591, which represents an increase of 18,925 or 10%; Laredo had a total of 405, 220 cars, an increase of 5,001 or 1%; McAllen-Hidalgo had a decrease of -3,503, Anzalduas had a decrease of -4,160, and a combination of both bridges had a loss of -7,663 or -2% decrease; Progreso had a loss of -8,871 cars, which represents -20.78% for the month of April; the Donna Bridge again for the third month in a row had a loss of -2,746 cars, which represents -6.31%; the Pharr International Bridge had a loss of -8,549 cars, which represents a -11.91% for the month of April. Mayor Hernandez asked that is Mr. Brouwen had an explanation of why, he knows that all traffic is down but why is our percentage so much different than McAllen. Mr. Brouwen stated that mainly because of the opening of the Anzalduas Bridge and the opening of the Donna Bridge. He added that about 4-5 years ago they had a decrease on the cars, and the other factor is the violence in Mexico. He also added that in the past two-years they have seen a loss on the cars and basically that is because of the two bridges that have opened, but the main reason why they have a loss on all ports of entry is due to the violence in Mexico. Mr. Brouwen stated that they had several incidents this past month where they had to close the bridge for a minimum of 15-20 minutes and divert traffic to other ports of entries. Several discussions then took place regarding the violence in Mexico. Member Cuellar stated that would it be fair to say the last couple of years or since they opened up they've lost more and more cars to Anzalduas. Mr. Brouwen replied yes, sir. Member Cuellar asked that if it would be fair to say that possibly that trend will continue. Mr. Brouwen replied that it might and the good thing about it is that they were invited yesterday to a grand opening of a corridor that will open, actually it's open already and the President from Mexico Pena-Nieto will be there tomorrow, and they were invited to the grand opening, that might help alleviate or send traffic, cars to our bridge. He added that that is the first corridor and the second corridor is a toll highway and it is basically going to direct traffic from Monterrey to our bridge, and eventually it is going to continue to the Donna Bridge, that is the Corridor Mazatlán-Durango and it is coming from Mazatlán. Mr. Brouwen stated that the first corridor will be a free of charge, the second corridor is going to be a toll, but those two corridors will definitely help them bring more traffic to the bridge. Member Cuellar stated that it's fair

to say that car wise they have made less revenues. Mr. Brouwen replied yes, and basically it is because the main highway that connects Monterrey to the Anzalduas Bridge is that corridor and that is the reason why they are getting a lot of traffic from Monterrey. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue.

Mr. Brouwen reported that total truck crossings for the month of April were 43,924, and that since the depression in 2009 they have never seen a decrease in trucks, and this is the first month that he has seen a decrease and it is very little but they do have a decrease of -840 trucks. Mr. Brouwen then showed a graph of all the truck crossings from all the other bridges across the board. He stated that Brownsville had a loss of -448, which represents a -2%; Eagle Pass had an increase of 394 trucks, 4%; the Pharr Bridge had a loss of -840 trucks, -2%, and Progreso had a loss of -975, -23%. Chairman Campero stated that Mr. Brouwen should mention to the board that when he closes due to violence in Reynosa, Rio Bravo, or Matamoros they usually blockade and when they blockade they put cars as barriers or they put cargo vehicles as barriers and they either burn them or take away the keys from the owners so that it will stop traffic maybe 2-5 hours and that is the tactic that the cartels are doing to limit authorities from capturing them, so it is not only that the bridge closes but there are other factors there in the city, so all traffic stops and everyone stays in their homes and nobody moves and that includes cargo. Mr. Brouwen stated that the maquila's basically stand still, cars, vehicles, commercial vehicles coming from the main highway, since they have two main highways coming from Mexico, one that connects San Luis Potosi-Victoria to our bridge and it basically shuts down and also the one to Monterrey. He added that those are the reasons why it slows down and basically they don't have any traffic on the bridge. Member Cuellar stated that what is going to happen in the next couple of years when their competition opens up, do they expect an increase or a decrease. Mr. Brouwen stated that definitely it is going to be a decrease. Member Cuellar stated that that means that they are going to have less revenues, and the illusion of the bridge being a cash cow, so when there are problems they are going to have less and less money. Mr. Brouwen stated that Member Cuellar was correct and that they did a survey of empty trucks that go back in to Mexico, and as of right now Anzalduas can cross empties to Mexico, the only thing is that they have tried to cross and they had problems on the Mexican side and on the USA side, so they are going to wait until they built the import/export lot on both sides of the country to be able to cross those trucks. He added that it is going to be about 2 years and they will see a decrease in revenues. Mr. Brouwen stated that they have several projects that they need to work on inside the port, projects that they have in Mexico and if they do not work on those projects, they are going to be stuck with what they have. He added that they need to make this bridge more attractive for commercial and non-commercial, and if they do that they can keep a lot of trucks here at the Pharr Bridge. Several discussions then took place regarding the corridors in Mexico.

Mr. Brouwen reported that the total revenues collected for the month of April were \$1,041,388, with a loss of -\$53,809. He added that the total amount for the year up to April were \$7,416,076, with an increase of \$281,033. Member Cuellar asked that based on 2014, when did they go up the tolls. Mr. Brouwen stated that he believes it was a year and a half ago, and that the City of Donna International Bridge went up on the tolls twenty-five cents a few months ago, and that he will bring it to the board in a

couple of months and that if they go up they will have an increase from sixteen to twenty-five thousand dollars every month, he will get the board the numbers and the amount. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "5": EXPENDITURES REPORT FOR APRIL 2015**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen stated that since they do not have Mr. Guerra or Mrs. Karla Moya if they can table this item for the next meeting. Member Delgado made a motion to table the Expenditures Report for April 2015. Member Palacios seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "6": PROJECT ENGINEER REPORT**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Ueckert, City Engineer stated that they will be opening up bids for the expansion joints repair on June 10th, and currently they have about four contractors interested in that project. He added that the construction budget is about two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars, so they will be opening bids on June 10th and award the contract if the board wants to proceed on that particular project, it's to repair the expansion joints within the bridge on the USA side. Chairman Campero asked if he happens to know anything on the repairs happening on the Mexican side of the bridge, or if that is a whole different item. Mr. Ueckert stated that he is not aware of what is happening on that. Mr. Brouwen stated that they did bring Mr. Marcos Olivarez from CAPFUE to the last meeting and he did a presentation on the construction on the Mexican side of the bridge, but if the board would like he can bring him in again to give an update on the construction. He added that he has traveled the bridge and they are about 60% complete on the construction, and per the information that he had given them it should be finished by July, but because of the weather it might change, but if they'd like he can bring him next month to give them an update on the construction on the Mexican side. Member Delgado asked that if they would be done by the time Mr. Ueckert has to go in and start. Mr. Brouwen stated that their construction on the joints is very minimal and it is going to be during the night, the traffic will not be impacted at all. He added that once they close the bridge at night the construction will begin and they will open up for traffic with normal hours. Several discussions then took place regarding the construction on the bridge. Chairman Campero asked that if Mr. Ueckert had an updates on the repairs on the streets that were being done over at Capote blvd. Mr. Ueckert stated that they are about 34% completed on the projects, which is the Capote Streets and also the industrial park area, currently they are working on Capote street and they barely finished Toro Drive , so they need to go to Matador Drive which is the next one, so they are coming along on a good pace and that there has been some delays because of the rain, they are on time, on schedule, and the completion date is in October, so they are about 34% complete at this time. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "7": DIRECTOR'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Fred Brouwen, Director of Operations stated that what he has is that a couple of weeks ago they had a conference call with CBP, TX-DOT on which they discussed the connectivity to the BSIF. He added that what they discussed was the improvements of the connectivity to the port to enhance the northbound lanes so that they can move the wide loads through the port and connect to the BSIF, again the first phase is to work on the design which they are doing and is going to take about 3-4 months and from there the construction will take about 6 months, as per the dates that they have to finish the connectivity to the BSIF, it will be more or less a year and a half to connect the port to the BSIF. He added that the second meeting they had was with CBP to discuss the caterpillar agreement, the people came from Monterrey to discuss the improvement of the connector so that they can move caterpillars inside the port. Mr. Brouwen stated that they will bring the agreement to board, hopefully at the next meeting. Mr. Brouwen stated that another meeting that they had was with CBP, Alex Avila, and the Maquila Working Group to discuss the hours of operation especially the issues that they have which is that on Monday and Friday's they have a lot of traffic on the bridge, the other issues and concerns that they have is when the system goes down, and holiday's. He added that on holiday's they close the bridge at two in the afternoon on the Mexican side and that they are working with them in a way that they can improve those hours of operations. Mr. Brouwen stated that the last meeting that they had was yesterday was with TIPA, USDA, FDA inspectors from Washington, they discussed those hours of operations and the problems that they have at the bridge right now, which is that on Saturdays they open at 7:00 am and close at 4:00 pm. He added that about 4-5 years ago they use to cross three-hundred trucks on a Saturday, and right now they are crossing 800-900 trucks on a Saturday. He also added that they discussed to either bring more officers on the peek days, which is Monday, Friday and Saturday, or improve the hours of operations. Mr. Brouwen stated that they are going to meet in the near future to discuss those issues again. Member Palacios stated that on the entomologist that what are the hours for him. Mr. Brouwen stated that he gets there at 8 in the morning and leaves at around 6-7 in the evening, and right now they only have one and they are working on getting another entomologist on site. Several discussions then took place regarding these item. Mr. Luis Bazan, Industrial Development Manager for the Pharr Bridge stated that he just got word yesterday from the Director of External Affairs Sergio Contreras that the Ag Bill that they were pushing at both the State and the Senate got approved, so that means that they are going to be starting a funding program or a matching program, for example last year the City of Pharr invested almost ninety-thousand dollars in overtime pay for CBP, in particular for agriculture specialist help. He added that what this will do is open up the doors for more ag specialists, perhaps maybe some help with another entomologist, and as a matter of fact when they met with the stakeholder from TIPA yesterday that was one of the primary reasons why they were meeting to discuss that bill and to make sure they push forward on that. He stated that it did get approved and now instead of paying for example ninety-thousand dollars it is probably going to cost the city forty-five thousand dollars, so it cuts it in half. Member Delgadillo stated that in regards to the free trade zone that McAllen was claiming why they were trying to apply for one when McAllen already had one and it serves the area. Mr. Bazan stated that he knows that of course McAllen is going to be opposed to it. City Attorney Michael

Pruneda stated that he would rather discuss that at a later time, possibly in executive session. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

#### **D. ADMINISTRATIVE:**

#### **ITEM "8": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2015 GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP FOR \$1,000**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen stated that for the past 3-4 years they have worked with TIPA, they are very active with them and have helped us promote the bridge, not only in the US but in Mexico, and yesterday they had a meeting that they brought some people from Washington, USDA, FDA to discuss issues concerning the Pharr International Bridge. He added that he has Mr. Hector Garza from TIPA who is there to give them more information on what it is that they are doing with TIPA. Mr. Hector Garza from TIPA stated that the Texas International Produce Association has been around since 1942, and they mainly dedicate themselves to growers, producers, and as of 4 years ago they changed the name to International because of the trade that is happening especially with Mexico. He added that they have seen a very significant change in work force in the US and how Mexico has played a huge part in importing more produce, especially through Texas, Pharr being one of the top import location ports of entry, Pharr has also helped them a lot with the association. Mr. Garza stated that they just recently had the Viva Fresh Produce Expo this past March and before when they use to have the Texas Produce Convention here at the Island and Pharr has participated a lot before as well, at the Viva Fresh Expo we changed it a bit and we dedicated it to be more a retailer and a grower producer expo where they can meet and get deals done there, so Pharr was a huge presence there at the expo, and we do expect a lot more produce to come. He added that they did an economic feasibility study with Texas A&M and they projected that for 2020, to have vehicles or trucks coming with produce around two-hundred and seventy-thousand trucks loads. Mr. Garza also stated that right now for fresh vegetables they are getting around one-hundred and seventy-six thousand coming here through Texas, so they do see a huge increase that's going to come. He added that many of the companies are calling him from Arizona setting up shop here, because they know that the corridor opening up from the Durango-Mazatlán area coming straight over here is going to be a huge boom, it's saving them 8 hours of driving time just to go up through Texas using that new corridor. Mr. Garza stated that he would like to thank Fred Brouwen and Luis Bazan, they have always helped them out, the City of Pharr has always been there for them. He added that this June 19, 2015, they are having their Golf Tournament, they have this annually and last year the City of Pharr was a Diamond Sponsor and he is here requesting that this year the City of Pharr also be a Diamond Sponsor. Mr. Brouwen stated that he has \$1,000 as the Sponsorship, but last year they did the Diamond so it is up to the board to decide what they would like to do. Several discussions then took place regarding this item. City Attorney Michael Pruneda stated that he is evaluating the minutes from last year for this board and a lot of these sponsorship never make it to the city commission meetings, there approval even though these are produce related, ultimately they are expenditures that still need to be

approved at the city commission level. He added that his recommendation is that number one, it's a \$1,000 on the agenda and he doesn't think that they can circumvent that, if they are going to go up they need to reconsider it, but he would just rather not action on these and just recommend that the commission take it up on all these sponsorships, cause even through it is a produce related sponsorship, the expenditure still needs to be approved at the next level so he thinks they can circumvent this board on these things and just go straight to the commission to expedite these things, but these are not matters that need to be coming before these board since they are expenditures. Several discussions took place regarding Mr. Pruneda's recommendation, as well as the sponsorship. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the 2015 Golf Tournament Sponsorship for \$1,000 subject to review of the budgetary allotments for marketing. Member Cuellar seconded the motion and was carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "9": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CAMERON COUNTY REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item and stated that they had Mr. Adrian Rincones and Cameron County Judge Mr. Pete Sepulveda there to give a presentation on the item. Mr. Pete Sepulveda, Executive Director of the Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority stated that the RMA was created 11 years ago, and that they have a two-billion system of projects that they are developing, to date they have completed almost half a billion of construction projects throughout Cameron County and north of Cameron County. He added that some of the biggest projects that they are working on is the conversion of US 77 to an interstate highway, they are down to four projects needed around the Kingsville-Corpus area and if you all drive the US 77 corridor in around Kingsville, Bishop, Corpus, you will see all the construction activity, we are involved in those projects. He added that they are down to four projects and when they get those four projects down they will be able to connect I-37 Corpus all the way down to Cameron County, they think that in the next three years they will be able to get the additional funding needed, which is about two-hundred million dollars and complete the entire 125 miles corridor and convert it in to an interstate. Mr. Sepulveda stated that they are working on a second causeway from the main land to South Padre Island and it is about a six-hundred million dollar project, they are deep in environmental process and they believe that early next year they will see environmental clearance, later this year they will start a procurement process to select a developer that will come in and close the financial gap that they have on that project. He added that they are working on another project called Auto parkway that will connect Laguna Madre area with US 77, and a third project that's called FM1925 Project that will connect US 77 to 491 North of Mercedes, which will give them direct connectivity from the Edinburg, Pharr, McAllen area all the way to South Padre Island. Mr. Sepulveda stated that all those three projects should be able to start construction sometime in late 2017. He added that they have two-billion system projects, they are working on a state highway 550 project about to complete the third phase of a five phase project. He stated that that project will connect US 77 to the Port of Brownsville, it's a 10 mile stretch from 77 to the port, that is an important industrial corridor in the future for the City of Brownsville, it's a unique

project because on a daily basis they get over a hundred trucks that cross at the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge but their destination is the Port of Brownsville, so they are trying to find a way to make it easier for the trucking company or for the driver themselves to get from the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge all the way to the Port of Brownsville, they have been discussing some ideas, concepts with your staff for about 6-9 months now and today is a combination of that, we have a proposed agreement that your staff has been reviewing for the last 60-90 days, so he will turn it over to their CFO Adrian Rincones and he will go over a short power point presentation. Mr. Adrian Rincones stated that they have trucks coming from the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge and they are using our toll road in Brownsville. He added that they had the first toll road south of San Antonio in Texas, they stated in 2011 and are finalizing it in the next couple of weeks, in the final phase, but they do have a toll revenue and just like the bridge we charge tolls on it and it's all electronic, kind of like the system that you have today and when your trucks use it currently we are not charging them because they have their bridge tags and they are not using our tags and what this agreement is, is trying to work together in a way that you can help us charge for them and also you would collect an administrative fee for doing that. He added that it would be easier in their minds for trucks to be able to do that so that they would not have to buy two tags and it would not be in any violation of using the road because it is a road and if you do not pay your tolls it's a class c misdemeanor, that's the way it is treated in the states, so without this agreement it would be a good first step. He added that some of the highlights of this is that this is totally new and you all would be the first bridge along the Texas/Mexican border to be interoperable with the Texas toll road, this is all eyes in our industry of tolling are interested in this because this would be totally innovated, because no other international bridge is interoperable with the toll road in Texas and apparently they all have the situation we are in where if a truck with Mexican plates drives on the toll road they do not have a way of collecting, so what we are proposing would be totally innovated, it would be new and he knows in his industry everybody is excited about it, they like the idea, they think it has a lot of potential. He added that the second point is that it has the potential to expand, if you start this process you have the future to expand it because toll roads are becoming more common, it's one of the most common vehicles for funding, people do not like paying tolls but unfortunately it costs a lot of money to build roads, so this is one of the ways we are doing it and even your local Regional Mobility Authority has toll roads planned in the Hidalgo County area so toll roads will be more common in the future. Mr. Rincones stated that they believe it will provide a deeper level of customer service for your bridge customers, knowing that they can use one tag to do both things. He added that with the agreement in place they provide dedicated staff for customer service when the bridge customers have questions or comments or anything, we will have dedicated staff to service them, we already have it in place for their other customers but they would make them total knowledgeable of the bridge, how it works and how this agreement works so that they can service your customers right away and then you would be recognized as a leader in interoperability in Texas and ultimately provide additional source of revenues for your bridge, something that is currently not being done right now, so those are some of the highlights of this agreement. Mayor Hernandez asked that what they are saying is that we are going to work on getting fee for ourselves and you as well, but we are not giving up any

of our fees in the process we are just combining them, so we are doing your leg work because there going through our bridge anyways. Mr. Rincones replied yes, that they are using the current collection system that they have in place and you would be the administrator fee for that service. Mr. Rincones stated that they have some of those traffic and revenues numbers of what has happened and the actual traffic is October through March, so these are real numbers of the trucks that we can identify because they have your tags and we can identify them when they drive on our road. He reported that it is about fifty-eight thousand three thirty-five transactions, based off of the current agreement the way it states 15% administrative fee would be yours, that would be the revenue that would be made if all things work perfectly, no hiccups on the electronic system and we put together some estimated traffic data for 2016, 2017, and 2018, we would expect these type of transactions based off of what has happened already. Mr. Rincones then showed a diagraph of the transactions and how they would work. Several Discussions then took place regarding these item. Member Delgadillo stated that once they interact the bridge system with your system, is your system just for your section or by intergrading the bridge in to that system would you be able to use 130 over in Austin and still be billed. Mr. Rincones stated that currently it would just be their system, once it is designed and in place because it has never been done before you have that potential where other toll roads are going to be like hey we would like that. Member Delgadillo stated that the reason he asks is because they can have a Mexican truck tag with Texas plates and Mexico plates and the driver will only be able to run interstate if he has a Mexican driver's license, it makes it very complicated for drivers that come from Mexico because one of the biggest requirement is for them to speak English and their English is very minimal, so the more you automate and the more you separate them for all the traffic that has all the signing, and if they can use some of those independent routes to some of us that are carriers it might be worth paying that extra premium. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Mr. Rincones then showed a diagraph of toll roads and how many times they would have to pay at a toll, as well as how it would work with the bridges system. Mr. Brouwen stated that at the end of the month they would do a reconciliation of the crossing and pay Cameron County the amount that the system picked up, and out of that amount they will retain 15%, and the number is more or less about three-thousand dollars a month. City Attorney Mr. Pruneda stated that he would add that the two exhibits A & B, the business rules and the interface procedures they be provided because they are not attached to this. Member Martinez made a motion to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority with the recommendation from the City Attorney. Member Palacios seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "10": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON FORO INTERNACIONAL INDEX REYNOSA 2015 FOR \$15,000 PESOS (\$1,072)**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen stated that it is for a booth for INDEX, again 60% of the trucks coming from Mexico are from the maquila's, we have done this in the past and we would like to continue working with INDEX, with Mr. Alex Avila, the amount that they requiring is \$1,072, and it's a booth and they can

be there to promote our bridge, and it will be in Reynosa. Member Palacios made a motion to approve the For Internacional INDEX Reynosa 2015 for \$1,072 with same restrictions as the pervious which is subject to review of the budgetary allotments for marketing. Member Delgadillo seconded the motion and was carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "11": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2<sup>ND</sup> ANUUAL PHARR  
POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE FISHING TOURNAMENT  
SPONSORSHIP FOR \$1,000**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen stated that this is the first time that he has been approached by the Pharr Police Athletic League to sponsor them, and again it is up to the board to decide if you all agree to sponsor PAL and it is for \$1,000. Member Cuellar asked if there was a representative there from PAL's. Mr. Pruneda, City Attorney stated that Ruben Villescas, Police chief is a representative of PAL's. Member Cuellar asked that how would they get more out of the \$1,000, to give it directly to the club or the fishing tournament. Mr. Villescas, Chief of Police stated that they look at both things because they are still a part of the city and the advertisement that they put out, that is one of the items of placing it and commencing it. He added that they have several corporations and business that have given generously, but to answer your question right now, being able to obtain the sponsorship for the fishing tournament it gives them a better way of marketing the city, the bridge in the marketing that they do, and it will be posted out there and the other corporations, agencies that are also contributing to the tournament that will enhance them lure them to also take part in it. Member Cuellar made a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pharr Police Athletic League Fishing Tournament for \$1,000 subject to review of the budgetary allotments for marketing. Member Palacios seconded the motion and was carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "12": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON 2015 HAVANA NIGHTS  
SPONSORSHIP FOR \$1,000**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Brouwen stated that for the past 4-5 years they have sponsored this event, it is for the Boys & Girls Club of Pharr and it is for \$1,000. Member Delgadillo made a motion to approve the 2015 Havana Nights Sponsorship for \$1,000 subject to review of the budgetary allotments for the marketing. Member Palacios seconded the motion and was carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**ITEM "13": DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON RECOMMENDATION FOR  
PROJECTS WITHIN THE PHARR LAND PORT OF ENTRY (LPOE)  
FACILITY FUNDED THROUGH THE TX-DOT COORDINATED  
BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE (CBI) PROGRAM**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Mr. Ueckert stated that if they remember at the last meeting he presented about 6 projects that they discussed about

making improvements inside the facility in order to have the traffic flow, especially the trucks going through that facility for inspection. He added that what this program is the CBI Coordinated Border Infrastructure Program and it is being funded through TX-DOT and the federal government for FHAW, they will pay 80% of the project cost, we are required to pay 20%, out of that 20% they qualify for economic disadvantage, which would bring it down to about 1%, so it is a very good program and they already have 5 million dollars designated and what they want to do is re-designate the projects for that 5 million dollars to these projects here, and there is a balance of about 4 million dollars still left in the CBI fund, so we want to make sure that we get balance also. He added that he came up with a 9.9 million dollar projects, and the first project is the one lane and the wide load lane. Mr. Ueckert then showed a picture of the facility and where the one lane and wide load lane will be at. He stated that that is the first project right now, and it is currently under design and they have about 30% completed in plans and they are ready to submit it to TX-DOT for their review of the 30%, and from there they will give them the approval and then they will go to the next phase, which is 60%. Mayor Hernandez asked if the wide load fits through the x-ray machine. Mr. Brouwen stated that they have a company that comes from Monterrey, they're caterpillar's, they are very unique trucks that are about 30 ft. wide, and right now they are crossing through our lanes, our booths because that is the only area that they can cross. He added that they met last week with TX-DOT to make sure that they have that capacity on the booths, they only estimated 20 ft. so they talked to them and they are going to change it to 30 ft., so now it is going to be in the hands of GSA to approve it, because it is going to change the design of the booths, so it is a process that they have to go through and it will have the capacity to cross those trucks inside the port. Member Delgadillo stated that if they are taking it to the right lane and the exit is in the opposite side, wouldn't they have to go through the traffic across. Mr. Brouwen replied no, that they are going to go through the gate-to-gate, they are not going to go through the x-ray, because there is no way that they can fit those trucks through the x-ray machines. He added that they are going to do it manually, if they wants to x-ray the truck, CBP will do it with a mobile unit because a truck like that cannot fit in to the x-ray machine. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Mr. Ueckert stated that the other project is the gate to gate, and then began to explain how it will work by showing the board a picture of the facility and the gate-to-gate. He added that that project is about a 1.6 million dollar project, and is currently under design by TX-DOT, they are doing the actual design on it because they have to do the major improvements also inside and they have agreed to do go ahead and work on the gate-to-gate as part of that project also. Mayor Hernandez asked if TX-DOT came up with these plans, are these the best scenarios. Mr. Ueckert stated that the gate-to gate is the one that TX-DOT is working on, we suggested that we have a gate-to-gate and they agreed to it and they are working on the plans on that. He added that the items they are working on them here in the city. Member Cuellar asked that if on the 1.6 million how much help or would we get any help with that. Mr. Ueckert replied yes, that all of these projects here will be funded 80%, 20% is ours but since they qualified for economic disadvantage it would be about 1%, which is a good deal for these projects. Mr. Ueckert stated that the next project is the truck parking, and showed the board a diagram of the facility of where the truck parking would be at and explained in detail the project. He added that that project is estimated at about two-hundred and

seven-thousand dollars, which will be a concrete pavement to be able to hold up the trucks. Chairman Campero asked that for how much truck spaces are they looking at. Mr. Ueckert replied that he thinks they got about close to 60-70, maybe even more. Several discussions then took place regarding this project. Mr. Ueckert stated that the other item is the exit booths, there currently two booths and there will be two more booths and they will be relocated. He added that what they are recommending is to add an additional two exit booths, which will be four exit booths. Mr. Brouwen stated that since they opened up the bridge they have only had two exit booths, and four entries to the port, three years ago they added two more, this year they want to add two more, so the total entries to the port will be a total of eight, the problem that they have right now is that they only have two exit booths. He added that twelve years ago they use to cross two-hundred and fifty-thousand trucks, this 2014, they crossed over five-hundred thousand trucks coming from Mexico, so definitely they need to increase the amount of exit booths to our port. Chairman Campero stated that the last trip that they had to the Capital, they advised them that every minute of delay for a trailer to cross the customs, they are looking at a hundred and twenty million every minute of commerce being delayed, so every advantage that they can do to stream line the ones that come out green or to be able to enter the USA it's a benefit, so that is what a lot of these projects are to stream line it, separate the ones that are authorized importer and exporter, because they're certain lanes for special importers that meet the requirements to be top 10% importer that they should be able to go straight through, so all this is to make it more stream line, more efficient the entry to the USA for certain importer and to make it faster. Member Cuellar asked that how long does it take to get the mobile x-ray machine to that area. Mr. Brouwen stated that once they build the gate-to-gate it will be in place and if they decide to inspect a truck, and that 30% of the trucks coming from Mexico are gate-to-gate, meaning that they come in to the first gate and they immediately get released, they call it gate-to-gate which are empties and FAST certified. Several discussions then took place regarding the gate-to-gate. Mr. Ueckert stated that the other project is to relocate the entry booth and to construct a FAST Lane, he then showed the board a diagram of the facility and where the booth would be relocated to as well as the FAST Lane. He added that this project is about two-million dollars. Mr. Ueckert stated that the other project is the custom employee parking, and that when they do the relocation of the two booths they need to provide parking for the employees for CBP. Several discussions then took place regarding this item. Mayor Hernandez stated that just for clarification he understands that all decisions made by this board, when they're deciding something on behalf of this board, that they bring options, so he's assuming that they have met with the board before because you provided information, at least a week in advance so people can review the details, because if you are meeting with our gentlemen ahead of time and your providing these details and the different options those questions won't come, because you've discussed that already, so they know the options and they actually have input, I just want to be sure that this isn't a meeting where they show up and this is just the only option you have and it's going to get forwarded because if that's what we find out as a governing board we are going to deny everything, because we need their input, they have to sign off on it because we believe in them. Mr. Ueckert stated that this is not the first time that they have presented this to the board, which they presented it at the last meeting and we've been talking about it

and what we need to do. Several discussions then took place regarding this issue. Mr. Ueckert stated that it was presented about a month ago at the last meeting and previously we have talked a little bit about it also, why it is on this agenda is to get the board to approve it, the next step would be to go before the city commission to get their approval and the next step is to apply it with TX-DOT to get these projects on that CBI funding. Member Martinez asked that on the project gate-to-gate where does that stand, is that one of the top priorities or number 3, number 5. Mr. Ueckert stated that it is number two, and that number one and number two are currently under design. He added that number one is being designed by one of their consultants and that number two is being designed by TX-DOT as part of the project for the exit. Mr. Brouwen stated that it is a high priority project due to the fact that they do have the facility in place, the twenty-five million dollars facility, but they do not have the connectivity to the BSIF so to him it is a high priority project that they need to finish in order for them to connect the import lot to the BSIF. Mayor Hernandez asked that what engineering company are they using? Mr. Ueckert replied that it is Cruz-Hogan out of McAllen, they are doing the design for one lane and wide load lane. Mayor Hernandez asked if this governing board is aware of all engineering companies, and they are making recommendations to you, there having input on that. Several discussions then took place regarding Mayor Hernandez's question. Member Delgadillo made a motion to approve the six projects. Member Cuellar seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously. Chairman Campero moved to the next item.

**E. ADJOURNMENT:**

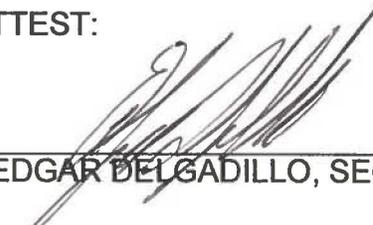
**ITEM "14": ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Campero introduced the next item. Member Palacios made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Delgadillo seconded the motion and was then carried on unanimously.

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

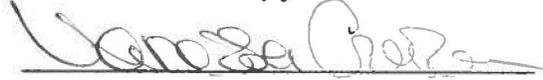
  
ADALBERTO CAMPERO, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
EDGAR DELGADILLO, SECRETARY

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

**ON THE 20th DAY OF MAY 2015**, 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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**, of the City of Pharr, Texas, certify that this is a true and correct copy of the minutes.



**VANESSA GUZMAN, BRIDGE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

DATE APPROVED: 7-14-15  
Word/C:BoardMeetings/BoardMtgMinutes5-20-15